

Love and Compassion Ministries

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

November 1, 2009 In The Year of Our Lord

Volume 4, Issue 11

*O give thanks to the Lord,
for He is good;
His mercy endureth forever*

II Chronicles 16:3



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Thankfulness comes from the heart

- True thankfulness is something that comes from the inner person, from the heart.
- If the heart is evil, then a thankful heart is basically impossible.
- Jesus says to fill our hearts with good, positive, godly things, as does Paul. Colossians 3:16.
- Through the Word of God-the Bible-we are constantly reminded of God's character.
- Through the worship of God, we focus on what God has done and does do for us.
- When we pray, we don't bring God around to our point of view; we should surrender to His point of view.
- Through knowing God's Word and worshiping him, we become more like him.

Thankfulness brings peace

- The result of living life with a thankful heart is to live with peace inside.
- The old hymn "Count Your Blessings" is a fine old song, but there is no way most of us can count our blessings.
- Something else you can't count is your sins.
- Our blessings are so numerous and manifold that we cannot possibly count them all.

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HOW I WAS BLESSED!

As told and written by Joie . . .

I believe everyone has their own true story on how they became the person they are today. I believe everyone has had a point in their lives where they want to give up & leave everything behind, well this is mine.

My name is Joie and I'm 20 years old. I was born in Columbus Ohio. I lived there until I was ten with my father. My mother left me and my 2 older sisters at a young age. My sisters were 7 and 9 years older than me. They watched me most of the time so I was around sex and drugs all my life. They would have boys over to my dad's house while he was at work. When I was 7 my mother had gotten my sisters back and promised me she would come and get me as soon as possible. I moved in with my grandmother and grandpa because my dad couldn't take care of me.

MY NIGHTMARE:

When I was 8 my dad had gotten me back. My dad started to drink very heavily. He would put me to sleep and sneak out and go to a bar right down the road. I had woken up one night while he was gone and freaked out. I started walking up to find him. I opened the door to the bar n seen him flirting with a chick at the table. My dad came out & drove me home. All the way home he was yelling at me calling me a baby. He was drunk. When we got home he threw me in my room and smacked me around, tearing things off my walls and throwing them to the floor. He held me down on my bed and covered my mouth. That's when all the trouble had begun. For the next 6 months to a year my dad molested me, treated me bad but I never told anyone.

MY SWEET ANGEL:

At the age 10 my mother had come in to my life again. Oh how it felt to be in my mother's arms again nice and safe. I was living in Oklahoma. I had my two sisters right by my side and my mother and her boyfriend. I loved life it was great!

GOING DOWN HILL:

My mother and her boyfriend contin-

ued to move from house to house which was forcing me to go from school to school. Two years later we moved to California then back to Oklahoma again. In the mean time I was getting back in with my old friends and hanging out started drinking beer and thought I fell in love so I gave up my virginity.

WHERE THE TROUBLE BEGUN:

When we left to come to Florida I was heartbroken, I had to leave the man of my dreams. All seemed good till I started school. I was hanging around the wrong crowd. I had started to take pills and got caught for that in school, got put on probation. Once my mother moved on from her ex we had moved to Ft Myers with a man she met. This man he smoked weed, and did drugs which led me to smoke weed.

MOVING ONCE MORE:

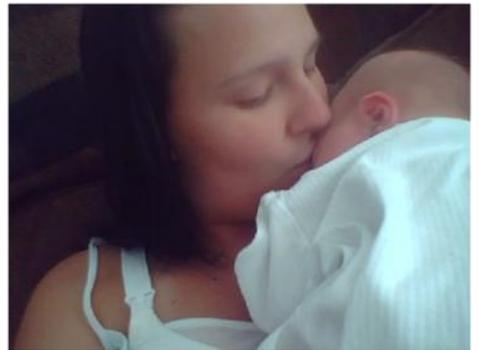
My mom and me moved in with a guy in N. Ft Myers. He had a good life and we seemed to fit perfect in it. We shared so many good times and everything seemed to be going so well, I was adapting to life with this new man and so was my mother. Sometime after we moved in with him I had made new friends around the hood some not so good ones. I had started middle school . They all knew me because I was 15 in the 7th grade. I was much older than the rest and thought I was bigger and badder. Then I met a friend. I would go over and we would drink beer take pills and get high off of everything there was no limit to the things we did. We stole cars and went and took them joy riding, we stole money from their mom and bought pot with it.

MY LIFE HAD CHANGED:

I was 16 smoking pot, drinking beer, taking zanies, and popping Zanex. I was doing every drug I could do. I had met a girl in school and she took me to a party. At the party there was pot, pills, coke, alcohol everything you could think of. A guy poured us out two lines of cocaine, I was scared out my mind this is one drug that I had never taken before I didn't know what it would do to me, but I snorted it anyways. I turned 18 and did what ever I wanted to. I met this one guy and moved out and lived with him and his

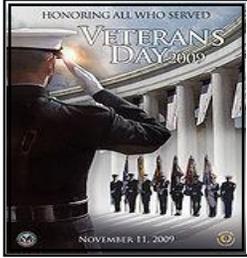
mom, I was working as a waitress making over 200 a night all that would go on cocaine. I had moved out and into a friend's house. She was such a nice women. I would listen to a lot of what she had to say but I was so into what I wanted to do it didn't matter. I lent money to a friend for drugs and had to pay it back or I would get hurt. I pawned stolen items from this woman and hustled to pay the rest. Eventually I moved out.

I had gone so low, I had shot up Crystal meth with needle marks all over my body. I was experimenting with so many drugs I'm surprised I am still alive today. I went to jail eventually.

A NEW BEGINNING:

Once I was out I had changed so much I stopped doing drugs for the most part and moved back in with my mother, had found me a job, and was doing great. I had gotten pregnant later down the road and I had a beautiful baby boy. His name is Daniel and without him I'd be nothing he is the best thing to ever come in my life even though the way of me getting pregnant was not the answer. I am so glad God has blessed my family and myself with him. I never knew how much I was willing to give up till I had him. So now I see my life ahead of me. I can't see what's going to happen in the future but I can see that I am such a different person now than what I was a year ago and that's all that matters. As of right now my life is where it needs to be I am sober going on 2 years and I have my son to thank for being alive today.

(LCM has been counseling Joie. Her complete story can be found on our web page): www.lovecompassion.com Under Newsletters.



Also known as Armistice Day, and very occasionally called Remembrance Day, 'Veterans Day' is the American name for the international holiday which commemorates the signing of the Armistice ending World War I. In the United States, the holiday honors all veterans of the United States Armed Forces, whether or not they have served in a conflict; but it especially honors the surviving veterans of World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. The American holiday was briefly moved to the final Monday in October under the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, but the change was greatly disliked and soundly criticized - among other reasons, because it put Veterans Day out of sync with international observance; so it was restored to November 11.

Thanksgiving

As we all know, thanksgiving is not something we should do just in November. This month we will look at a little of what the Bible has to say about giving thanks.

(Psalm 92:1 NKJV) "It is good to give thanks to the LORD, And to sing praises to Your name, O Most High;"

(Psalm 69:30 NKJV) "I will praise the name of God with a song, And will magnify Him with thanksgiving."

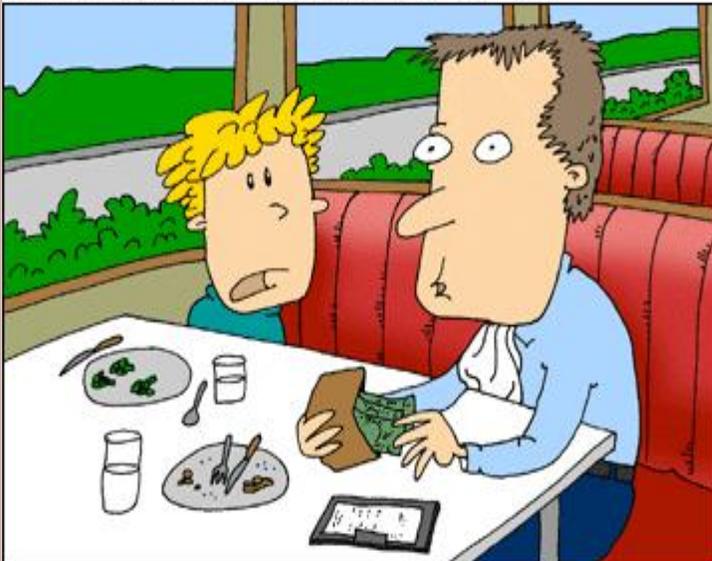
(Matthew 15:36 NKJV) "And He took the seven loaves and the fish and gave thanks, broke them and gave them to His disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitude."

(Ephesians 5:18-20 NKJV) "And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, ²⁰ giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,"

The Ministry is in desperate need of a reliable van to replace the current worn out van. This vehicle provides the means to minister to the homeless, people with alcohol and drug addictions along with many others who are hurting in these difficult financial times.

We need your prayers.

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Thanks to Shirley Ostrander

01-15-2004

HOW COME THE WAITRESS GETS 15% AND GOD ONLY GETS 10%?

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson

Thank you Farmer Brown for yer invitation to Thanksgiving dinner, BUT .. I tink I'm comin' down with sumtin'



Does your thanksgiving turkey claim to be sick with the BIRD FLU? Call the elders of the church to pray over him, baste him with oil and stuff him with bread crumbs in the name of the Lord. **Jb 5:14**

GOD'S PLACE

Everyone agrees that God's Place is a unique approach to reaching people who are having multiple problems such as homeless or drugs and alcohol addictions. We all know that there will never be a program that is a perfect match for all, but we are determined to send people who we cannot help to someone that can help them! We wish to get all of them help.

We want to teach people that happiness comes from things that can't be taken away from you ... hard work, Christian principles, truth, honor, knowledge, health, harmony, loyalty, friendship, love, compassion, peace, and the list goes on...

Many say that this project is too big and the cost is way too much. I say the cost is too much if we do nothing. We need people of all walks of life to work with us to make this happen. We can do great things if we will bond together and trust God to guide us in His ways. We have an obligation to make this work. We need people to teach us how to grow our own food, raise cattle, install solar panels, cook for 1,250 people and so much more. We either care or we don't.

Brennan Manning, an intensely godly man although not religious, became a Christian writer and a Franciscan priest committed to serving the poor. He claims to have heard the voice of God audibly on an occasion late one night as he gazed into the inky blackness of the sky. He says he heard these words; 'For love of you I left my Father's side. I came to you who ran from me, who did not want to hear my name. For love of you I was covered with spit, punched and beaten, and fixed to a wooden cross.'

Brennan has written some fourteen books. He also wrote 'A bell ain't a bell 'til you ring it. A song ain't a song 'til you sing it. And love ain't love 'til you give it away.'

As he looked back over his own life he said "most of it was a drab grey, with little peaks of brilliance poking through like church spires through a blanket of fog. Those were the moments when I was giving of myself for the good of others. For the rest of the time I might as well not have been born."

What about our life? When we come to the end of our life, what will we say? More important what will God say? How much of what God has given to us have we given for the good of others? The things we learn, after we think we have learned all there is, are the things that count. I personally wish I was half my age, but I'm not. I am thankful for my life and all that God has allowed me to experience, but I also pray that our Lord will allow me to see God's Place up and running. So many are in need of our help. Will you please join us with your support, knowledge, and service?

BE DILIGENT:

We are all aware in this economy of how personal and business finances have taken a big toll on us. Recently, my air conditioning unit broke down because some wires and a small part that malfunctioned had burned. When my son took the cover off the unit, he believed that the wires and the part needed to be replaced. He thought the rest of the unit looked like it was not affected but not being an air conditioning service man told me to call around and have different companies come and see what was wrong. It took two days and I called five different companies to look the situation over. One told me they would replace the part and the wires but were pretty sure I needed a new unit as it was nine years old. If I wanted to take the chance that the unit still might not work it would cost between \$300 and \$400 to replace

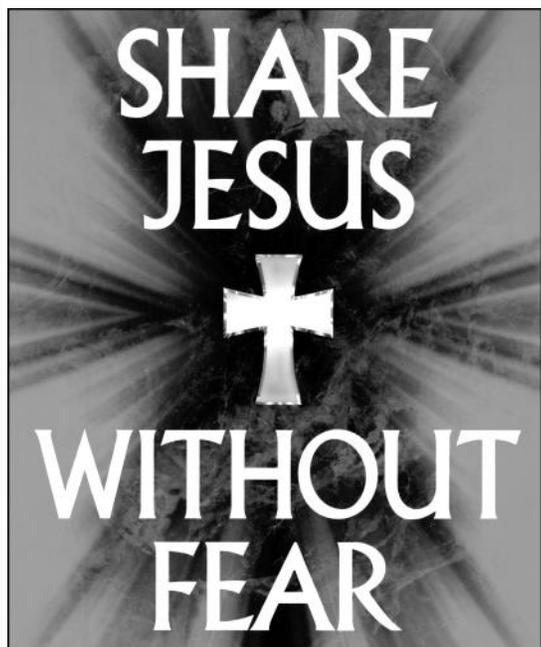
the burnt parts. Another company put a few new wires in and bypassed the burnt part. They then told me that the compressor was shot and I needed a new unit. The other three companies told me that I needed a new unit as this one was shot. I informed my son of each quote. He was furious as he felt that the wires and part could be replaced and the unit fixed. As I do with any situation in my life, I had been praying for wisdom on how to handle this problem and felt that I would listen to my son. He said he would call around to other business acquaintances and see if any one could recommend an honest air conditioning service man.

At 5:30 p.m. on the Friday a very nice young man named Lamar came by on recommendation to my son. He was from C.P. Custom Air. He proceeded to re-wire what was needed, checked the rest of the unit over, turned the

unit back on and put his gauges on the compressor and fan. The compressor and fan motor showed they were working fine. He said even though the unit is older, I should hopefully be able to get a few more years out of it but to be planning for the expense of a new unit eventually. It cost me \$100. Quotes for a new unit started at \$3765 - \$6215. I understand everyone is hurting financially and our appliances, etc. wear out. But I believe I was blessed by a company that knew their business and operate on the customer first. So be diligent when facing replacing major items. It takes time but make sure to keep praying for that right person.

Miss Sue

C.P. Custom Air - 239-340-6346
Chris Paraday/Owner



There is a way for any believer to guide someone to find the simple path to salvation without the fear of failure. 'Share Jesus Without Fear', by Bill Fay & Ralph Hodge, presents a natural, non-threatening way to share the Gospel that eliminates the pressure, the argument, and the fear.

"Experience the true joy of sharing your faith without fear!"

Come join our instructor, Kent Yoder, CEO of Yoder Oil Company. Mr. Yoder was raised in Middlebury, IN., a Mennonite and Amish farming community. He graduated from Purdue University with a BS in Industrial Management. He began his job career as a sales engineer with Powers Regulator Co. in Skokie, IL. After a few years he became a stock broker in downtown Chicago. While in Chicago he met his wife Linda, a flight attendant for United Airlines. They have two children Brett and Jaime.

Kent moved his family to Elkhart, IN. in 1973. He joined his father's petroleum business, Yoder Oil Co., Inc. In Elkhart, Kent's family began attending church and in 1985 Kent accepted Jesus Christ as his Savior. Soon after, Kent became actively involved in the Christian Businessmen's Committee (CBMC) which he chaired for nine years. Kent loves to share his faith and lead others to Christ. Kent enjoys teaching the course 'Share Jesus Without Fear'. Since learning these lessons, Kent has seen God harvest hundreds of souls for our Lord Jesus Christ!

Love and Compassion Ministry is teaming up with Kent Yoder to bring this study to our Community

Evangelism Training Sessions at: Cypress Lake Baptist Church

November 6 and 7, 2009

Call the church office at 239-481-5442 to become part of this wonderful teaching.

Sessions will cover the following:

1ST SESSION: (Friday, Nov. 6 7:00-8:00pm)
Passion for the Lost, How to Share Your Story, Praying for the Lost

2ND SESSION: (Friday, Nov. 6 8:00-9:00pm)
Developing a Heart to Share Jesus

3RD SESSION: (Saturday, Nov. 7 9:00-10:00am)
Learning a Way to Share Jesus

4TH SESSION: (Saturday, Nov. 7 10:00-11:30am)
Responding to the Challenge to Share Jesus



Cypress Lake Baptist Church
8400 Cypress Lake Drive Fort Myers, Florida 33919
239-481-5442



Love And Compassion Ministries

Dear Friends,

All of us know the great commission, *Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, (Matthew 28:19).* Yet how many of us obey our Lord's commandment?

Have you ever had an opportunity to share your faith but didn't? Mark 8:38 says: *Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.*

Staying silent when the Holy Spirit has given you an opportunity to witness to someone is a sin. Failure to share the gospel is rebellion against God. John 4:34-35 says: ^{34.} *Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of Him that sent me, and to finish His work.* ^{35.} *Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.*

We need laborers! Matthew 9:38 says: *Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.* Are we praying for laborers? Why do we have such a hard time witnessing to people? Fear of being rejected? How about fear of offending someone or being ridiculed.

I Peter 3:15-17 says: ^{15.} *But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:* ^{16.} *Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ.* ^{17.} *For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing.*

How often do we deny Jesus? When Peter denied knowing Jesus three times just before He went to the cross so do we when we do not take advantage of the opportunities God has given us to witness to others.

Trying to live in the middle, is living a lie. The truth is, you either follow Christ or you follow satan. You are either God's child or God's enemy. You are either heaven bound or hell bound. No one is in the middle. People who have chosen to reject Christ are condemned even though our Lord wishes no one to perish. II Peter 3:9 says: *The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is long-suffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*

We can become the people our Lord wants us to be if we will have faith in Him who sends us, believes that the Bible will provide the answers as the Holy Spirit will provide the power.

Remember, it is the love of God and the love for others that drives us to witness to the lost of this world. A caring person will witness to the broken hearted and those who have only hopelessness because of the love of Jesus. For He is the hope that lives within us.

In the Presence of our LORD,

Ron Willis

Ron Willis, President
Love and Compassion Ministries, Inc.



Love And Compassion
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We're on the Web!
www.LoveCompassion.com

Stamp

PRAYER



GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD FOR HE IS GOOD
WE WILL GIVE THANKS AT ALL TIMES

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.

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!