

# Love and Compassion Ministries

*In the Name of the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit*

February 1, 2010 In The Year of Our Lord

NEWSLETTER

## Valentine's Day

*Sunday February 14, 2010*

Valentine's Day is a day to express your love, emotions and to glorify the spirit of love. There are many versions of the origination of Valentines Day but the most popular version is about St. Valentine who lived in Rome during the reign of Emperor Claudius II.

The story goes that Claudius had put a ban on all marriages and engagements in Rome as he wanted more young men to join the army and get involved in bloodshed war. A "romantic at heart" priest, by the name of Valentine, defied this unjustified order of Claudius by secretly arranging marriages of young boys and girls. When the Emperor came to know this, Valentine was put behind bars and he was finally executed on February 14, about 270 AD. Valentine was named a saint after his death and the day, Feb. 14, was considered a day of romance and love.

Today, the most popular way to celebrate the day is by showing your love to your sweethearts with an exchange of gifts like fresh flowers, chocolates, cards, jewelry etc. Many will do anything to show their sweetheart how much they love them.

Ultimately we are trying to be like Christ, but we fail miserably many times. Christ said in Matthew 5:43-44, Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.

It is easy to love the people you love to be around... What about the people that don't go to the same places we do, wear the same clothes, or eat the same foods. Do we love them? Let's try to show someone love on this Valentine's Day as Christ commanded us to do.

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## God's Box of Chocolates--

A Valentine's Day Devotional By LauraLee Shaw

Everywhere I look near Valentine's Day, there's chocolate: boxes of chocolate in all the stores, chocolate on TV promising to be the only love you need, chocolate girl scout cookies--CHOCOLATE! I even saw chocolate Altoid breath mints in the grocery checkout aisle the other day! I think that's what led me to remember the famous quote from Forrest Gump: "Life is like a box of chocolates...you never know what you're gonna get." (I even remembered it with his accent.)

In reality, that phrase can be true in many ways. We wake up every morning completely unsure of what the day may hold for us. We've made our plans. Sometimes they even happen the way we make them. But we never know for sure, do we?

The days that come with caramel in the middle are my favorite. The ones with the strawberry goo are just so so--but the ones with coconut--YUCK! I'd rather go back to bed. Then there's the days where tragedy or difficult times come out of nowhere, and the chocolate sits in the pantry untouched...there's no sweetness to be had in those moments, it seems.

God knows that life as it pertains to circumstances is uncertain for us. That's why He comforts us and reminds us so many times that He is our constant companion, our steadfast friend, our consistently loving God and Savior. He doesn't keep promises the way we do:

"When people make promises, they guarantee them by appealing to some authority above them so that if there is any question that they'll make good on the promise, the authority will back them up. When God wanted to guarantee His promises, He gave His word, a rock-solid guarantee--God can't break His word. And because His word cannot change, the promise is likewise unchangeable." (Heb. 6:16-18, the Message)

You see, no matter what chocolate we are "in the middle of" right now, He is there--with the certainty of His promise today as well as His hope of heaven in the future. Listen to how the bible verse above continues to encourage us: (vs.19-20)

"We who have run for our very lives to God have every reason to grab the promised hope with both hands and never let go. It's an unbreakable spiritual lifeline, reaching past all appearances right to the very presence of God where Jesus, running on ahead of us, has taken up His permanent post as high priest for us, in the order of Melchizedek."



I love the visual picture of grabbing on to Him with both hands as He runs ahead of me to the Father. That makes me able to get up today and praise Him for whatever comes my way. This faith, this confidence, this hope is our unbreakable spiritual lifeline--HIS love for us no matter what, when, how or why. Let's binge on His priceless box of chocolates today...the sweetest and

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most satisfying of them all. "Taste and see that the Lord is good; Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him." Psalm 34:8 Laura Lee Shaw is a disciple of Jesus Christ disguised as a wife, mom and writer. She is a contributing author to "Women of Passions," and a writer for "Internet Cafe Devotions." You can visit Laura Lee at <http://lovinthearts.blogspot.com> <http://lovinthearts.com> <http://www.internetcafedevoations.com> Article Source: <http://www.faithwriters.com> <a href="http://www.faithwriters.com">CHRISTIAN WRITERS</a> God Bless Laura!



Good day to our friends, the body of Christ. I am Matthew, a humble servant of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I believe my journey in life has brought me to this place of service, a step of faith to serve our Lord Jesus Christ in Love and Compassion Ministries.

I'm currently working full time without pay as the assistant director for Love and Compassion Ministries. I have basic needs that must be met to carry out my work with LCM. At this time we are seeking the help of our friends of this ministry to help us with our need. If you would like to help with this need, mark your donation Support Matthew's Work. Any amount would be greatly appreciated.

I am 37 years old and from California, though I have lived in Florida the past 17 years. When I was very young, in elementary school, it was discovered that I had a tumor in my head. The doctors gave me co-deine for the pain. Due to the prayer and the faith of my Mother I was healed. After that it seemed like my life changed for the worse. I was always craving something else. Alcohol and marijuana quickly followed when I became a teenager. Before I knew it I was lost with no hope. Satan was out to destroy me!

I was lucky to have a family that loves God, and a family that did not give up on me. They prayed for me a lot, and trusted that God would not give up on me. I am living proof that prayer works. I believe because of the things that I have experienced in life, God will use me to help others with the same problems. Not everyone has been lucky enough to have a family like mine. I believe God has put me here to show His love and help spread His word.

I am so grateful to God that he saw fit to save me from the life I was living. It was nothing but an empty shell, depressed and addicted. I cried out and God came running, opened my eyes and showed me His love. I have learned to take up my cross daily. As I learn the truth I must conform to it daily, and whatever that cross may be that I was called upon to bear, I must carry it and conform to God's will.

Please keep LCM in your prayers. Believe God without a doubt. The promises are unlimited, God is unlimited. You can reach me at Love and Compassion Ministries or you can e-mail me at [matthew@lovecompassion.com](mailto:matthew@lovecompassion.com)

I'm looking forward to getting to know all of our friends here in the body of Christ. Thank you for your prayers and support.

Sincerely,

*Matthew Wright*

## God's Place

Where do we turn? Florida Gulf Coast University's Board of Trustees has voted to accept the state's offer of the land at 5820 Buckingham Road for the University. This is the land Love and Compassion Ministries was trying to acquire from the state to use for God's Place. State law requires that state organizations be given the first chance at this property.

I have written a letter to Bill McCollum, Attorney General Department of Legal Affairs, Alex Sink, Chief Financial Officer Department of Financial Services, Commissioner Charles H. Bronson Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and even a letter to Governor Charlie Crist, asking them to look into Love and Compassion Ministries renting the property for God's Place as laid out more than a year ago.

Our dream has been to make this a facility for the homeless, people with physical, mental, and emotional problems, released juvenile offenders, drug and alcohol addicted, down trodden and hungry people of this area. We plan to teach these people how to grow their own vegetables, prepare the food, and reap the benefits of eating good wholesome food that they had raised. We plan to raise cattle, chickens, and all that is needed to sustain the group without any outside assistance as we teach them a trade, all at no cost to them or the State of Florida.

We prepared a business plan and five year budget for the facility. This has been presented to the governor and his board. Now the governor, attorney general, chief financial officer, and commission of agriculture and consumer services must vote to give the land to FGCU or LCM.

We are praying that with your help and prayers we can convince these people to make the facility available to Love and Compassion Ministries.

If the state allows Love Compassion Ministries to rent the property we will save the taxpayers millions of dollars every year. We will put more than seventy people to work the first year, and more than one hundred and fifty-five people by the fifth year as we serve more than twelve hundred and fifty clients. At this point, I do not believe the University has any specific plans for the use of the property.

### **PLEASE HELP US!**

**Would you please help us? Sending us a letter of endorsement recommending the state to rent the land to LCM instead of giving it to FGCU through an e-mail addressed to [GP@lovecompassion.com](mailto:GP@lovecompassion.com) or go to our website [www.LoveCompassion.com](http://www.LoveCompassion.com) and sign a petition which will be forward to these state officers.**

Thank You!

Ron Willis, President LCM

# Haiti

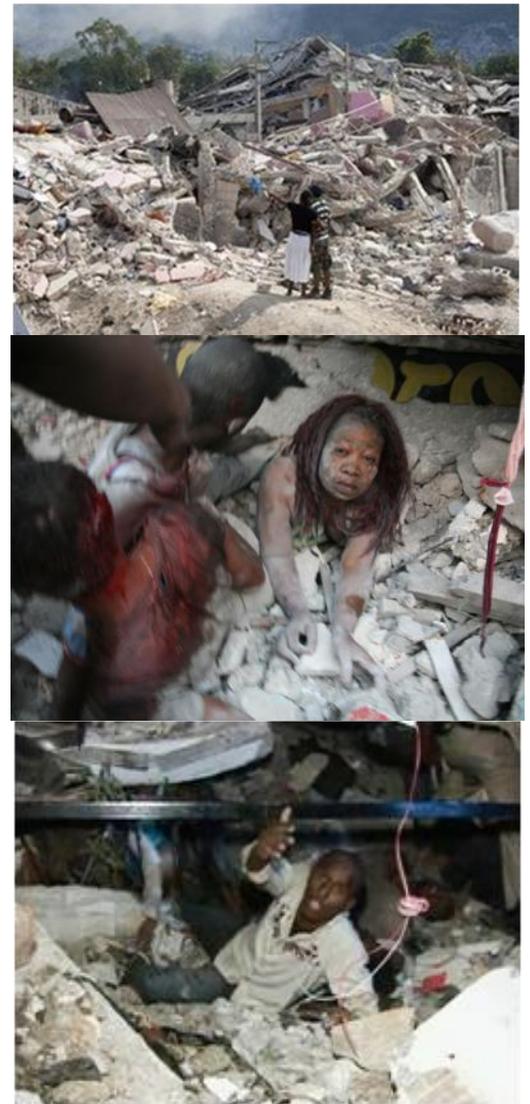
Unless you have been in a coma for the past few weeks you know a major earthquake struck Port-au-Prince, in Haiti on January 13, 2010. It pretty much destroyed everything and it is being reported that countless number of people have lost their lives. Many days later several have been rescued from the destruction.

People from around the world have come to the aid of the people there, to the extent that people wanting to help with supplies cannot get to the hurting and hungry because of the outcry of generosity.

God, please help the people that have lived through this hell and please help the people that have volunteered their services to reach out in love and compassion to this country. The people of Haiti are in need of a savior as never before.

If you can do something for these people, do it! If you can give, give it! And if you don't know what to do

**PRAY!!!!**



## **We have lost our sensitivity!**

Just as a frog will stay in a frying pan... as the pan gets hotter and hotter, he loses his sensitivity to the heat and ends up dying from something that he had the ability all the time to jump out of. Many of us, have lost our sensitivity to how movies, TV, alcohol, drugs, environment, schools, lying and dishonest politicians and abusive people have affect us, just like the frog in the pan. We are compromising our moral values more and more!

The United States is one of the richest countries in the world, yet we have people going without their basic needs being met everyday. Love and Compassion is doing all we can to help these people but the tide is too strong and the resources are drained. The ministry has contacted businesses, Churches, and individuals for help in meeting these needs with very little response. We have sent out letters, taken people out to lunch, met them at our place and at their place with very insignificant reaction.

Nearly one in five Americans said they lacked the money to buy the food needed at some point in the past year, according to a survey co-sponsored by the Gallup organization and released January 26, 2010 by an anti-hunger group. This area is especially hard hit. We see an increasing use of food stamps and a rise in the amount of the food stamps being applied for.

More than 38 million Americans — one in eight — now receive food stamps, which is an all time record high. With over 3000 homeless people in Lee County now. Many of our neighbors have lost their jobs, housing, and the ability to support their families. They don't want the government to give them a check! They want a job where they can support their families and remain independent.

My granddad always said, "charity begins at home." Many Churches send thousands of dollars to foreign countries and yet will do very little to help the people right here in our own back yard. Love And Compassion Ministries wishes to open a facility (God's Place) that will take these people and show them love, compassion, and mercy as we meet their immediate and long term needs. Many of them are very intelligent and are willing to do anything to help their families. We are able to see the potential that lives within each of them.

My heart cries out to God for the many that are in such hardship today and with very little hope for the future. I pray that we will wake up and open our eyes to what is going on around us. We don't need to go to the mission field... the mission field is all around us! We need to spend money here.

We will be able to make a difference in these men, women, and children's lives if we will become sensitive to their needs. Many people will mock us because their hearts have become cold and they are walking after their own lusts. Pray with me that God will transform their hearts.

Won't You Stand With Me! It is more important today, than ever before, to show people that there is hope in Jesus Christ!

May the Lord move you to join with me in impacting this area and the world for the God!

Thank You!

*Ron Willis*



## Love And Compassion Ministries

Dear Friends,

One of the troubling characteristics of Christians, which we should try to get over, is that by and large Christians are slow to change. We don't generally adapt or change to new circumstances very fast. We wait to see what may happen before we move in any direction.

My brother, who is six years younger than I, once told me that every morning when he wakes up he opens his eyes and starts thinking, "What can happen to me if I rise up out of bed and put my feet on the floor?" We can get too concerned with what negative thing can happen (replaying that horror episode over and over again) instead of waking up to the fact that we have a loving God who cares so much for us. May we never lose sight of what God did for us yesterday, last week, last month or last year.

Yes, many businesses and even ministries have closed their doors but many others with a heart to serve are still here meeting needs and assisting people. Lives are still being changed. Sure, money is tight and the level of work has climbed through the roof, but God is still at work.

I believe that 2010 will be an even more challenging year than 2009, but saying that, I also see more opportunities to reach the lost of this world through these trying times. Unemployment is still one of this nation's biggest problems. Then there is the housing market, possible conflict with multiple countries and of course our state and nation spending so much more than they are able to bring in. Our government spending must change.

I am hereby initiating a new course of action for 2010 and beyond for LCM. We have taken unparalleled steps to cut expenses, use as many volunteers as possible, get our directors more involved in the workings of the ministry and updating our ways of communicating to our donors and volunteers. I am so thankful to them for sticking with us in these tough times while praying that others will join us in our desire to serve our Lord on the front lines of this great battle between good and evil.

We are re-working our strategies to use emails, electronic newsletters, Facebook, Youtube, the web and other economical instruments at our disposal to reach the saved and the unsaved with the uncompromising word of God. These tools will allow us to get the word out in regard to prayer requests, knowledge about upcoming events and programs. We are in the process of updating our website to a new modern look that will allow people to access vital information more easily and clearly.

As we continue to fight suicide, pornography, profanity, devil worshipping, divorce, anger, hate, drugs, alcohol, prison overcrowding, broken homes, juvenile delinquency, being homeless and so much more, we will need your help even more. We need the support from your Church, friends, relatives, and loved ones. If we all work together, 2010 will be a turning point in the life of Love and Compassion Ministries and in the lives of many others.

Please keep LCM lifted up in your prayers, as we seek God's guidance in working with the hurting, hungry, imprisoned, youth, homeless, and poor in spirit. As God opens up even more doors of opportunity to us, we need to stand ready to meet new challenges, knowing that with the power of the Holy Spirit, nothing is impossible. God Bless you all!

In the Presence of our LORD,

*Ron Willis*

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Stamp



If you would like to be a part of our exciting prayer team, please send us

## **P R A Y E R**

your e-mail address and we will send you updates of people who need our prayers.

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!