

Love and Compassion Ministries

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

February 1, 2011 In The Year of Our Lord

Volume 6, Issue 2

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Lucky

or

Blessed?

We are bombarded with news everyday about people being in the wrong place at the wrong time, being shot down by someone mad at the world or even hundreds being killed by earthquakes, mudslides, or fire. Hearing about all these events has reminded me to count my blessings.

None of us will ever know how close we have come in our life to suffering an unimaginable loss. There is just no way to calculate how lucky, or blessed, we have been.

We all share this world with people who want to kill us and with others who care deeply for us. God has given all of us the freedom to get up every morning and make any number of choices, good or bad.

We can choose to go here or go there, buy a gun and kill someone, drink and drive, rob a store, destroy someone with slander, buy or sell, do good or evil. We all have choices, but what do choices have to do with how lucky or blessed we are? If we catch the flu,

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we are considered unlucky and being able to match all the numbers in a lottery drawing is considered lucky!

I am here to tell you that I do not believe in luck. You see, according to the doctor who delivered me, I was supposed to be born dead so that my mother could live. According to doctors, I was to never run, play ball of any kind or walk long distances. Yet I have done them all.

When I was around twenty, I was stung by yellow jackets more than a hundred times, and I know that our Lord sent a large black man to my rescue with nothing more than chewing tobacco. Then there was a night that I got out of my warm bed because a man needed help; and when I picked him up he pulled a knife on me. Instead of running, I went over to him and hugged his neck. Later that morning he threw the knife away.

One time while riding my motorcycle, a lady pulled out in front of me, and I had to lay the motorcycle down to miss her. I was not wearing a helmet, and I only missed her back bumper by inches. I still have the cinders in my arm and leg from sliding down the road more than fifty feet as a reminder of how blessed I am.

One night I ran off the road with my father's car and destroyed many fence posts and some trees as well as the car. I should have died. Many times I drove over one hundred and twenty miles an hour in a car that should have never been driven more than fifty.

Another time, I drove several friends out to a sand bar one night on the Mississippi River. We walked right up to the water's edge, built a fire and enjoyed life under the stars. The next day the sand bar was gone. The river had changed course and ate the underside of the sand bar out where the bar dropped into the river. We all should have died that night.

Before seat belts were installed in cars, my friend was driving his grandfather's car, probably 60 in a 30 zone and hit a car head on. My head hit the windshield and it should have killed me. Then one night my stomach hurt so bad that I drove myself to the hospital emergency room. As soon as the doctors saw me, they prepped me for surgery and removed my appendix just before it burst.

Then there was a night when I was to go with my friend to an old air force base to drag race. He had a really fast car! Something happened, and I couldn't go with him. My friend drove into a stack of pipes that were not suppose to be there, doing around 100 MPH. There was not much of the car or him left. I should have been in that car with him. And by the way, I have also survived two heart attacks!

Unbelievably, I should have died many times over and I am only here because of God's grace. Anything could happen to any of us! As much as we'd like to think we are steering our own ship, God is in control. I am so thankful that He has allowed me to see His work daily. I can see the stars on a clear night. I haven't missed many meals, I can walk at a pretty good clip, my hearing is okay, and I can still touch my toes and I have my own teeth.

Life is good. Please take a few moments to appreciate everything you have and give God thanks for all the blessings in your life. Then take a few moments to pass the love around to those who have not been as fortunate.

Life is short. Live it as if today was your last day on this earth.

You are Safe Within my Heart

BY TINA MARIE MYERS

Death is a grand experience, one which may not be experienced until it is our rightful time to do so. Until the appointed time has come for each and every one of us, we will continue to ask the question of - What is it like to die? Humanly speaking, death may seem as though it is a tragic thing.

Even so, naturally, it may be tranquil and peaceful. Death can be as graceful as the turning leaves which wither and soar down from the trees during their Fall experience.

Many of us have smiled and laughed as we have seen the leaves whirling and whisking through the Autumn air as though to be carried by a force which does not hinder the beautiful dance that the leaves are so gracefully performing for all to witness.

As the sun transforms evenly around your face and which seems to be your whole body, and you feel as though God has revealed Himself only to you through His warming and wonderful embrace. He reminds you that better and brighter days are yet to come.

Or, death can be as beautiful as a summer breeze and we all know how tantalizing and revitalizing one of those can be. This brilliant breeze may be just what we need to inspire us along our merry way. It is sweeter than a sincere embrace - entitling us to more promising days ahead...

And last, but not least, when the soothing sun hits my face, I will know you are smiling down on me... Even so, when the beautiful breeze warms me, I will believe you are standing beside me. Then, and only then, will you live on forever and ever within my heart. For, I will keep you safe there.

*Within
My
Heart*

Tina Myers Volunteer for LCM



From left to right: John Domino - Liz Domino
Betty Bates - Bob Bates



Liz Domino with two of her friends!

Christmas at Crossroads 2010

By John Michael Domino

Crossroads Correctional is a Juvenile Camp for teens.

When you first see them, some look tough, some act mean.

But most of these kids were misled right from the start.

Once you get to know them, you'll see warm fragile hearts.

When we visit the youth we stay for two hours or three.

But our Christian spirits may be all the Jesus they see.

This year Christmas Day was scheduled as God's Special time.

As Christians we had to see them, despite their past crimes.

It was a blessing that day, because all came to God's throne.

No one was left behind; no one was left alone.

The smiles and the joy were present all over the place,

as we all sang and prayed to experience God's Grace.

The staff that was there saw many miracles multiply.

The Spirit was so powerful it gave the devil a black eye.

It was the best Christmas for everyone, especially the boys.

For this was a Christ-filled Celebration without any toys!

Amen

Reference: Ezekiel 11:19-20 Then I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within them, and take the stony heart out of their flesh, and give them a heart of flesh, that they may walk in My statutes and keep My judgments and do them; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God.

Lee County Sheriff's Office
Bureau of Corrections has a new Chaplain.

Chaplain Mat Stout

As we start a new year with a young Chaplain dedicated to serving our Lord in the position that he has been placed in, we look forward not to parties, champagne and fireworks but to good old honest leadership along with genuine love and compassion.

I believe Chaplain Stout is going to be one of the best Chaplains Lee County has ever had. Please join me in praying for this young man and his family as he fills the shoes of an impressive man (Chaplain Gerald Stephen Camp) who has had the position of Head Chaplain for twenty-five years.

Chaplain Camp served under several Lee County Sheriffs and has seen many changes in the jail system. I personally served under Chaplain Camp for several years and was able to work along side Mrs. Betty Scruggs (now Dr. Scruggs). She has brought so much high quality excellent teaching programs through grants to the jail system that have changed people's lives forever.



Rev. Gerald Stephen Camp

Now at the age of 72, Rev. Camp has retired.

We all wish him and his wife Michelle all the blessings in the world. Please keep them in your prayers!

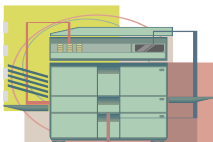
Ron Willis

LOVE AND COMPASSION MINISTRIES NEEDS:

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Love And Compassion Ministries

**Wishes You And Yours a Wonderful and Happy
Valentine's Day**

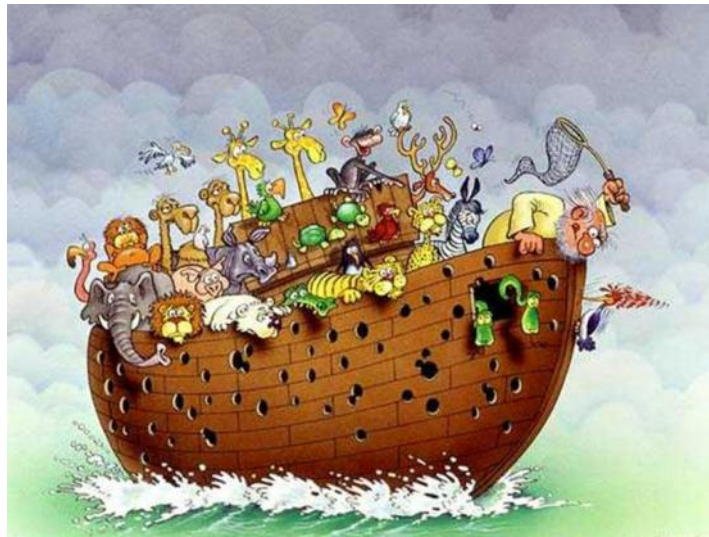
February 14, 2011

Show someone that you love them!

Why not show them that you love them everyday!

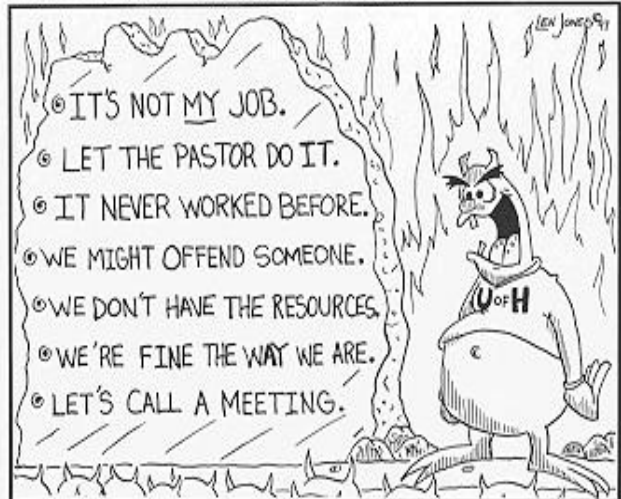
**Don't be afraid that your life will end,
be afraid that it will
never begin!**

Join LCM and Touch Lives Forever!



AND YOU THINK YOU HAVE TROUBLES!

ALTAR EGO. by Len Jones



"That concludes my presentation on time-tested, sure-fired statements that will stunt church growth. Any Questions?"



Love And Compassion Ministries

Dear Friends,

February 14 is Valentine's day, the day we are to celebrate the gift of love, romance, and loving relationships. Love is a strange thing. It can be the most amazing feeling in the world, or it can hurt as nothing else can, but in the end love is something we all need to be able to receive and give. While there are many different ways to define love, it all comes down to having a desire to put others before yourself.

Love is the continual act of unconditionally putting the needs of others before your own. When you utter the words "**I Love You**," do they carry with them the desire to show someone you love them or do they carry with them what you want to feel? When you say it, do you really mean it while willing to do anything for that special person? Rather than impose your own expectations or attempt to control them, try to understand how others feel, where they come from, and who they are. Realize that they might or might not love you back.

If you cannot love another person without attaching stipulations, then it is not love at all, but deep-seated opportunism. If your interest is in the other person as to how that person can enhance your experience of life, then it is not unconditional. If you intend to improve that person's life, you will allow that person to be himself, with complete acceptance of who he/she truly is. Only then can you show them unconditional love.

I Corinthians 13 says: 1. If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am become sounding brass, or a clanging cymbal. 2. And if I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3. And if I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and if I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profiteth me nothing. 4. Love suffereth long, and is kind; love envieth not; love vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, 5. doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not its own, is not provoked, taketh not account of evil;

6. rejoiceth not in unrighteousness, but rejoiceth with the truth; 7. beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. 8. Love never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall be done away; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall be done away. 9. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part; 10. but when that which is perfect is come, that which is in part shall be done away. 11. When I was a child, I spake as a child, I felt as a child, I thought as a child: now that I am become a man, I have put away childish things. 12. For now we see in a mirror, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know fully even as also I was fully known. 13. But now abideth faith, hope, love, these three; and the greatest of these is love. (From the American Standard Bible)

Love expects nothing in return. That doesn't mean you should allow someone to mistreat or undervalue you. It means that giving love does not guarantee receiving love. Try loving just to love someone! Realize it can be lost. If you realize that you can lose the one you love, then you have a greater appreciation of what you have. Think how blessed you are to have someone to love.

In 1850, Alfred Lord Tennyson said, "It is better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all." Won't you show someone Christ's Love that lives within you, today!

In the Presence of our LORD,

Ron Willis

Ron Willis, President
Love and Compassion Ministries, Inc.

**Love And Compassion
Ministries**

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Stamp

Love And Compassion Ministries gives a big thank you to Amy York, her teachers, her students, and their families for all the wonderful gifts of toys and food we received just before Christmas. Many disadvantaged families received these much needed items just at the right time in their lives. Thank you all!

A Wee Promise Christian School

Ministry of Cypress Lake Baptist Church

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