

Love and Compassion Ministries

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

October 1, 2013 In The Year of Our Lord

Volume 8, Issue 10

REACHOUT TO THE HOMELESS

The corner of 10th and Washington Street

A homeless man
Was sitting
On the corner of 10th and Washington Street
His dirt-stained beard
His tangled gray hair
With him I did meet
I took a seat beside him
On the sidewalk he calls home
I asked him what his name was
And why he sits alone
He began to tell a story
Of a job that he once slaved for
A place he once called home
And a family of his own
Then a drunken driver
Took all he'd ever known
The family that loves him
Now watches out above him
Their memory carved in stone
In a graveyard near his former home
He couldn't stand the pain
Living in a home that shouted silence
He couldn't function in his trade
Employment relinquished
Life proceeded forward
As he dug himself into a hole
Then his home foreclosed
He found refuge down the street
In a shelter for a week
He couldn't stand charity he said
Pity wasn't what he wanted
Just someone that could guide him
And that person never appeared
Years crept by
This person he became
A dirty, careless homeless man
Abandoned by humanity
Sitting, waiting for a better day
Wishing on fallen pennies
That the scar of his past will soon fade away
That day my eyes could finally see

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NEWSLETTER

(Continued from page 1)

Living homeless isn't as simple as it seems
 Mostly it's an escape from burdened realities
 I got up then
 Said "I'll soon return"
 I bought some books down the street
 I returned and said, "Here's your escape from reality"
 He looked at me and said
 "I thank you kindly, ma'am
 For everything you've done
 Your attention and your empathy
 Have meant so much to me."
 I shook his hand and bid farewell
 Our time had been a pleasure for me
 Yesterday I saw him
 In a business suit on Wall Street

(Author Unknown0)

ANSWERS TO YOUR BIBLE QUESTIONS

Dear Ray,

Please explain how the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit can be ONE. I'm happy to see this column in the newsletter.

Thanks!!

Susan

Susan – Part II... ¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made.

The information I had found and wanted to verify is contained in John 1:1.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The 'WORD' is CHRIST.

Now look at Genesis 1:1... We now see Christ as Son of God... When the Holy Ghost impregnated Mary, then this son would be born as God the MAN. In so doing, Christ the man is born without SIN, (PERFECT). As a man, Christ now set aside His royal powers to become one of us as, Son of Man. Therefore, it was God/Christ that created the universe and all within. As we now study the birth, life and death of Christ, we are seeing Him as a man, not Christ the Son of God. Now the following statements come to life...these are from last month's issue.

John 10:30 – (NIV) – I and the Father are one. John 14:7 If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.

Dear Ray,

Please tell me where in the Bible does it say how people are to be ordained. What does the Bible say about that?

Thanks!!

Susan

Nowhere in the Bible are the ordination procedures stated. They are regulated by the church involved. Each in their own church consul has in their by-laws the procedures to follow. I have some web site addresses if you care to visit them on this or different subjects.

I have personally visited the Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian and Lutheran churches and talked with the staff to answer your question and the their statements were much the same. Therefore, the following information, aside from that found in 1st Timothy and NOT found in the Bible is again very similar.

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Qualifications for Overseers and Deacons

1st Timothy 3:1 – 13... (NIV) Here is a trustworthy saying: Whoever aspires to be an **overseer (the word OVERSEER can refer to a Pastor, church leader, or presiding elder)**, desires a noble task. ²Now the overseer is to be above reproach, faithful to his wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, ³not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. ⁴He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him, and he must do so in a manner worthy of full respect. ⁵If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church? ⁶He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. ⁷He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap. ⁸In the same way, deacons are to be worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. ⁹They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience. ¹⁰They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons. ¹¹In the same way, the women are to be worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything.

My additional information in research: In the Christian tradition, the rite of ordination has ancient roots, stretching back to the Biblical stories of Moses, Aaron and Joshua. Through ordination, an individual is designated by the church as a teacher, a leader of worship as a pastor, minister, reverend as spiritual guide.

The following sequence varies from church, however, the same requirements are very similar.

1. An accreditation search has been completed...
2. A character check has been done...
3. The candidate is then presented to the governing council...
4. The formal procedures are followed.

Presenting the Candidate

Then, formally present the candidate. Include statements of accommodation made by a representative of the parish or congregation, and one made by the regional or diocesan representative. Both can share their impressions of the candidate, including his contributions, commitment and gifts in ministry.

Proclamation of Vows

Next, follow with the covenant of ordination, which includes a litany of vows by the candidate to uphold and sustain the various functions to which he or she is being called, and the response of the people to support the candidate. Conclude this with a statement of faith by the entire congregation, confessing the beliefs of the Christian faith and pledging to renew their baptismal vows.

The Laying On of Hands

The heart of the ordination rite is The Laying On of Hands. Invite those ministers in attendance to surround the candidate, who may sit or kneel, and place their hands upon his head. (This procedure varies depending on the church involved). Instruct the service leader to offer a prayer, petitioning God to send the Holy Spirit upon the candidate and to bless the candidate with the gifts of leadership, discernment and virtue. Then invite the candidate to rise and receive signs of ministry appropriate to your tradition (i.e., an alb, a Bible, chalice, etc.). Depending on tradition, invite the candidate to address the congregation with a few words. End the service in customary fashion, with the newly ordained minister joining his fellow ministers at the table (or altar) to consecrate Holy Communion and share the elements with the congregation. Present the candidate with a special Bible that commemorates his/her ordination. I personally was present at an ordination of a candidate and followed the above procedures very closely.

I trust I have answered your questions and stayed within the realms of the Bible. I would appreciate any feedback or comments in regards to the answers.

In Christ's Love,

Ray

If you have a Bible question that you would like answered, email me at:

ray@lovecompassion.com



STREET OUTREACH MINISTRY

In 2012 Street Watch Ministries and LCM joined together 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 than men on the streets, we change our location, day and time so that we can reach the families in the area of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. and Ford Street. We now serve a wonderful meal, give out clothing, hygiene items and preach the Word of God to them.



Prison Ministry

Love and Compassion Ministries started as a prison ministry. Seeing the same people return to the prison system time and time again will break your heart. Upon his retirement from McGregor Baptist Church, Pastor Holbrook joined Love And Compassion Ministries team and started ministering to the men at the Lee County Stockade. He loves it and they love him and more importantly, he is still leading people to the saving grace of our Lord today. Mark Decker and Mark Johnson joined the team about two years ago. Decker goes in with Holbrook and Johnson goes in with Harold Baxley. These men are gifted evangelist and wonderful preachers.

We are so blessed to have them on our team!

Homeless Ministry

Common to all religious faiths is the responsibility to care for those most in need – provide food, clothing, water and shelter. It is also common to all religious faiths to stand for justice for the poor and oppressed people. We can keep feeding people, clothing people and that is important, but it does nothing to get at the root causes that make people homeless.

These are the reasons the majority of people cite for their homelessness.

- 1. Low wages.** Many homeless people work and almost all homeless people that work earn minimum wage. This is simply not enough to afford housing. A 'living' wage would solve this.
- 2. Lack of affordable housing.** Simply put, people cannot find housing they can afford. Public, low income housing is disappearing as buildings are torn down and government financial support for construction disappears. A financial commitment to build affordable housing would solve this.
- 3. Emergency medical bill.** The large majority of homeless people do not have any medical insurance. Thus, sickness or health issues immediately decreases their income and savings, driving them into homelessness. An affordable health care system would solve this.
- 4. Release from an institution.** Whether it be jail, a mental health facility or a long hospital stay, people leave these places unprepared and unequipped to find and maintain housing. Support services for these populations are meager at best. They do not meet the need. Strengthening support services would help this issue.



Youth Ministry

We have a large team of Christian men and ladies who minister to the youth at Crossroads Wilderness Institution in Punta Gorda, Florida every Wednesday afternoon. They also cook delicious meals and wonderful desserts to feed the young men on the first Saturday of each month, while teaching them the Word of God.

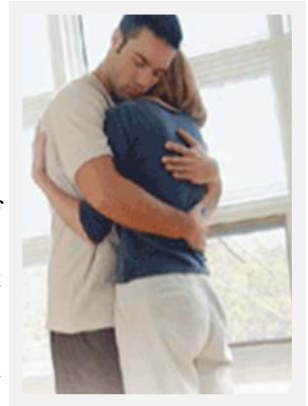
Many are coming to know Christ because of what is being done in our Lord's name there.

These young men are our future. Please pray for them and all of Love And Compassion Ministries Youth Team Members that care enough to reach out to them!

Drug Program Ministry

Love And Compassion Ministries works directly with numerous, very wonderful Christian drug and alcohol programs. We believe that without Jesus Christ it is almost impossible to be delivered from any addictions. Many times we go to court and ask 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 under the bondage of alcohol and drugs and help the ones that want the change in their lives! We do all we can to make sure that when we recommend a person to a program that it's 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. It is so nice to see the change in people's lives after completing a nine month or more, in-house Christian drug program.



Faith Joke

A priest was walking behind a young boy that was pulling his wagon up a country road when one of the wheels fell off the wagon. The young boy said, "DAMN." Hearing this the priest said "You shouldn't swear like that. You're supposed to ask the Lord to help you!" The young boy picks up the wheel and puts it back on the wagon and starts pulling the wagon down the road again. All at once another wheel comes off the wagon and again the young boy says, "DAMN." "No my son!" says the Priest. "You're supposed to ask the Lord to help you!" The young boy again picks up the wheel and puts it back on the wagon and takes off again. All a sudden all the wheels fall off the wagon. The young boy begins to pray... "Dear Lord, all the wheels on my wagon keep falling off. Please help me."

All a sudden all the wheels rise off the ground by themselves and fasten themselves to the wagon. In shock the priest says, "DAMN."

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Thank You!

JACK

One day a woman was walking down the street when she spied a beggar sitting on the corner. The man was elderly, unshaven, and ragged. As he sat there, pedestrians walked by him giving him dirty looks. They clearly wanted nothing to do with him because of who he was -- a dirty, homeless man. But when the woman saw him, she was moved to compassion. It was very cold that day and the man had his tattered coat -- more like an old suit coat rather than a warm coat -- wrapped around him. She stopped and looked down. "Sir?" she asked. "Are you all right?"

The man slowly looked up. This was a woman clearly accustomed to the finer things of life. Her coat was new. She looked like she had never missed a meal in her life. His first thought was that she wanted to make fun of him, like so many others had done before. "Leave me alone," he growled. To his amazement, the woman continued standing. She was smiling -- her even white teeth displayed in dazzling rows. "Are you hungry?" she asked. "No," he answered sarcastically. "I've just come from dining with the president. Now go away." The woman's smile became even broader. Suddenly the man felt a gentle hand under his arm. "What are you doing, lady?" the man asked angrily. "I said to leave me alone." Just then a policeman came up. "Is there any problem, ma'am?" he asked. "No problem here, officer," the woman answered. "I'm just trying to get this man to his feet. Will you help me?" The officer scratched his head. "That's old Jack. He's been a fixture around here for a couple of years. What do you want with him?"

"See that cafeteria over there?" she asked. "I'm going to get him something to eat and get him out of the cold for awhile." "Are you crazy, lady?" The homeless man resisted. "I don't want to go in there!" Then he felt strong hands grab his other arm and lift him up. "Let me go, officer. I didn't do anything." "This is a good deal for you, Jack," the officer answered. "Don't blow it." Finally, and with some difficulty, the woman and the police officer got Jack into the cafeteria and sat him at a table in a remote corner. It was the middle of the morning, so most of the breakfast crowd had already left and the lunch bunch had not yet arrived. The manager strode across the cafeteria and stood by the table. "What's going on here, officer?" he asked. "What is all this, is this man in trouble?" "This lady brought this man in here to be fed," the policeman answered. "Not in here!" the manager replied angrily. "Having a person like that here is bad for business."

Old Jack smiled a toothless grin. "See, lady. I told you so. Now if you'll let me go, I didn't want to come here in the first place." The woman turned to the cafeteria manager and smiled. "Sir, are you familiar with Eddy and Associates, the banking firm down the street?" "Of course I am," the manager answered impatiently. "They hold their weekly meetings in one of my banquet rooms." "And do you make a goodly amount of money providing food at these weekly meetings?" "What business is that of yours?" "I, sir, am Penelope Eddy, president and CEO of the company." "Oh."

The woman smiled again. "I thought that might make a difference." She glanced at the cop who was busy stifling a giggle. "Would you like to join us in a cup of coffee and a meal, officer?" "No thanks, ma'am," the officer replied. "I'm on duty." "Then, perhaps, a cup of coffee to go?" "Yes, ma'am. That would be very nice." The cafeteria manager turned on his heel. "I'll get your coffee for you right away, officer." The officer watched him walk away. "You certainly put him in his place," he said. "That was not my intent. Believe it or not, I have a reason for all this." She sat down at the table across from her amazed dinner guest. She stared at him intently. "Jack, do you remember me?" Old Jack searched her face with his old, rheumy eyes "I think so -- I mean you do look familiar."

"I'm a little older perhaps," she said. "Maybe I've even filled out more than in my younger days when you worked here, and I came through that very door, cold and hungry." "Ma'am?" the officer said questioningly. He couldn't believe that such a magnificently turned out woman could ever have been hungry. "I was just out of college," the woman began. "I had come to the city looking for a job, but I couldn't find anything. Finally I was down to my last few cents and had been kicked out of my apartment. I walked the streets for days. It was February and I was cold and nearly starving. I saw this place and walked in on the off chance that I could get something to eat."

Jack lit up with a smile. "Now I remember," he said. "I was behind the serving counter. You came up and asked me if you could work for something to eat. I said that it was against company policy." "I know," the woman continued. "Then you made me the biggest roast beef sandwich that I had ever seen, gave me a cup of coffee, and told me to go over to a corner table and enjoy it. I was afraid that you would get into trouble. Then, when I looked over, I saw you put the price of my food in the cash register. I knew then that everything would be all right."

"So you started your own business?" Old Jack said. "I got a job that very afternoon. I worked my way up. Eventually I started my own business that, with the help of God, prospered." She opened her purse and pulled out a business card. "When you are finished here, I want you to pay a visit to a Mr. Lyons. He's the personnel director of my company. I'll go talk to him now and I'm certain he'll find something for you to do around the office." She smiled. "I think he might even find the funds to give you a little advance so that you can buy some clothes and get a place to live until you get on your feet. And if you ever need anything, my door is always opened to you." There were tears in the old man's eyes. "How can I ever thank you," he said.

"Don't thank me," the woman answered. "To God goes the glory. Thank Jesus! He led me to you." Outside the cafeteria, the officer and the woman paused at the entrance before going their separate ways. "Thank you for all your help, officer," she said. "On the contrary, Ms. Eddy," he answered. "Thank you. I saw a miracle today, something that I will never forget. And... And thank you for the coffee."



Friends;

Life is short! We are here today and gone tomorrow.

James 4:13-14 in the American Standard Bible says, ¹³ Come now, ye that say, To-day or to-morrow we will go into this city, and spend a year there, and trade, and get gain: ¹⁴ whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. What is your life? For ye are a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

As most of you know I have been very sick for several weeks now. When you are flat of your back and not feeling good, nothing seems to matter. You don't want anything to eat, you can't get any rest and you really don't feel like doing anything. For me it was a time I needed to get my bearings reset and reorganize my life in order to serve this community in a better way, while allowing myself time for friends and loved ones.

I have a father in Tennessee that will be 94 in February that needs to see me. I try to talk to him at least once a week. His health is going down hill fast and even though I love him dearly I know that I am needed here even more.

As the Bible says, time is short. We need to be busy at our Father's business. We need to spend more time with God rather than serving God. You know, I miss the days when people pulled together to correct a problem! Today we rely on government to do it all, even with our health care. I can remember when Churches helped the sick, alcoholics, battered women, unemployed and hungry people of their area. What memories!

It is good to be able to reminisce about days gone by but since we are only on this earth for a short time, we need to use the time God has given us to make a difference in others. We all know that life will never be as it was before computers, microwaves, and fast food but we can do something about satan's hold on our children and grand children's lives. Every day innocent lives of unborn babies are being snuffed out. Sounds and pictures fill our children's minds with music of rape, murder, same sex marriages, adultery and satan worship. Drugs have overtaken our country and we have legalized gambling in almost all the states. I believe we have been silent for too long!

The future of our next generation and this country is in our hands and yet we have become slack. We are floating along with the tide of least resistance. We have become too much of the world! It is time to drop to the floor, cry out to God, and pray for the lost as we have never done before! It is time to ask God for forgiveness, direction, and wisdom. The Word of God has to be acted upon. If we are hearers only, we can never expect to receive the strength of faith necessary to move mountains. Have our hearts become hardened? Has satan put so much doubt in our hearts that we can no longer believe?

I here by recommit my life to doing all I can to take what our Lord has given us, including time, to reach out to the lost and suffering of this world through Love And Compassion Ministries. Please join me as God directs this ministry in His ways. May God always receive the glory and honor as we minister to all generations.

In the Presence of our LORD,

Ron Willis

Ron Willis, President
Love And Compassion Ministries, Inc.

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