

Love and Compassion Ministries

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

July 1, 2013 In The Year of Our Lord

NEWSLETTER

4th of July Story “The Martyr Patriot”

The Background

The following story is about one of General Washington’s noble soldiers who willingly gave his life in the service of his country. The story is told by Edward Ellis in his book ‘Stories from American History.’

The Story

Nathan Hale was born in Connecticut in 1755. He grew up to be a handsome, talented boy, who was not only bright in his studies, but one of the finest athletes in all the country round. He was a swift runner, a fine leaper, and excelled all his playmates in outdoor sports. He was cheerful in his disposition, truthful, and a favorite with all who knew him. He was very much like Washington, and it is no wonder that his friends were proud of him.

When Hale was a boy he was so far along in his studies that he was sent to Yale College. There he was popular with the teachers and students, for he was manly and noble in all that he did. You know that Yale College, like other schools of its kind, gives much attention to athletics. If they had had a champion football team in those days, I am sure that Nathan Hale would have been among their star players. One day there was a jumping match on the New Haven Green. The young men were skillful at that, and many of them made much longer leaps than you or I can make today.

When it came Hale’s turn to try, he caused every eye to open in astonishment, for as he sprang from the ground he seemed to go sailing through the air like a bird. When he struck the earth he was so far in advance of all the others that they clapped their hands with delight.

Nothing of the kind was ever seen before, and no one tried to see what he could do after Hale made that tremendous leap. His friends were so pleased that they marked the spot where he left the ground and where he came down. Then they put a fence around it to prevent the marks from being rubbed out. That fence stood for many years.

When some student began to boast of what he could do in the way of jumping, the others would take him to the spot and point out what Nathan Hale did when he was a student at Yale. “Suppose you begin with that,” they would say to the ambitious athlete, who, after measuring the length with his eye, would shake his head and walk away. He knew he never could perform a feat like that, and so he said no more about it.

Hale graduated from college with high honors and everybody wished him well. He was poor and began teaching school at New London, and was there

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Thank You For Your
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when news came of the battle of Lexington. He was scarcely twenty years old, but his whole soul glowed with patriotism. He had intended to become a minister, but he felt now that his duty was to serve his country. He gave up his school at once and went around among his friends, asking them to join him in going to the help of the patriots. A good many did so and the next day the little company was marching as rapidly as they could to Boston. He was so bright and devoted to his work that as soon as they arrived, Nathan was made a lieutenant. He was set to work guarding the seacoast near New London but after a time was sent to Boston again, where he was with Washington during the siege of that town. He made so fine an officer and was so well liked by his men that he became a captain.

There was no company in the whole army that showed finer drill and discipline than Captain Hale's. When the term for which his men had enlisted had ended, he offered to give them all his own pay if they would reenlist. They did so, for they loved their brave captain and knew that he was not afraid of any danger.

One night in the spring of 1776, Captain Hale picked out a number of his most daring men and rowed out in a boat to where a British vessel was anchored within a few yards of a powerful frigate. Climbing quickly and silently upon the deck they took the whole crew prisoner, shut them in the hold, and then brought the vessel to the wharf without any one of the enemy suspecting what was going on.

The summer of 1776 was one of gloom and almost despair to the Americans. They suffered a bad defeat on Long Island in August, and only by a narrow chance did the main army manage to escape to Manhattan Island. The British forces were almost double in number and near at hand, eager to attack the Americans, while a fleet of their warships were in New York Bay. It was a sad time, indeed, and had any one but Washington been at the head of the patriot army, it would have been captured. As it was, Washington felt that he must find out in some way what the enemy meant to do, how many troops it had and how they were placed. There was only one way of getting this knowledge and that was by sending a spy into the British lines.

The most dangerous thing a soldier can do is to act as a spy. While he keeps on his uniform and fights in the ranks, if he has the bad fortune to be made a prisoner, his life is in no danger. He may be kept for a good while, but no civilized nation ever harms a prisoner who has been captured in a fair fight. But it is different with a spy. He does not wear his uniform, but pretends to belong to the enemy's side, or at least is friendly to it. He tries to move about and learn all he can and then he waits for a chance to slip away and take the news to his own commander.

You can see how valuable such knowledge is for it may give his friends the chance to win a great victory. To be a spy is the most dangerous thing you can do for if they are caught, they are always hanged or shot. Major Andre, a British spy, was captured within our lines and hanged. All nations follow that course. You will understand from this that a man must be very brave to be a spy. He must be cool and cautious for he knows that if he is found out, nothing can save him from the most disgraceful of deaths.

A large number of men in Washington's army were asked to go into the British lines but every one of them said no, the risk was too great. At last, when it looked as if no one could be persuaded, the matter was named to Captain Hale. He took the job and set off to do his duty. On September 21, 1776 Hale was captured by the British. Early the next day he asked for writing materials, which was furnished him. He wrote two letters; one to his mother and one to his brother.

We don't know exactly what he said before he was executed but it must have been impressive and deserved to be remembered for his genuine dedication, courage, and willingness to pay the ultimate price with honor and dignity. John Montresor, a British officer who witnessed the hanging told an American officer, William Hull, about Hale's death where he uttered the famous line, **I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country.**

We have many Americans all around this world serving in the armed services, ready at any time to give their lives for this country knowing the odds. Please, this 4th of July, pray with me that God will keep them safe, equipped and ready to meet our Lord at any time.

Nathan Hale appeared on US postage stamps issued in 1925 and 1929.



Youth Ministry **Is this ministry worthy of your support?**

Love and Compassion Ministries has two wonderful teams of Christian men and women who minister to the youth at Crossroads Wilderness Institution in Punta Gorda, Florida. They prepare a lunch and dinner for these young bright men and teach them about our Lord.

Many are coming to know Christ because of what is being done in our Lord's name there. These young men are our future! Please pray for them and all of Love And Compassion Ministries Youth Team Ministry members that care enough to reach out to these delightful youth!

Love And Compassion Ministries never charges nor receives support from a mother Church or other organization.

Per State Law, Faces Of Youth and Workers of Crossroads Have Been Blurred Out.



Polly and Betty with some of the guys.



Polly with one of the youth.



Elmer with some of the guys.

Financial Support

Please help us by mailing your donations to:
Love And Compassion Ministries, Inc.
P.O. Box 152636
Cape Coral, Florida 33915



or
You Can Donate through PayPal at www.LoveCompassion.com
You Can Also Use Your Bank's Bill Pay.

Call us at 574-5683 if you would like to commit to a monthly donation as we would be glad to send you a monthly reminder of your commitment along with a stamped envelope for your convenience.

Give and see how God can multiply your support.
No amount is too small in God's hands.

Message From Mike Bontrager

I first came into contact with Love and Compassion Ministries when I was an inmate in the Florida prison system. Ron Willis, the president of Love and Compassion Ministries, led a Bible study at the Ft. Myers work release center where I was housed. He would also take many of us to church with him each Sunday morning. I got to know who Jesus Christ is by watching Ron's life. The Bible studies and the preaching at church were good, but what most drew me to Christ was the example of Ron and his volunteers giving of themselves and putting the needs of others before their own. I truly saw Jesus in them and I wanted what they had. Without the Lord and this prison ministry, I don't know where I would be today.

Street Outreach Ministry **Is this ministry worthy of your support?**

Street Watch Ministries and Love And Compassion Ministries joined together in 2012 to reach the lost of this area through our Street Outreach Ministry. In February we made the decision to take this wonderful ministry to the next level. In order to reach out to more, we changed our location, day and time so that we can reach more families in the area of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. and Ford Street. We are serving a wonderful meal, giving out clothing, hygiene items, and will be giving the community the ability to hear an inspirational sermon and teaching for children and adults.



People come from all around to be nourished by the mouth-watering food while also receiving the much needed items along with the Word of God. All agree that the fellowship is wonderful. People come from all around to see, feel, and sense the power of the Holy Spirit. Many would never come within a Church frame work but would listen to the Word of God being taught on the streets. This is a ministry that is so needed.



Street Outreach Ministry is having the Church come to the people.

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Drug Program Ministry **Is this ministry worthy of your support?**



Love and Compassion Ministries works directly with numerous very wonderful Christian drug and alcohol programs. We believe that without Jesus Christ you cannot be delivered from your addictions. Many times we are asked to go to court to request the judge to allow a person to complete a drug program rather than going to prison.

We do our own evaluations of people who desire to stop living as they are and want to change their lives! We do all we can to make sure that when we recommend a person to a program that it is the right place, at the right time, and that the person will be able to complete the program. Love and Compassion Ministries makes all the arrangements for the entry including transporting the person to the program. All of our services and most of the programs are free to the client. It is so nice to see the change in people's lives after completing a nine month or more in-house drug program.

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Prison Ministry **Is this ministry worthy of your support?**

Love and Compassion Ministries started as a prison ministry. Seeing the same people returning to the prison system again and again will break your heart. Upon his retirement from McGregor Baptist Church, Pastor Holbrook joined the team and started ministering to the men at the Lee County Stockade. Since then Mark Decker has joined the team also. They love going out to the jail and the inmates love them and more importantly they are receiving the free gift of God, His Salvation.

The Word of God needs desperately to be taught in the jail and prison systems, but we also need to minister to them while they are on the outside. That means helping them with jobs, clothing, housing, transportation and counseling. Housing an inmate costs thousands of dollars! To teach them about a wonderful Savior is priceless. When someone turns from their wicked ways and accepts Jesus Christ, they become a tax payer and not a burden on society. We must learn to LOVE THE SINNER ... HATE THE SIN.



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David Hopwood's Testimony

David completed the Faith Farm Ministries drug program recently. This is the testimony he gave at graduation.

Romans 10:9 says that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God raised Him for the dead, you will be saved.

My name is David Hopwood. I was born on Jan 7th 1971 in Clifton N.J. I moved to Fort Myers, FL with my family in 1977 and attended a Christian school, where I accepted Jesus Christ as my Savior and friend. I was taught by my grandfather good moral values and how to help others whenever I could by following his example that he set for me in our community. Like many people my age, I started to back slide into a life of sin. While I was very active in sports all throughout high school, drinking at the time was the "jock" thing to do.

In 1989, 3 months before graduation I quit school due to my drinking and marijuana usage, but got my GED. That same year my parents divorced, my mom was diagnosed with cancer and I had started a lawn maintenance business with my brother-in-law, Richie. To say the least it was a very busy year for me. After a three year battle with cancer, my mom, at the age of 48, passed and while I know now that she is with the Lord, this was where my life started into a downward spiral emotionally and spiritually. I was angry at God and my mom for dying on me. I went on a two year vacation of partying and gambling.

In 1993 I got married to my high school sweetheart Susan and bought into a small Italian pizzeria in my neighborhood. After a brief sobriety, I began to party and gamble again and sold the business. In 1999 my son Joshua was born, one of the happiest days of my life to date. God had blessed me once again! We purchased a home along with some investment properties and life was good (so I thought). In 2002 I built a successful landscape and irrigation company, having everything I needed in life, except a relationship with God. I began using pain killers for my shoulder and back injuries I suffered over the years, from six auto accidents. Once I realized that taking these pills would make me forget all the pain, not to mention the misery from my past sins, it was "game on". And, to make up for lost time, I was off to the races with drug use.

On this race to destruction, minutes turned into years and before I knew it, I was divorced and gave another business away. Satan had me right where he wanted me. Even though I had my friends, family and God on my side, I felt alone, afraid and horrified where my life was going. I was knocking on death's door. Broken physically, emotionally, and spiritually I cried out to God once again. He heard me and for the third time in my life, I was at a detox center. This time God had a plan for me. My sister Jennifer had heard about Faith Farm from a friend and that it was a Christian based program. I knew that I needed to get my heart right with God and start building that relationship with Him that I had been putting off for the last 30 years! All in God's time.

Romans 8:28 says: And we know that all things work together for good, to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. In a "drug fog" I left my house to a roommate I had only known for 5 months, gave away most of my clothes to Teen Challenge, sold my jeep and what was left of my possessions and went to my sister's house waiting to go to Faith Farm. Shortly after I left my house, it was broken into. My "former" roommate was pistol whipped, beaten to a pulp, and taken to the hospital. After he was released from the hospital, he was arrested due to selling "oxies", dilaudid, and heroin to an undercover informant. After a short time in jail, he bonded out and was killed that same night.

If I hadn't stepped out in faith and left everything, I would have been right in the middle of all the mess. Thank-you Jesus, for your mercy and grace. That's how I ended up on the green benches. As soon as I crossed the bridge over to Faith Farm property, I felt the Holy Spirit (and even my dad had mentioned His presence). I knew I was in the right place. The first 3 months here were rough but I knew where I was (well not really, I was in a daze-ask Luzzi he'll tell you). As time progressed I listened in class, prayed a lot and read the Word. John Geombo gave me a verse Isaiah 26:3 which helped a lot. "You will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you." For the first time in a long while I finally started getting some clarity in my life. I knew I was destined by

(Continued from page 5)

God to be here. Before class 3, being my own boss for so many years, I had a problem with authority (ask McCort he will tell you). God revealed to me about obeying the authority that was placed above me. By doing this I was obeying God. That's all I needed to know. Romans 13:1 says let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. In that class God revealed to me that I needed to forgive my mom for dying on me, so I did as He commanded. By doing so I can now speak about her and her death - it only took me 20 years (all in Gods time).

Class 5 God revealed to me how to become Holy like Him. 1Peter 1:15-16 says: but as He who called you is Holy, you also are holy in all your conduct, because it is written, "Be holy for I am holy". Now I know what to do, walk like Jesus did, love others as He loved them, serve everyone with everything I have, and spread the Good News. In everything I do I will lean on God.

Class 6 has been a good experience for me. God revealed to me how to look past everything that is going on in my life and stay focused on Him. He let me use this gift right away. One day there was trouble in the store and I was right in the middle of it. Before I knew it I was on the lawn crew, then kicked out of the program, let back in and on the house crew until further notice, all within an hour. I felt like I was in a tornado. I prayed that night for God to take this situation from me, all the pain, anger and resentment that were building up inside of me. For the first time in my life I felt God take it from me. And it was gone just as fast as it built up. I woke up the next morning full of joy, peace and gratitude not even knowing what was going to happen next.

I talked with James and explained the situation to him. God spoke through him and shortly after I was allowed back into the store at my post in outside sales. I share this as the Lord told me to, that it might help another. By following God's will in your life you will be tested. Satan doesn't want that, he fears that because he knows God is going to use us for His Kingdom and Glory.

I leave you with this. If you believe God is in control and are doing His will, everything else will fall into place. EVERYTHING!!! I am leaving to start my ministry at home with my son (which has been confirmed by God through two different people) and to help the homeless people. I thank God for bringing me to this holy place and for everyone who makes this place work the way it does.

Thanks to all my brothers in my class and a special thanks to James and Mike for allowing me to grow with you guys in Christ and having me dust all that furniture over and over. Thanks to Tony for teaching me how to deal with adversity in a Godly way and last and most important I want to thank and apologize to my family for putting up with all my hurtful ways (it wasn't the real me). With God's help I will be a better son, brother, and most of all, father to you Josh. I love you all. God bless!

Thank God that this young man received the help he needed not only for his drug use but to get right with God!

Homeless Ministry Is this ministry worthy of your support?

Lee County has as many as 3,000 homeless people living out of their cars, under bridges, in the woods and various other places where the police will allow them to sleep. They are in need of shelter, yet all the shelters are and have been full for months. Any person that is taken off the streets will be considered a victory, but our primary focus is to work on getting the families with children off the streets. We have put entire families on the bus and sent them back to their kin in other states, given gas cards to people traveling "back home" and provided mechanical repairs to people's cars to help them get to work.



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Supporters and Friends:

Greetings in the Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ. I pray that you are supporting LCM and that you are being blessed because of your faithfulness in giving where it counts.

First off, I wish to say thank you all that supported us in June. It has been a terrible month in many ways and yet on the best of ways in many other areas. We had many large obligations that had to be met in June and by the grace of God, people came through for us, helping us to meet them on time.

Since the first of the year our financial support has been very short. Many have moved out of the area and as it is said "out of sight, out of mind," but I can report that the ministry is strong and doing well in many other ways. All the ministries that make up LCM (Youth Ministry / Street Outreach Ministry / Homeless Ministry / Prison Ministry / Drug Program Ministry / are leading people to the saving grace of our Lord and that's what it's all about!

Our volunteers, their families and I have sacrificed in many areas. We all believe that you are going to continue to support us as we serve our Lord, for Love And Compassion Ministries is worthy of your support.

You know in the business world, the harder you work and the longer hours you put in, the more you earn. In ministry work no matter how many hours you work you never catch up. I regularly work more than eighty hours a week and yet there are more in need of our services the next week.

Matthew 9:35-38 says: ³⁵ *Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness.* ³⁶ *When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.* ³⁷ *Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few."* ³⁸ *Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."*

Have you ever thought that Jesus must have gotten tired many times? He walked to most places. He had crowds that wanted His attention every moment for every day and night and even with all His healing and teaching He did not even have a place to lay His head. I am sure that He could have made a good living serving the public as He did, but He knew that, God the Father, would provide everything He needed even though He never seemed to have enough money to pay His taxes, feed the people that were hungry, have a place to live or have transportation. God the Father provided all He needed, using things that were all around, such as a coin in a fish, a young boy's lunch, the words needed to be spoken, water needed to make wine, even two mites from a widow and so much more. Our Lord and Savior was used by God to bring glory to the Father through the things provided by the Father.

For more than fifteen years now, we have relied on God our Father to provide all our needs and He has provided them through people just like you! Just like Jesus, we have never charged for any of our services either!

Thank you and God bless!

In the Presence of our Lord,

Ron Willis

Ron Willis, President
Love and Compassion Ministries, Inc.

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Ministries**

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Stamp



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**Behind every
thoughtful deed
is a
*generous
spirit*
inspired by the
heart of
*God.***