

Love and Compassion Ministries

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

December 1, 2011 In The Year of Our Lord

Merry Christmas

To all of you from all of us at Love And Compassion Ministries, we pray that you will have all the joy that is found in the true meaning of Christmas.

Rejoice and celebrate the birth of our Savior,
Jesus Christ!

May the miracle of Christmas fill your heart with peace and joy. Please share God's goodness with someone who needs to see Christ this season



Merry Christmas

May God Bless You and Yours!

Volume 6, Issue 12

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MOM'S WHISPERS



.....There was not a quiet moment in all the house
 There was excitement everywhere, as I snuggled on the couch.
 Preparations were frantic as mom's love filled every room.
 The season was in full swing, for joy was in full bloom.

It seemed nothing else mattered, and the world was stilled.
 Memories were before me and dreams were fulfilled.
 Anxious and excited for morning, Teddy and I rushed to bed.
 A simple prayer for everyone as visions raced through my head.

In the silence of my room, with no snow on the ground,
 Mom's whispers were of God's gift, the greatest all year round.
 Touching my nose with a gentle finger, this gift, she said, was
 more precious than silver, money, or gold.....
 A birthday never ending, A gift for every soul.....

..... So a night, surely of wonder, magic, and awe,
 The true meaning of Christmas I now fully understood and saw.
 As I looked to the stars, they spoke loud and clear from above
 There's no gift on earth, or anywhere, that can be compared with
 God's eternal Love....



Merry Christmas

James Ervin

We have introduced you to James Ervin, a client and our friend of more than twenty five years, many times this past year. James is a very talented writer and artist, so I asked him to share what Christmas means to him. He said this poem was written from a kid's perspective. I guess, that when we were kids, we really developed our ideas of what Christmas was all about. To some of us, Christmas was a time when we received a lot of gifts, ate big meals, had a week off school, and was a lot of fun. Some of us, as fortunate as James, learned from our parents that Christmas was a time to celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Son of God, who was born to die for our sins. The greatest gift — that's what we're celebrating!

When I was five years old, my mother shared the real meaning of Christmas with me. My father was an alcoholic, and there was no money for a Christmas tree or gifts. My mother went outside, cut a limb from a tree, painted it white, brought it in, and decorated it. Then, she shared her love for me, and told me about what God had given me. She told me she wouldn't be able to buy me any gifts that year, but Christmas morning I got a plaster of paris turkey about an inch tall. It had a piece of gum wrapped in orange cellophane attached. I kept that turkey (gum attached) until I was an adult, but finally lost it. God's love and my mother's love truly made that my best and most memorable Christmas ever. **Won't you make this someone's most memorable Christmas? There is no cost. Just a little love.Merry Christmas.**

Lyle Smith

LOVE AND COMPASSION STREET MINISTRY

By Elder William Stewart

On Friday November 11, 2011 Love And Compassion Ministries sponsored a street ministry in the Dunbar community on DR. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Many people showed up to help out, and the turnout was beautiful. The start time was set for 4:00 PM, however, satan must always have his part in trying to stop whatever God wants us to do, so he caused us to start about 20 to 30 minutes late.

When I got there, people were waiting on me with cell phones in hand ready to call to see where I was, and why I wasn't already there. I was on my way from Lehigh Acres with my car loaded inside and out with the things we needed to conduct the street ministry. While I was headed there, I was praying and talking to the Lord, "Lord Jesus, I know that I'm late, but you are always on time, and I know that there is a reason that I am late. Go before me and clear a path for your Word to go forth as you would have it, send the people that you want to hear what you have planned for me to say to your people."

Then I remembered that time had changed since we had last done this, and it would be dark in less than two hours. I was greeted by a team of people from LCM, Street Watch Ministry, Leslie Belcher from Homeless No More, and others who were there to help.. I unloaded what I had in and on the car with the help of these people. Everyone wanted to know what they could do to help. I got a sense of urgency from some of them, "let's go, let's get the show on the road, I want to see what the Lord is going to do."

As soon as the men and women of God from Street Watch Ministry set up their tables and put the clothes and toiletries out for the people, souls started to come over to see what the Lord had provided for them. This set the tone for the night, and the Lord continued to minister to me, keeping me calm for His use later. I kept hearing the Lord say "you are late, but I'm not going to operate in a hurry, calm down, calm down, I got this!"



I was later told that I had this very calm demeanor about myself, but it seemed as if my mind was running fifty miles an hour trying to catch up with what needed to be done. It was as if I wanted to show the people of Street Watch Ministry the best side of doing a street ministry, so, "I" could get things back on track, just give "me" a few minutes. But the Spirit of God was saying, "they need to see the worst side of it." That taught me that I don't need help with best side, I need it with the worst side.

Because I don't have an enclosed trailer to haul all the equipment and supplies needed for the Street Ministry, I had to leave to get the PA system from my church, and then again to pick up my family. While I was picking up my family, the meat was ready to come off the grill, and there were no pans to put it in, because I had them with me.

Satan thought he was having a field day with all the chaos, but God had, and always will have, the winning hand. In the end seven people gave their lives to Jesus Christ, even after that.

God has a way of turning things around, even though I was late, GOD WAS ON TIME.

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A couple of our regular volunteers, Judy O'Halloran and Johnny Rosko shared their impressions of the evening on MLK Boulevard:

Johnny said, "Once the food was ready, people came out of the woodwork." He was impressed that seven people came forward to accept Jesus as their Savior.

Judy added, "I was able to pray with Cliff, who said that no one had ever prayed with him individually for salvation, and he also said that if he died tonight...he was not sure he would go to heaven. So it was a blessing to pray with him to accept Jesus. Jackie and I also prayed with a young girl in her 20's to rededicate her life to Christ. She was not ready to leave her abusive lifestyle, but a seed was planted, and I know she was touched with the love of Christ. I hope that more will hear the word of God through William and the LCM Street Ministry! "

We really need your help with our Street Ministry. You may be afraid to try something new, and helping with the Street Ministry will be something new. Maybe you're afraid you don't know how, or maybe somebody will not like what you are saying. Remember what Jesus said in Matthew 10:28 **Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.** And Jeremiah 1:8 let's us know He is with us as we obey Him: "**Do not be afraid of them, For I am with you to deliver you," declares the LORD.**

It's always tough to try something new, but after the first tough step, it becomes easier, joyful, and rewarding. Won't you take that first step and give us call (239-574-5683) and say, I want to help. Jesus wants you to help, and we need you! God will be there with you, and so will many of your brothers and sisters in Christ.

PROOF READING IS A LOST ART

Each month we read, re-read, re-read, and re-read this newsletter, but I am sure you've noticed errors get by us every month. We hate it when that happens, but, we read some headlines from papers around the world that made us feel much better. Hope they make you feel better too.

Man Kills Self Before Shooting Wife and Daughter
Think they need a new detective?

Something Went Wrong in Jet Crash, Expert Says
Really? Ya think??

Police Begin Campaign to Run Down Jaywalkers
Now that's taking things a bit far!

Miners Refuse to Work after Death
No-good-for-nothing, lazy bums!

Juvenile Court to Try Shooting Defendant
See if that works any better than a fair trial!

War Dims Hope for Peace
I can see where it might have that effect!

Cold Wave Linked to Temperatures
Who would have thought!

Enfield (London) Couple Slain; Police Suspect
Homicide

They may be on to something!

New Study of Obesity Looks for Larger Test Group
Weren't they fat enough?!

Kids Make Nutritious Snacks
Do they taste like chicken?

Local High School Dropouts Cut in Half
Chainsaw Massacre all over again!

Hospitals are Sued by 7 Foot Doctors
Boy, are they tall!

And the winner is.....

Typhoon Rips Through Cemetery; Hundreds Dead
Did I read that right?

The Tablecloth

The brand new pastor and his wife, newly assigned to their first ministry, to reopen a church in suburban Brooklyn, arrived in early October excited about their opportunities. When they saw their church, it was very run down and needed much work. They set a goal to have everything done in time to have their first service on Christmas Eve. They worked hard, repairing pews, plastering walls, painting, etc, and on December 18 were ahead of schedule and just about finished.

On December 19 a terrible tempest - a driving rainstorm hit the area and lasted for two days. On the 21st, the pastor went over to the church. His heart sank when he saw that the roof had leaked, causing a large area of plaster about 20 feet by 8 feet to fall off the front wall of the sanctuary just behind the pulpit, beginning about head high.

The pastor cleaned up the mess on the floor, and not knowing what else to do but postpone the Christmas Eve service, headed home. On the way he noticed that a local business was having a flea market type sale for charity so he stopped in. One of the items was a beautiful, handmade, ivory colored, crocheted tablecloth with exquisite work, fine colors and a Cross embroidered right in the center. It was just the right size to cover up the hole in front wall. He bought it and headed back to the Church.

By this time it had started to snow. An older woman running from the opposite direction was trying to catch the bus. She missed it. The pastor invited her to wait in the warm church for the next bus 45 minutes later. She sat in a pew and paid no attention to the pastor while he got a ladder, hangers, etc., to put up the tablecloth as a wall tapestry. The pastor could hardly believe how beautiful it looked and it covered up the entire problem area.

Then he noticed the woman walking down the center aisle. Her face was like a sheet.. "Pastor," she asked, "where did you get that tablecloth?" The pastor explained. The woman asked him to check the lower right corner to see if the initials, EBG were crocheted into it there. They were. These were the initials of the woman, and she had made this tablecloth 35 years before, in Austria.

The woman could hardly believe it as the pastor told how he had just gotten the Tablecloth. The woman explained that before the war she and her husband were well-to-do people in Austria. When the Nazis came, she was forced to leave. Her husband was going to follow her the next week. He was captured, sent to prison and never saw her husband or her home again.

The pastor wanted to give her the tablecloth; but she made the pastor keep it for the church. The pastor insisted on driving her home, that was the least he could do. She lived on the other side of Staten Island and was only in Brooklyn for the day for a housecleaning job.

What a wonderful service they had on Christmas Eve. The church was almost full. The music and the spirit were great. At the end of the service, the pastor and his wife greeted everyone at the door and many said that they would return. One older man, whom the pastor recognized from the neighborhood continued to sit in one of the pews and stare, and the pastor wondered why he wasn't leaving.

The man asked him where he got the tablecloth on the front wall because it was identical to one that his wife had made years ago when they lived in Austria before the war and how could there be two tablecloths so much alike. He told the pastor how the Nazis came, how he forced his wife to flee for her safety and he was supposed to follow her, but he was arrested and put in a prison. He never saw his wife or his home again all the 35 years in between.

The pastor asked him if he would allow him to take him for a little ride. They drove to Staten Island and to the same house where the pastor had taken the woman three days earlier. He helped the man climb the three flights of stairs to the woman's apartment, knocked on the door and he saw the greatest Christmas reunion he could ever imagine.

True Story - submitted by Pastor Rob Reid
Who says God does not work in mysterious ways..

Homeless No More

Homeless No More, a new ministry will be starting in Lee County. Leslie Belcher who is founding this ministry says he had been in and out of jail and had been addicted to drugs and alcohol when God gave him a life brand new. His mission, now, is to share Jesus with others who have been in similar situations — so they, too, can find that life brand new.

Homeless No More is affiliated with New Beginnings Ministries in Lehigh Acres. They hope to start the ministry with a facility in Lehigh in 2012. They will provide Christian, safe, sober housing for periods up to two years. There are about 3400 homeless people in Lee County, and Love and Compassion Ministries is thankful for the opportunity to work with Homeless No More and all ministries telling these people about Jesus and teaching them a new life.

A BIRTHDAY PARTY

On November 11 Peter Makrys, a friend of Love and Compassion Ministries turned 90. We knew his family was up North, so six people from LCM decided to help Pete celebrate. We loaded up a cake, ice cream, and soft drinks and headed for Pete's house. When we got there we found Pete's son, George was there. George shared that Pete's relationship with people from LCM and Faith Fellowship had really brightened Pete's life. We had a great time, and Pete enjoyed the celebration. Thanks to Johnny Rosko for organizing the party.

A LETTER FROM A FRIEND

Helping Love and Compassion Ministries has been joy for me since I started helping seven years ago. Every time my family and I go to volunteer we have a blast, and we leave with such content hearts. When my family and I go and help Mr. Willis, we usually help him with organizing paperwork or just help him keeping the office nice and neat. Even though we didn't help much, we knew that the little that we did, helped Mr. Willis serve the people in need of the Lord.

Mr. Willis has been such a blessing in my and my family's life. We love what Mr. Willis is doing with Love and Compassion Ministries. Love and Compassion Ministries is helping anyone with a broken heart who has a need of a helping hand and who is looking for the Lord. Love and Compassion Ministries helps the homeless, they help people that are on drugs, people that just got out of jail. They help anyone who just needs to know that God is real and that God loves them. I'm just so happy to be a part of what Love and Compassion Ministries is doing for the Lord, and I can't wait to see what God has in store for this wonderful Ministry.

Johanna Martinez

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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



Friends and Partners,

May God bless you all during this Christmas season with peace, love, and a brighter future. May we all reach out to someone and touch them in a way where they will feel the love and compassion from our Savior as The Holy Spirit ministers, directs, and guides us!

My grandfather was a man of honor. He worked hard six days a week, raising twelve children, raising cattle, mules, hogs, chickens and growing many a crop to eat and sell. He never made more than five hundred dollars in a year's time and never took government money. He and grandmother never had a hot water tank, shower, bathtub, or many of the modern conveniences we enjoy everyday. During many cold nights the windows would ice up on the inside. They had to cut and split wood to heat the house and cook. They drank from a cistern that had some of the worst water you have ever tasted.

Granddad paid for a two hundred acre farm by clearing other land at one dollar an acre. That was cutting the trees down, cutting the timber up, pulling out the stumps or blowing them out of the ground with dynamite so that people could plant crops. This was very hard work with nothing but an ax, a team of mules and some explosives. All this hard work made him strong and yet very wise in many ways. He made what they needed, but was always willing to share what he had with less fortunate people. He cared about others, and he was proud to be able to tell others many times of how God saved his life.

No matter how bad things got, granddad never gave up. The many storms of life fell upon his shoulders, and yet nothing broke his will to carry on even when all looked doomed. He pressed on. I thank God for my family and what they were able to do in their life time, but I know from experience how hard it is to not give up and throw in the towel. Ministry work is not for the faint of heart nor for the one that wants to get rich. Matter fact it is not for the ones who expect things to just fall into place. Ministry work is a twenty-four hour a day job, seven days a week. Ministry work takes a lot of faith, prayer, love and willingness to go anywhere at any time that God calls, and believe me there is an unseen force that will do all it can to side track you and/or destroy you at the same time.

I guess I have a lot of my grandfather in me, for I believe if you are going to do anything, do it with all your heart, total commitment or nothing. You can always do more than you think you can do. I am willing to sacrifice my life and all I own to reach the lost. That is my choice, not yours. God called me into this ministry to serve Him full time. But, I pray you will make a commitment of your own to join me in the battle for souls. Together we can honor our Father in heaven and help the imprisoned, homeless, drug addicts, troubled youth and so many more. The choice is yours. I have made my choice. I am pressing on. What are you going to do? Please don't use love as a word this season. Make it become a deed or action. Please help us to reach the lost of this world with love and compassion.

I Timothy 5:17 *Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine. 18. For the scripture saith, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain," and "The laborer is worthy of his wages."*

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**

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!