

# Love and Compassion Ministries

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

July 1, 2012 In The Year of Our Lord

NEWSLETTER



## Happy Independence Day

As we all know Independence Day is celebrated on July 4 and is often known as "the Fourth of July". It is the anniversary of our declaration of independence from Great Britain in 1776. Many will celebrate the political freedom we received 236 years ago by displaying the American flag on their homes, setting off fireworks and enjoying friends and family outings.

I wonder how many people know of all the lives that were lost fighting to win our independence from the British. Yes, the Declaration of Independence was first published on July 4, 1776, but what did it cost us? Now, I can only think of what it has cost for us to be free all these years to worship God as we see fit. Many lives have been given for this cause, but today we are in a battle as never before and it is right here on our own turf.

Many lives have been lost, and I cannot tell you how many people I see day in and day out that have lost everything to this adversary. The battle goes on behind closed doors of broken homes, in businesses, hospitals, in court rooms and even in our Churches. This war will be the down fall of our nation if we do not do something now! Drug addicts become people of a different breed. It's like something has gone inside, and hollowed them out and taken the personality out of them.

Not many know or realize that all narcotics were legal until the prohibition in 1920. During the first 144 years of this nation anyone could pur-

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Ron Willis

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chase opium, heroin, morphine and cocaine-even from the Sears Roebuck catalog. As a nation no one could ever believe what has happened since then. Drug crime is off the charts. Crime associated with illegal drug trafficking has soared to an astronomical cost in pain and trouble.

Our jails are full of people that are there because of their drug habit. What else can we expect when people can purchase drugs in many places right in their own neighborhoods? The War on Drugs is a joke! We are not even trying to rid our country of these killers. Law enforcement, courts and hospitals are no match for these killers because billions of dollars are being spent on illegal drugs every day, and because many make fortunes in a short time frame selling these illegal drugs in our neighborhoods.

If your family has not been touched by illegal drug use, count yourself blessed, for thousands have experienced this killer within their own communities. Illegal drugs are the main cause of rape, abduction of children, murder, physical abuse and neglect of children, abortions, theft and even organized crime.

Our jails and prisons are full and many tell us we must build more. When will we have enough, and at what cost? So what are we to do?

**The only thing that is ever going to work is found in the love of God!** We as Christians must take back our country one block at a time. Darkness never likes light so if we band together and shine the light of God on the runners, sellers and buyers of illegal drugs it will stop.

If you are ready to join me in this great battle call me at 239-574-5683 or email me at [ronwillis@lovecompassion.com](mailto:ronwillis@lovecompassion.com).

Thanks!

Ron Willis, President  
Love And Compassion Ministries, Inc.

**We need your help!**  
**If you can help within any of these area please**  
**call us at 239-574-5683**

**Street Outreach Ministry**  
**Homeless Ministry**  
**Drug Program Ministry**

**Youth Ministry**  
**Prayer Ministry**  
**Bread Ministry**

**Prison Ministry**  
**Correspondence Ministry**  
**Newsletter Ministry**

**We need your support to keep all these ministries going!**

You Can Donate By Using PayPal at [www.LoveCompassion.com](http://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

THANK YOU!

## WHAT HAVE WE BEEN DOING?

During June Love and Compassion Ministries did a lot!

### DRUG MINISTRY

Ron Willis is currently working with six people to get them into Christ Centered drug recovery programs. Earlier in June he worked with a lady in her 70's who had become addicted to drugs. He got her into a drug program, and she is very happy with what is now taking place in her life. Yes, people all ages, all walks of life, and all socio economic classes, unfortunately, can and do become addicted to street drugs and prescription drugs.

### STREET MINISTRY

At the end of May, we tried a fish fry rather than our usual menu of chicken, hot dogs, and hamburgers. Once again a large crowd gathered to hear William Stewart share God's Word. Some who never would go into a church, accepted Christ as their Savior. On July 27 William will again share the message as volunteers share hot wholesome good food, clothing and toiletries with the many who come. Our wonderful volunteers also lovingly listen, counsel and tell homeless people what God has done for them, and what He can do for anybody, including them.



Our Street Ministry is in need of an enclosed van or trailer to store and transport electronic equipment used to share our music and message. We also need volunteers to help share the Word, serve, and listen.

### PRISON MINISTRY

Every Thursday evening Pastor Holbrook and Mark Decker go to the Lee County Stockade and share what the Lord can do for the men who are locked up. Most of these men can not believe that God would help someone as bad as them. Some were raised by parents who loved the Lord, but still think the Lord has given up on them. It is truly amazing how many come to know Jesus as their Savior and changed their life from drugs, stealing, and other criminal activities, to a life dedicated to God. Even years later some will share what those messages meant to them.

### YOUTH MINISTRY



Even though the state is planning to close Crossroads Wilderness Ministry in Punta Gorda, our volunteers go there each Sunday to share the Word with teenagers. Last month we shared a letter from John Domino asking you to email a message to the governor's office asking him to reconsider closing this facility. Since then you may have seen local TV stations air some good information about this facility and how it has changed the lives of the young men who have been there. If you saw any of these broad-

casts, you heard actual testimonies from young men whose lives were changed as a result of being sentenced to

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Crossroads. . This facility has ended a life of crime and prison for them. They are begging the governor to keep Crossroads open. Businesses throughout Punta Gorda have put up signs saying they support Crossroads. As a result of messages and publicity, the state has extended the date for closing the program to the end of August, so if you haven't already sent a message, please send one to the governor through Representative Stublen at [rob-in.stublen@eog.myflorida.com](mailto:rob-in.stublen@eog.myflorida.com). It's not too late! Take a little time and give many young men a chance to change their lives! It will also help you keep taxes lower because these men do not keep going back like young men sent to prison do. We have a sample letter on our website, [lovecompassion.com](http://lovecompassion.com) that you might want to use.

### MINISTRY AROUND THE OFFICE

Many times offenders are sentenced to community service time instead of jail or probation. Last month two young men helped LCM. Both of these men were extremely talented. One completed all of his community service hours with us, and then came back and spent additional time beyond his sentence helping us. Today we have a young lady helping us. She, too, has helped us beyond the requirements of her community service. These people see our work, they hear about the Lord, and they see results as they go about their community service sentence, and prayerfully, it changes their lives in addition to fulfilling their community service sentence. If you know anybody who must do community service, have them call us.

Hi,  
My name is Mark Johnson, a native of South West Florida, born right here in Fort Myers. When I was born, I already had 1 sister and 2 older brothers. After I was born, 2 more brothers came. A big family in a small house was what I remember, although most of my early years seem to have erased from my memory. I wish I could say more about my childhood before the age of eight, but that is where my memory starts. What I do remember is that my mother was the comforter, and my father the unappeasable punisher. I knew he loved me, I just didn't know how to please him. As strange as it may sound, I still feared him, even after running away from home at age 15.

I said my memory starts at age eight. I believe that is mainly because that is when the sexual abuse started. I've heard many cases of this kind of abuse first hand working with others who went through the same thing and many of them lost years of memory during the time they were abused. The mind has a way of erasing things that are so detestable. A way of self-protection from the things that are too painful to remember. I used to wish for that, but I remember. I also remember the fear I lived in every day of my life. Fear of my father finding out, and what he would do to me when he did. You see, as with most all victims of abuse, we blame ourselves, not the abuser. This went on until the day I ran away. I can say without question that I missed my family while living on the streets. I was just too afraid to go home.

I made myself a little home in the woods of metro with another runaway, with a dugout in the middle of some thick wooded area, a tent, a campfire, and a log from an old tree that had fallen over which was used for a bench. This is when I first became a full blown addict. There are no words to comfort a 15 year old living that way, there is only fear. The campfire was my security, and the darkness beyond it was my prison, as if there were steel bars at the border between the light of the fire and the darkness of the woods. This is when I discovered something that would change my life for the next twenty years. I discovered the antidote for fear. Drugs and alcohol became my best friend, my true companion, and the only thing I could think about. I literally hated being sober and having to deal with reality.

For the next twenty years of my life I bounced from one place to another, one job to another, one problem to another and one relationship to another. I managed to somehow stay married for 15 years of that time, but looking back I realized my ex-wife was just someone else I could use, so I did whatever I could to keep her around. I do believe I loved her as best I knew how; the problem was I just didn't know how, and that wasn't good enough. She finally left me after 15 years together with all the scars one could inflict on another.

That was my rock bottom as we say in recovery. I will never forget the pain I felt in those following months. You see,

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by this time I had done so much damage to myself and others that I was sitting in jail with arrest warrants in 4 different counties. My ex-wife came to see me for visitation, and I could see the numbness in her eyes. She was done. I had drained the life out of her and she just couldn't do it anymore. She left that night after visitation, and I never saw her again. The pain of those days felt as if it was going to kill me. I was locked up, my then wife had left me, I was facing several years in prison, and I had no access to the drug dealer or liquor store to make it all go away. For the first time in my life I had to face the reality of what my life had become.

After about 6 months in jail, it was time for sentencing. I had no hope left in me for any kind of life worth living. I failed to mention 2 suicide attempts during my addiction earlier because I didn't want this to sound like a plea for pity, but I guess it's important to mention it here to give depth to the meaning of hopelessness I felt. The hopelessness I felt those 2 times paled in comparison to what I felt here, but what I didn't realize at the time was that in the midst of my shame, guilt, pain, loneliness, and self-hatred, something wonderful was about to happen. God was closing in. The day of my sentencing, the judge I had was out sick. That doesn't sound very significant unless you know this judge never sent anyone to rehabilitation. He didn't believe in sending criminals to rehab when they should, in his mind, be in prison. So I was appointed another judge with a different outlook on drug addiction. My three year plea bargain in prison ended up being a 1 year program in drug and alcohol rehabilitation. The significance of what the Lord did that day I would only discover later.

I went straight from jail to Dunklin Memorial Camp. It was a Christian regeneration program, but more importantly, it was where I met my new best friend, "Jesus Christ". Those first few months at Dunklin I will always hold dear to my heart. It was for me a time of closeness with Jesus I have no words for. I never felt loved unconditionally that way before. His acceptance of me just the way I was changed me forever. Those days for me were a realization that there was a world all around me that I had never seen before, and in the center of it all was the presence of Jesus. I can say without any reservation that was when I fell in love with my Savior.

I graduated the program after a year of taking a hard, painful look at what I had done with my life and all the people I hurt along the way. All the while, God was restoring broken relationships I had with my parents, siblings, and friends. I still never saw my ex-wife again, but I was given the blessing of writing her to let her know that what happened in those years together weren't her fault like I always tried to make her feel, and not to carry any guilt for leaving when she did. I let her know I was praying for her and not resenting what happened. That was the first time I can remember the freedom of true forgiveness, but it wouldn't be the last. When asked by the staff what I wanted to do after graduation, my answer was "STAY", and I did. I spent just under 5 years there as the Lord continued to work on me while giving me the blessing of helping new comers in the program. I stayed for phase 2 of the program, then servant leadership training, then staff, and studied at Freedom Seminary on campus. I was transferred to another Dunklin Training Center called Liberty Lodge where I worked with men in addiction for another 3 years. I was ordained into the Ministry of Jesus Christ on July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2007 as one of the most memorable days of my life.

I returned to Fort Myers with a new lease on life and a burning desire to serve God in whatever way he would call me to. I met my present wife Claudia, and was blessed again with two boys who were abandoned by their own father, and now looked to me as their dad, something I've always taken as a great privilege, but also a great responsibility. Who would have ever guessed, me, raising two boys to love and honor and glorify God above all else in this life, with my wife by my side supporting me as the spiritual leader of the home, and as she likes to say, her other half.

I was diagnosed with an immune disorder that has limited my physical abilities and asked the Lord what he would have me do. The answer I got wasn't what I was ready for, start a business that will support a ministry to help others, but I know God is a whole lot smarter than me and He knows what he's doing, REGARDLESS OF THE OUTCOME. So I opened "Shades Window Tinting and Auto Spa" at 1838 Tamiami Trail, Punta Gorda Fl. My hope is that the Lord will use this business as a place for recovery meetings, counseling, or just a place where people can come and know their loved and cared for, and maybe even tint a few windows while we're at it. Please call if I can be of service in any way at, 941-347-7480 or 239-357-3523.

Today I am a blessed man, not by anything I have done or deserve, but by the grace of our Lord and Savior, "JESUS CHRIST", and to him I give all the honor and glory forever and ever, Amen!

IN CHRIST'S NAME,

Mark Johnson

# Love And Compassion Ministries

## Wish List

*New or used computers in order to start computer class.  
New or used twelve foot conference table with ten chairs.*

*New or used couch.*

*Microwave.*

*Enclosed trailer*

*Chair mats*

*Waste Baskets*

*Trash Bags*

*Styrofoam Cups*

*Bottled Water*

*Vacuum*

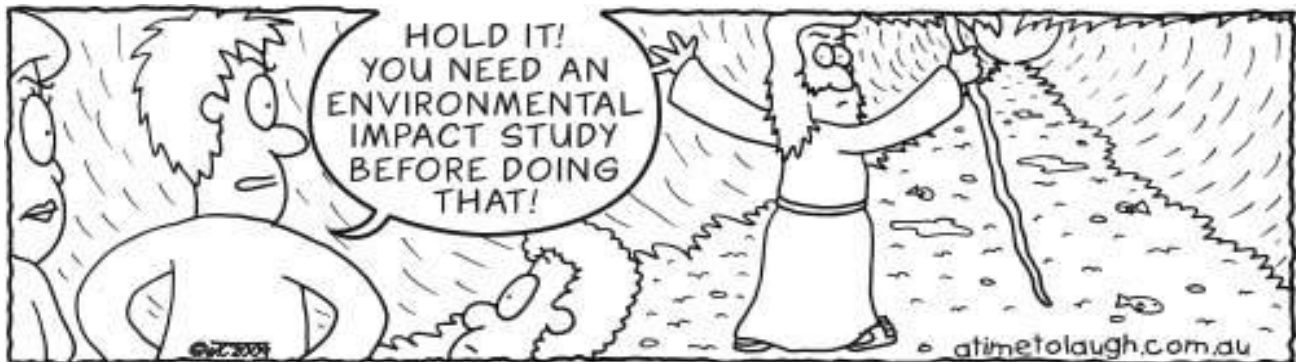
*Quick Books 2012*

*Printer Cartridges For an HP Office Jet 6000 & Brother LC 79*

### CAN YOU HELP US? COME ON "TAKE THE PLUNGE!"



### HOW MANY TIMES DO WE MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR THE LORD?



# Love Compassion Ministries

Dear Friends,

What does personify mean to us? The dictionary states the meaning as:

1. the attribution of a personal nature or character.
2. to represent (a thing or abstraction) in the form of a person, as in art.
3. to embody (a quality, idea, etc.) in a real person or a concrete thing.
4. to be an embodiment or incarnation of; typify: He personifies the ruthless ambition of some executives.
5. to personate.

As we know there are countless paths to follow when seeking spiritual guidance, but thousands of years of religion and theology cannot replace the highest example of love and compassion that Jesus Christ Himself set. My question is what did people see in Jesus as he walked down the street? How did he approach the everyday person and what would these people take away from meeting him? What can we learn from His actions when it comes to our walk today?

As Christians our attitude should (personify) be the kind of person that was shown to us by Jesus Christ. Philippians <sup>2:6</sup> who, though he was God, did not demand and cling to his rights as God, but laid aside his mighty power and glory, taking the disguise of a slave and becoming like men. <sup>2:7</sup> And he humbled himself even further, going so far as actually to die a criminal's death on a cross. <sup>2:8</sup> Yet it was because of this that God raised him up to the heights of heaven and gave him a name which is above every other name, <sup>2:9</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>2:10</sup> and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. <sup>2:11</sup> That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ;

Throughout the Bible we see Christ's love and compassion for the people of this world. As Christians we are to continue to personify that love as we represent Christ today. When people look upon us do they see Jesus? If we have read the Bible a 100 times and can quote complete books of the Bible yet do not have enough love for people to talk to them about our Savior, what good is having the knowledge and not using it. What is more important...having the ability to cure the worst of diseases or the ability to love them enough to take the time to introduce them to Christ?

The love of Christ drew me to His saving grace at the age of twelve, but it took Pastor Bass's love for me and his desire to speak the truth to me before I gave my heart to Christ at a very young age. Once I felt that love for God I never wanted to lose it. If you know Christ as your Savior, pray that our Lord will put someone in your path today who needs to hear about His saving grace, then have the compassion to introduce them to Him.

In the Presence of our LORD,

*Ron Willis*

Ron Willis, President  
Love and Compassion Ministries, Inc.

**Love And Compassion  
Ministries**

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Lyle Smith, Editor & Publisher**



**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!