

## Cleanse the Sanctuary

True Stories By: Ronald Willis

Before Love And Compassion Ministries, Inc. (LCM) was a ministry, I was a member of a large church in Fort Myers and director of their Prison Ministry. I had churchgoers and non-church people calling me day and night for help. I had a wonderful team of people helping me with all aspects of the ministry, but it was still very overwhelming many times.

We were teaching a Bible study once a week at the local work release state prison on Ortiz. We also picked up two busloads of men from the facility and transported them to church every Sunday morning, for a wonderful Bible study, where inmates were able to be with their wives, children and loved ones. After the Bible study, we would take the men over to the sanctuary to hear a message from a Godly pastor who cared about people. After the church service, we took the inmates and family members back to the Bible study room where we served one hundred dollars' worth of pizza every Sunday. Those were the days when all people were accepted and welcomed into the church. There was so much love within the congregation and hundreds of people were accepting Christ as their Savior.

Then it happened! Evilness entered the church! One of the church leaders informed me that we could no longer have the inmates come to church, the pastor started having chest pains and the church voted to not build a larger sanctuary.

One Sunday morning, I personally asked for permission to cleanse the sanctuary with holy water, before people got there. Upon anointing the pulpit, all the doors and all the pews, the evil spirits / demons left the church. The pastor's chest pains went away but after serving this community for thirty years, the pastor retired and things got worse.

The church deacons did a great job bringing some of the best pastors in the world come to preach every Sunday to see if they would be a good fit, but the church leaders turned each one of them away.

One Sunday, before our church service, one of these godly pastors sat on a large paint bucket next to the entrance of the church parking. He was dressed in a dark heavy coat holding a sign saying, I will work for food. Some of the church members started throwing bottles and cans at the man as they hollered nasty, nauseating things at him. Of course, they did not know he was the pastor of the day until he came in and sat on the front pew and two church members tried to remove him from the church.

That was a day that the church should have awakened to what the church had become, but no, they hired a man that cared nothing about people and he almost destroyed the church.

Look, let us be honest; many churches today have become country clubs. It is a place where we can enjoy a message of good will and hug some friend's neck. Churches have become THE PRIEST / THE LEVITE that did nothing to help the man that was half-dead, Luke 10:30-37.

The thing is, there are so many other churches just like this one. They turn the less fortunate away while appealing to the rich. They look the other way when the hurting, sick, jobless and needy reach out to them. The bad thing is that the churches do not support the ministries that do help these people. Some churches have a don't care attitude. How should people think when churches allow pastors to steel from the church and never spend a day in jail, change people's wills to read to benefit the church rather than to the people they intended their things to go to and even lying to their congregation to get them to give to the wife of the pastor. Woe to churches today that care nothing about people with true needs.

Question? Who will have compassion on the churches one day?

I cry every day for the hurting and needy people of this area. More than ever, they need someone to come alongside them like a brother or sister giving them hope that comes from our Savior. How many people will die and end up in hell, because our churches and even Christians have turned their back on them? God knows our works, our labor and our patience. We have people that can quote the Bible and yet have no heart for the lost of this world. Satan knows the Bible better than we do.

For more than twenty-four years, Love And Compassion Ministries, Inc. has been in battle with satan. LCM is all about showing God's love and compassion to the world. He that hath an ear let him hear what the Spirit of the Lord saith unto the churches and God's people.

Please help me reach the people that have fallen by the way side.

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It is my sincerest hope that everyone who reads this, will reflect back on his or her own life. See where God has touched them and given them the ability to serve in other's lives.