

## Busy Hands

*"Lazy hands make a man poor, but diligent hands bring wealth."*

Proverbs 10:4

Family, as the month of July is upon us, I know that some of us are enjoying the sights and smells of these precious days. As the temperatures rise with the smell of our own grills (hopefully) and not our neighbors, along with fireworks and patriotic parades and displaying Old Glory, we might not want to leave such relaxing and enjoyable days.

Granted, there's nothing wrong with a little rest and enjoying our "short" summer season, compared to other states. However, God gave us hands to work for Him. Idleness has no place in the Christian life. The proverb says it well, "Lazy hands make a man poor, but diligent hands bring wealth." Not diligent hands for selfish gain like the rich man who built bigger barns, but diligent hands for faithful stewardship of God's resources; hands that work and build and help and produce.

How easy for us to sit back and watch television, to extend coffee breaks, work halfheartedly, and campaign for better working conditions. How prone we are to fill church pews, to hear, to talk, but never to do anything as a result. James questions such inactivity. "Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says" (James 1:22). Busy hands are needed to work and to help those in need.

Because Jesus' busy hands were pierced for us and He has made our hands clean by His shed blood, we offer Him our hands for His tasks. With praying hands, we seek His will and His strength. From His open hands, as I mentioned last month, we receive both the opportunities and the ability to be busy. At home with dishes, garbage, and laundry; at work with wrench, computer, and assembly line; in our community with food basket, paint brush, and snow shovel, we lend our busy hands to the ongoing opportunities for service.

For us here at St. Stephen, we just completed another teaching opportunity for our little lambs with Vacation Bible School. What a joy! However, it took more than 6 hands! Even our property, buildings, rooms and floors take more than a couple of hands to maintain. That's why what I heard numerous times in my short naval service, "All hands on deck!" can even be a great reminder for those who served in the Army. LOL! Just kidding!

But seriously, the take home point is this: faith is not idle. And the Lord has blessed our church family with numerous examples of busy hands. Praise the Lord! And so, let's continue to fold our hands and pray that our Living Lord would move even more of our membership to put their God-given faiths in action—for His saving hands with our busy hands are definitely a partnership of love.

In Christ,  
Pastor Seehafer