

Love and Compassion Ministries

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

March 1, 2012 In The Year of Our Lord

AN INTERVIEW WITH A FRIEND

Volume 7, Issue 3

Inside This Issue

Story:	Page
INTERVIEW WITH A FRIEND	2
INTERVIEW WITH FRIEND PRAYER IN SPRING	3
HOMELESS STAND DOWN	4
LCM NEEDS YOUR PRAYERS AND SUPPORT	5
MINISTRIES HELPING MINISTRIES	6
LETTER FROM PRESIDENT	7
PRAYER	8

❖ This is a monthly publication produced by LCM. Permission is hereby granted to reproduce this publication! If you wish someone who is in jail or prison to receive a copy, call us for details.

Board of Directors

Frank Blake
Stacey Davis
Mark Decker
Tony Distaffen
Mark Johnson
Lyle Smith
Ron Willis

Henry Kuter came into my life about 14 years ago. When I first met him, I didn't know he was an addict, but I knew I didn't like him. But as I got to know him, I found, that under the cover of crack cocaine, there was a real person — a good person. I am happy to say he has been free from crack for nearly six years.

His story shows that when an addict is ready, they can be helped. Here's what he had to say.

You have been off drugs for nearly 6 years. How did you get off drugs?

I received a series of five infusions of Prometa. Prometa attaches to the neuro receptors in the brain to block cravings. It is a very expensive treatment, and it is not a cure. It gives you time to think about not using and to work on the other steps of recovery. I went to support meetings. I isolated myself from my using friends, who were really not my friends. I released my checking account to family so I was accountable for where my money went. I had someone not on drugs with me nearly all the time.

We suggest God is needed to help people get off drugs. What do you think?

I agree that He is important. He was a big part of my recovery. When I was using I didn't care who I hurt or who I stole from. After coming to Florida, and coming to know Jesus I knew what I was doing was wrong, and I knew I had to change. Before I came to know Jesus, I had a superiority complex. I thought I was better than everyone, and I deserved to get high and do what I wanted to do. It was my life and I could do what I wanted with it. After I came to know Jesus, I knew that wasn't what He wanted me to do. When I was going through recovery, I prayed for His guidance. I still do! I had dreams about using. In the dream I would pray to Jesus to take that dream away and take the desire from me. I would awake. He had taken it away. Then I could go back to sleep without the dream of using.

Do you think you, or anybody, can get off drugs without help?

No! I spent 20 plus years using crack cocaine. For the first 10 years I didn't care. When I realized I had a problem and tried to stop, I found I couldn't. My friends were always coming over. I was living a life style that promoted using, lying, and stealing, and I couldn't quit.

You can't do it without help. I've witnessed many in detox who say they are going to change their lives, but they just come back again and again. It's going to be jails, institutions, or death, unless you get help. I experienced all but death.

(Continued on page 2)

NEWSLETTER

(Continued from page 1)

I remember talking with you many times about going into programs, etc. I always felt you really wanted to quit using, but you seemed to always want to take a shorter route. Do you think that was a good idea?

That's true. I thought my life was too important to put on hold to try to correct my path. I always had an excuse. I got a job. I have to pay my bills. I have a girl friend or a wife and children. But getting high was more important than my job, paying bills, or taking care of my family.

What was life like on drugs.

Chaotic, miserable! I spent hours isolated in a dark room. I was always broke, homeless. I stole to support my habit. I told lies that I couldn't remember. I told lies to cover lies. I probably had 100 lies going at a time. I was undependable at work. The quality of my work was bad. I just wanted to get paid. Even when I had the best intentions of doing good things with money, when I got it in my hands, all I could think of was getting high.

Eventually, in 1997 I got a possession charge, and later that year I was charged with grand theft auto, and dealing in stolen property—a total of 8 felonies. I sobered up for a year while I was on probation. But one year to the day after I sobered up, I got high again, violated probation and went to prison for 25 months.

When I got out of prison I stayed clean for a while, but, I was trying to get visitation with my children and that was very trying. I wasn't prepared for the setbacks I encountered in trying to get visitation, so I resorted to the only thing I knew to kill the feelings of hurt and pain, and that was to get high.

How is your life better now that you are clean?

I think more clearly. I'm not consumed with the thoughts of getting high. The chaos of finding the drugs, worrying about how I'm going to find the money for them is gone.



KUTER'S CHRISTMAS 2011

Henry holding Seth & Sean, Marianne holding Little Henry, Maegan

Today, I wake up and look forward to going to work, and spending time with my children, paying my bills, and working on my true love – restoring classic cars.

I am dependable at work, and I'm proud that the company I subcontract for trusts me, and chooses me to do the most difficult jobs.

I've married and have a boy 4, twin boys 2 years old, and an eleven year old step daughter that I enjoy doing things with. We enjoy going to parks and movies. This weekend we will go to the Daytona 500.

I know you had three nights where you returned to using drugs. Thankfully, that has been more than 6 months ago, and you have been able to overcome it. I've always thought that when an addict thought they no longer had a problem, they had a problem, and were in danger of returning to using. What do you think?

I did become complacent in my recovery, and after five and a half years clean, old habits came back. I tried to help someone who was still using, and I got high with that person. It only happened three times, and by the grace of God I was able to stop again. I thank God I didn't return to where I left off. I am now being more accountable, praying more regularly, and spending more time with my family. My four year old has a strong love for God. He always wants to pray, and I try to keep him with me all the time for strength.

I know you have a heart for helping others, and you have recently started to try to help a young couple get off drugs and get their lives back together. Why did you care?

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

God has filled me with love for others. I can see the pain in others who use. I know the struggles they have to get clean. I can see they want to change their lives, but they have problems finding the correct way to go. As addicts, when we realize we have an addiction, we agree to go so far (maybe a 30 day program), but when that isn't enough, it takes something drastic in our lives to make us realize we have to do more to overcome.

I know they have taken their own path, and have not done what you suggested, but yet you haven't given up on them. Why did you want to help, and why are you still trying to help them.

Nobody gave up on me. God never gave up on me. Every time I fell, somebody was there to lend me a hand up. Even if it wasn't the help I felt I needed, it was the type of help God knew I needed. I know I have to keep my safe guards in place. I can't hang out with them, but I do know the games and cons they pull. These kids want to change their lives, but when nobody is around they go back to the old ways. I hope and pray they can see what I have done, and see that drugs are not the answer. They are just an escape, and only temporary. There is a better life.

Anything you would like to say to young people who may be ready to start using drugs? To people who are still using drugs?

It's worth spending time to get off drugs. There is more to life than getting high. When you are high you don't experience nature's true beauty. You don't experience others people's love. Life isn't great every day, but being clean makes it easier to get through difficulties.

Everybody, but you, knows you can't do it on your own. So, stop with the excuses, get help, take the time to recover, and enjoy God's love, and your life.

Prayer in Spring by Robert Frost



OH, give us pleasure in the flowers today;
And give us not to think so far away
As the uncertain harvest; keep us here
All simply in the springing of the year.



Oh, give us pleasure in the orchard white,
Like nothing else by day, like ghosts by night;
And make us happy in the happy bees,
The swarm dilating round the perfect trees.



And make us happy in the darting bird
That suddenly above the bees is heard,
The meteor that thrusts in with needle bill,
And off a blossom in mid air stands still.

For this is love and nothing else is love,
To which it is reserved for God above
To sanctify to what far ends he will,
But which it only needs that we fulfill.



HOMELESS STAND DOWN

Many Lee and Collier County churches, ministries, and charitable organizations joined together Saturday January, 28 at Broadway Community Church for Lee County Homeless Coalition's 2012 Homeless Stand Down. About 450 homeless people were able to receive clothing, eat a meal, take groceries, take showers, get their hair cut, get flu and pneumonia shots, and talk with service organizations about their needs,



GROCERIES ARE READY



450 CAME

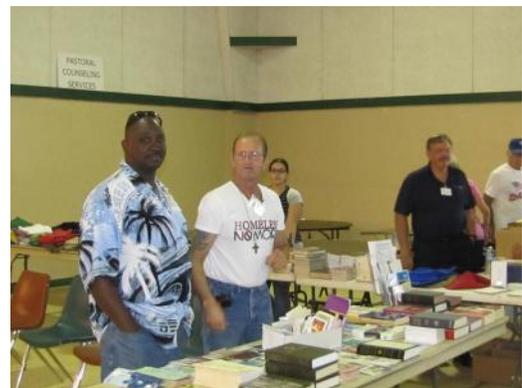


CLOTHES FOR ALL

Love and Compassion Ministries with the help of 25 volunteers, served more than 900 Pepsi drinks, provided by Pepsi, as well as, 300 bottles of water, gave haircuts, listened to the homeless, shared the Lord, prayed with them, and shared how our organization could help them.



HAVE A PEPSI



LCM READY TO SHARE THE WORD

It was a joy to see so many organizations, Christian and secular, come together to help our brothers and sisters in need.

LOVE AND COMPASSION MINISTRIES NEEDS YOUR PRAYERS AND SUPPORT

In the last few months, Love and Compassion Ministries has helped many addicts get into drug programs. We have gone to court for some. Because we helped, some will change their lives and become productive citizens instead of going to prison again and again. We have even seen some of the addicts we helped grow to the point where they are now helping other addicts recover.

We have fed people on the streets of Fort Myers and shared Jesus Christ with them as part of our Street Ministry. We have seen many accept Christ.. Every week a group from LCM goes to a youth camp where we share Christ with the troubled youth and encourage them to change their lives while there is still time. We have participated in many of the community's homeless activities. We have helped people find jobs and get their cars fixed.

We know many people look on addicts, the homeless, and our troubled youth as undesirable people who are in trouble because they made bad decisions, and now they need to be responsible for getting themselves out of trouble. We have seen many addicts recover and become productive citizens instead of going to prisons where they are burdens on us. I have never met an addict, who I got to know, that I didn't like, and I have met many. They are good people who made bad decisions, and can't change their lives without help. Most of the homeless are not responsible for the situation they are in. Many are veterans who can't find jobs. Many are children. Many just lost their homes because they lost jobs. Any of us could find ourselves homeless. Our troubled youth are young people making bad decisions. If we can change those to good decisions we can make our community better.

Yes, addicts, the homeless, and our troubled youth are good people! Yes, they made bad decisions! Now they need our help! They can't change without it!

It's hard to ask, but now we need your help. Donations to our ministry have been dropping, and now our funds are running low. So, we need to ask if you can help us. We know times are rough for many. But, would you talk with God, and see if He can lead you to a way to help Love and Compassion Ministries with a donation? Remember, small donations are a big help! Will you ask Him to help us get the funds to keep helping others?

Will you ask Him to provide volunteers for our ministries?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS AND SUPPORT!



MAKING DONATIONS TO SUPPORT LOVE AND COMPASSION MINISTRIES HAS NEVER BEEN EASIER

You Can Use PayPal at www.LoveCompassion.com

You Can Use Your Bank's Bill Pay, Or You Can

Mail Your Donations to:

Love And Compassion Ministries, Inc.

P.O. Box 152636

Cape Coral, Florida 33915

ARE YOU TOO BUSY?

IF YOU ARE TOO BUSY TO STUDY THE BIBLE,

YOU ARE TOO BUSY!

IF YOU ARE TOO BUSY TO HELP OTHERS,

YOU ARE TOO BUSY!

God's Word says we must not get too busy to love others, and because we love them, we must not get too busy to help them. When we do something for others, He sees it as if we were doing it for Him! We must help the weak, the sick, the hungry, and especially we must help our family of believers. He says we must clothe them, feed them look after them, and visit them. We must have Love and show Compassion!

John 13:34-35 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

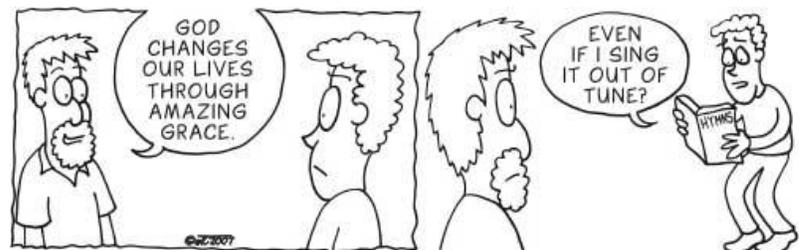
Matthew 25: 35-40 ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. ³⁷ "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?' ³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you?' ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' ⁴⁰ "The King will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

Acts 20:35 In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Isaiah 58:10 and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday.

Galatians 6:10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

SOME CHRISTIAN HUMOR





Friends and Partners,

In the last fourteen years of this ministry I have gotten to see God's hand work in so many lives. He has supernaturally moved in people's lives, making a way when there was no way. I have seen people healed and restored, families brought back together, jobs and finances re-established, and many other wonders. Yet, when one hopeful situation turns bad, many times I dwell on what happened to cause the person to reject the help offered. Even though I know Satan is busy working to destroy all remembrances of what Christ did for us on the cross, many times I find myself talking about the situation with a negative view.

For the past few weeks I have been studying the Bible with Andrew Wommack. He is a TV Bible teacher and preacher who clarifies many things in the Bible. Right now, he is doing a study on the power of our words. We know that the Word of God is perfect. Psalm 19:7 says, It converts the soul, and the testimony of the Lord is true, making uneducated people wise. But what about the verse in Mark 11:23 that says: *For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.*

Do we believe, that with faith, we can move the mountain? The Bible says that God spoke the earth, this universe and all there is into existence by just speaking the Word, and now these things must respond to words. God has given us the power and authority to speak blessings and curses. Our words are powerful, but we have developed a problem with our words becoming less important year by year. We have fed the power of doubt and unbelief with many of our words, when we watch the wrong movies, listen to people who speak doubt, and we associate with faithless people.

We must not allow words of fear, doubt, sickness, despair, poverty and depression to be spoken over us. We must not allow these words to take root in us. Death and life are in the power of the tongue. When we believe in what we speak, then the supernatural faith takes over. We must start speaking what we believe in our hearts. Many of us have a problem believing what we say because we do not fulfill our commitments. We are not trustworthy. We say one thing and then do another. We agree to meet at 7:00 PM, and yet we don't show up till 7:20. Our heart knows us, and does not believe us, just as others don't believe us.

Our words are powerful, but if we can only believe in what we can see, feel, taste, and smell, then we will never have the power our Lord has given us. If we trust the doctor, the banker, and our tax man more than God we will never have the ability to utilize the power and authority our Lord has given us through words.

May we all learn to train our tongue to speak only truth and blessings.

In the Presence of our LORD,

Ron Willis

Ron Willis, President
Love and Compassion Ministries, Inc.

**Love And Compassion
Ministries**

**P.O. Box 152636
Cape Coral, Florida 33915**

**Phone: 239-574-5683
Fax: 239-574-8183**

**Email your comments to:
newsletter@LoveCompassion.com
Lyle Smith, Editor & Publisher**

Stamp

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

**SEND YOUR PRAYER REQUEST TO ...
PrayerRequest@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.

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!