

IN THE NAME OF
THE FATHER, THE
SON, AND THE
HOLY GHOST

239-574-5683

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Love And Compassion Ministries News Letter

Volume 2, Issue 12

December 1, 2007 In The Year of Our

Merry Christmas **AND** *Glad Tidings*

Remember To Keep Christ in Christmas

The number one way to keep Jesus Christ in your Christmas celebrations is to have Him present in your daily life. If you're not sure what it means to become a believer in Christ, check out this article or contact us for a free publication called "Would You Like To Know God Personally" If you've already accepted Jesus as your Savior and made Him the center of your life, keeping Christ in Christmas is more about the way you live your life than the things you say -- such as "Merry Christmas" versus "Happy Holidays."

Keeping Christ in Christmas means daily revealing the character of, love and the spirit of Christ that dwells in you, by allowing these traits to shine through your actions. Here are simple ways to keep Christ the central focus of your life this Christmas season.

Give God one very special gift just from you to Him:

Let this gift be something personal, that no one else needs to know about, and let it be a sacrifice. David said in II Samuel 24 that he would not offer a sacrifice to God that cost him nothing. Maybe your gift to God will be to forgive someone you've needed to forgive for a long time. You may discover a gift you give back to yourself. Forgiveness is to set a prisoner free, and to realize the prisoner was you. Perhaps your gift will be to commit to spending time with God daily. Or maybe there is something God has asked

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you to give up. Make this your most important gift of the season.

Plan a project of good will this Christmas:

Thank about "adopting" a single mom. There are lots of people that are barely making ends meet and don't have money to buy gifts for their child. Do you have an elderly neighbor that is in need of home repairs or yard work? Find someone with a genuine need, involve your whole family and see how happy you can make someone this Christmas.

Take a group Christmas caroling in a nursing home or a children's hospital:

Incorporate Christmas caroling at a nursing home into your yearly staff Christmas party plans. Tour the facility while singing Christmas carols. Take pictures because you will want to reflect on the party for many years, because your hearts will be full of tenderness and it will be the best staff Christmas party you've ever had.

Give a surprise gift of service to each member of your family:

Jesus taught us to serve by washing the disciple's feet. He also taught us that it is "more blessed to give than to receive." Acts 20:35 The idea of giving an unexpected gift of service to members of your family is to demonstrate Christ-like love and service. You might consider giving a back rub to your spouse, running an errand for your brother, or cleaning out a closet for your mother. Make it personal and meaningful and watch the blessings multiply.

Set aside a time of family devotions on Christmas Eve or Christmas morning:

Before opening the gifts, take a few minutes to gather together as a family in prayer and devotions. Read the Christmas story in Luke 1:5-56 through 2:1-20. Read a few other Bible verses and discuss as a family the true meaning of Christmas.

Attend a Christmas church service together with your family:

If you are alone this Christmas or don't have family living near you, invite a friend or a neighbor to join you.

Send Christmas cards that convey a spiritual message:

This is an easy way to share your faith at Christmas time. If you've already bought the reindeer cards -- no problem! Just write a Bible verse and include a personal message with each card.

Write a Christmas letter to a missionary or someone in ministry work:

This idea is dear to my heart! For many years now I have received a special letter from a special person each Christmas. Opening the letter is always like opening a priceless gift on Christmas morning. Many missionaries are unable to travel home for the holidays, so it can be a very lonely time for them. Write a special Christmas letter to a missionary or someone working in ministry work. Thanking them for giving their life in service to the Lord is one of the best things you can do. Trust me it will mean more than you can imagine!

**Love And Compassion Ministries is a ministry of hope because
Jesus Christ is in everything we do!**

Please help us keep hope alive! GIVE! Your gift is tax deductible.

**Love And Compassion Ministries
P.O. Box 152636
Cape Coral, Florida 33915-2636**

Thank You!

Jeffrey Shicks

In today's society it is difficult to find a person who is impacting lives positively, a person who makes a difference within and outside of their community, and yet is enjoying the things they do every moment, and persevering through everything with a great attitude.

However an awesome example of a person who fits this description fully well is Jeffrey Shicks. Some of you may know him, or have just heard about him. For those of you who haven't here is an example of (if not) one of the most important, caring, and outreaching things he has accomplished.

Creating the Bridge

The bridge is a youth center that welcomes any teen, but mainly reaches out to those who may not have a supportive home-life/stable parenting, or have decided to take a wrong turn and need someone to confide in, and help guide them in choosing to make the best choices possible.



The members who work with the teens here target priorities in helping them to engage in positive activities and relationships. It is also an environment where the teens are comfortable in their own skin and feel they can hang out with friends, yet are encouraged to influence other peers positively, and participate in activities that are "cool" yet safe.

May 2004 was the grand opening of the bridge. There was a turnout of about 300 people, and the opening included a concert, food, speakers and much more.

I went downtown where the center is located and interviewed some of the teens that were participating that Friday night and also spoke with Jeffery (the director). Here were the questions I asked different teens and their responses.

Q- What is the age range/age majority of teens who participate there?

A- *People's ages really depend on the days they come Friday nights is usually teens who are somewhat older 15+ However, weekdays range anywhere from 5th grade and +.*

Q-Is the bridge a place where you feel like you can go and just be yourself, but still have a good time?

A-*Yes! The Bridge is a wonderful place! Pretty much everybody knows everyone and we get a long great.*

Q-What are some of the activities enjoyed the most, on Friday nights?

A-*Most of the middle school kids hang out around the video game area or the new virtual guitar playing area, and they love the Nintendo wii. Other kids particularly a little older participate in karaoke, hang out and talk, or use the weight room.*

Q-does the bridge offer any special classes?

A-*Yes! They have classes Monday through Thursday that help teens in the areas they don't really learn at home such as cooking, budgeting, accounting, parenting, and even driving education classes. They have a cer-*

tain program set up for rewarding the teens that graduate these classes and they are provided a free all day pass to Busch Gardens, Tampa.

Q-Is there anything that costs money?

A- *The only charge is food otherwise the bridge is a non-profit organization and they receive most donations, provisions from churches.*

Q-Does the Bridge provide transportation if you don't have a ride?

A- *The bridge has there own shuttle bus service which picks teens up and transports them home if they don't have transportation.*

Q-Do you ever go out as a group in the community?

A-*The bridge members work with juveniles in the system and they go out together once a week and do a block of community service*

Q-Are there any community activities you participate in?

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A- They help gather gifts for needy children during Christmas and they also hand out book bags full of school supplies, and try to help out with clothes etc. for needy teens and families.



If you are interested in learning more about The Bridge or ways you can help out or maybe even want to go there with a friend or two, here is their website.

www.urbanteens.org



or you can contact them by phone at (239) 560-6913

The Bridge is located in downtown Fort Myers at 2128 Cleveland Avenue Next to the bridge!

Article and Pictures by:
Jordan Tutterrow



Though your sins may be **SCARLET**, I will make them white like a **MINNESOTA SNOW**. **Is 1:18**



"Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy... for unto you is born a Savior." Luke 2:10-11

A Marine stationed in Okinawa Japan wrote this poem. The following is his request. I think it is reasonable... Please. Would you do me a thoughtful favor of sending this poem to as many people as you can? Christmas will be coming soon and some credit is due to our U.S. service men and women for our being able to celebrate these festivities.

Tw'as the night before Christmas, he lived all alone,
In a one bedroom house made of plaster & stone.
I had come down the chimney with presents to give
And to see just who in this home did live.

I looked all about a strange sight I did see,
No tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.
No stocking by the fire, just boots filled with sand,
On the wall hung pictures of far distant lands.

With medals and badges, awards of all kind
A sober thought came through my mind.
For this house was different, so dark and dreary,
I knew I had found the home of a soldier, once I could
see clearly.

I heard stories about them, I had to see more
So I walked down the hall and pushed open the door.
And there he lay sleeping silent alone,
Curled up on the floor in his one bedroom home.

His face so gentle, his room in such disorder,
Not how I pictured a United States soldier.
Was this the hero of whom I'd just read?
Curled up in his poncho, a floor for his bed?

His head was clean shaven, his weathered face tan,
I soon understood this was more than a man.
For I realized the families that I saw that night
Owed their lives to these men who were willing to
fight.

Soon round the world, the children would play,
And grownups would celebrate on a bright Christmas
day.

They all enjoyed freedom each month of the year,
Because of soldiers like this one lying here.

I couldn't help wonder how many lay alone
On a cold Christmas Eve in a land far from home.
Just the very thought brought a tear to my eye,
I dropped to my knees and started to cry.

The soldier awakened and I heard a rough voice,
"Santa don't cry, this life is my choice;
I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more,
my life is my God, my country, my Corps."

With that he rolled over and drifted off into sleep,
I couldn't control it, I continued to weep.
I watched him for hours, so silent and still,
I noticed he shivered from the cold nights chill.

So I took off my jacket, the one made of red,
And I covered this Soldier from his toes to his head.
And I put on his T-shirt of gray and black,
With an eagle and an Army patch embroidered on
back.

And although it barely fit me, I began to swell with
pride, And for a shining moment, I was United States
Army deep inside. I didn't want to leave him on that
cold dark night, This guardian of honor so willing to
fight.

Then the soldier rolled over, whispered with a voice
so clean and pure, "Carry on Santa, it's Christmas
Day, all is secure." One look at my watch, and I knew
he was right, Merry Christmas my friend, and to all a
good night!

As Of January 1, 2008

**Love and Compassion Ministries
Will Need Office Space**

Please Pray With Us That GOD Will Show Us Where HE Wants Us

239-574-5683

Merry Christmas from all of us at Love And Compassion Ministries.

We pray that you will have all the joy that is found in the true meaning of Christmas.

Rejoice and celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ!

May the miracle of Christmas fill your heart with joy and peace.

Share God 's goodness with someone that needs Christ this season.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

May God Bless You and Yours!

**"Life is not measured by the number of breathes we take,
but by the number of moments that take our breath away."**

Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord.

Merry Christmas vs. Happy Holidays

The first time I heard that people and businesses were to express the Christmas season by wishing you a HAPPY HOLIDAY instead of MERRY CHRISTMAS. I became very passionate, actually livid would describe my feelings better, but I am learning that what I once considered being angry is actually me being very passionate about certain things, especially when it comes to God and the things of God. As I began to reflect on this new faze of saying HAPPY HOLIDAYS. I realized that Holiday is actually Holy Day. So I went to the dictionary to make sure my thinking was correct.

*Yes, there, it says that a **Holiday** is a religious feast day; a holy day. It also says it's a day free from work that one may spend at leisure, especially a day on which custom or the law dictates a halting of general business activity to commemorate or celebrate a particular event.*

When I look at God's Word we are told to rest on the seventh day for it is HOLY. A day God set aside to rest from all his labor and we are to do the same.

Now, don't get me wrong, I'm not advocating that we take Christ out of Christmas by going along with this Merry Christmas vs Happy Holidays craze. I have said that I will go to my grave expressing Merry Christmas. What I am saying is that what the enemy (Satan) has meant for evil. We, as children of God must realize that God can and will turn it to His good.

So when you hear Happy Holiday, just smile and don't be offended by this for we know, other than Easter, that it is really the most Holy of Days. Christmas is the celebrated birthday of our Lord and Savior.

Let us rejoice on this special Holy Day (Holiday) and all the Holy days of the year and remember if He had not come. Oh, where would we be.

Praise His Holy Name.

Love In His Service



Love And Compassion Ministries

Dear Friends,

This is the season! As you go out shopping for your loved ones, friends, and relatives I pray that you will let Jesus Christ radiate from your heart. There are so many Christians that will be going here and there busy with Christmas shopping that will be going through this wonderful season full of guilt, bitterness, and unforgiveness. They will feel bit because their loved ones have disappointed them. They feel guilty since they are not able to give as they wish or they will feel guilty if they do not buy that special person that very expensive gift. Most have taken it on themselves to give to others that do not need, wish for, nor want the gift they have for them.

Please know that guilt, bitterness, and unforgiveness crows out love with-in our hearts. Who are we that refuses to forgive others when our Lord has forgiven us for so much. We must be able to see that satan wishes to destroy the family unity by having families fight instead of coming together. The Lord wishes to bind us together. Ask God to forgive you for allowing sin in your heart. Then offer up a prayer for that loved one you know that is being used by satan. Call them and ask them over. Don't clean the house, repaint the room, or buy that new couch. Just be yourself! Talk and enjoy the people that God has put within your life. See how God can work through you!

Don't let satan still the true meaning of Christmas from you. View this Christmas in a new light. Have the right attitude. Don't let satan cover the love you have in your heart, but let the Holy Spirit build with-in you and bubble over into others. Enjoy the season, give from your heart, worship the Lord not what you get and show God's love to many. Live this day as if it was your last! Make the most of the time we have on this earth. Everyday tell the people that God has given you, that you love them.

Many years ago during a Christmas season just like this one, this ministry had a very great need. We were praying that God would provide the money to take care of this very expensive item that we desperately needed. A Godly man and friend of mine that is married with two little girls came to me and give me a check in an envelope for the amount that the ministry needed to take care of the problem we were having. This friend is like so many of us that work for not much more than what it takes to live from one week to another. I looked at the check with disbelieve and ran back to him telling him I could not accept such a check from him, because he needed the money more so than us.

He refused to take the check back and stated that if I gave the check back to him that he and his family would be cheated out of a blessing from God. He made me promise that I would not tell anyone about the money. Later I found out that his wife and children agreed not to buy any Christmas gifts for each other so that they could bless this ministry. The girls woke up Christmas day with nothing under the tree, but there was so much love within that house that it could not contain it.

A year latter this Godly man was given such a magnificent position with-in a wonderful Church now making so much money that his wife did not have to work, they were given a new car, a new house, and his children could go to the best of schools. God is so good.

Merry Christmas!

In the Presence of our LORD,

Ron Willis

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Stamp

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We're on the Web!
www.LoveCompassion.com

If you would like to be a part of our exciting prayer team, please send us your e-mail address and we will send you updates of people who need our prayers. *The LORD is near to all who call upon HIM, to all who call upon HIM in truth.* Psalm 145:18 NKJ

It is a great privilege that we have, as sons and daughters of the KING, to be able to come into HIS presence with our needs, our hurts, and our cares. We know that we can leave them at HIS feet because HE cares for us and will always answer us in our time of need.

Prayer requests are very important to us! We always need people who are caring and willing to personally pray for others needs. As we pray for their physical, moral, and spiritual needs, we must understand that because of JESUS CHRIST'S love for all of us, we are able to do this. CHRIST is the answer to every human's needs.

As members of the Body of CHRIST, we have the privilege and responsibility to pray for our Churches, our missionaries, public officials, other ministries, and each other.

It is so exciting to see prayers being answered. May we always give CHRIST the Glory!