

# Love and Compassion Ministries

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

June 1, 2011 In The Year of Our Lord

## Love and Compassion Ministries Youth Ministry

### THE HISTORY:

This ministry was started as a Christian Campground Ministry for Incarcerated Youth on January 2009 with the help of **Lester Lemke**, William Stewart, John Domino and other members in The Kairos Prison Ministry. Effective on March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2010 this ministry was moved under the auspices of Love and Compassion Ministries, located in Cape Coral, Florida.

### OUR MISSION:

Our primary mission is to minister to incarcerated youth with the Holy Spirit of Jesus Christ. This mission is accomplished through prayer and visitation of the youth in the local community – specifically the youth in the Crossroads Wilderness Institute located in Punta Gorda, Florida.

### THE FUNDING:

Presently there are no funds raised for this ministry. All members are volunteers.

We do encourage fund raising events to help with the homeless and for materials for the youth who are incarcerated and during graduation.

### THE LEADERSHIP:

Our sole Leader is The Holy Spirit of Jesus Christ. We have personnel with pastoral and prison ministry experience in every group that visits the youth in the campground.

### SCHEDULE:

We visit the youth on a routine scheduled basis on the 1st and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of every month. We have done this very successfully for about one year. In January 2010 we introduced a Saturday program where we visit the youth on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of every month. These visits are scheduled through the Senior Program Director at the institute in the beginning of every month.



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❖ 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.

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### ACCEPTED POLICIES:

Women are permitted at the institute as long as they wear a button up blouse conservative pants and closed toe shoes. Shorts, dresses, low cut attire, sandals or flip flops are not permitted. Teens are also welcome to minister to peers.

### PRAYER:

Prayer is encouraged before, during and after our visitations. We also have a Bible study group that meets every Tuesday at 1:30 PM in the Faith Fellowship World Outreach Ministry. During our prayer time, business, politics or religious denominational discussions are not permitted.

### CONCERNS:

The security staff at Crossroads Correctional have been short-handed and Pastor Vince and three other ministers were turned away during our last visit and we could not provide a service to the youth. This was the first time this happened in over two years. In the past we stayed and prayed outside but not everyone (Pastor Vince included) is able to take the heat so we just have to do whatever Christ wants us to do.

We need to start asking youth groups in our churches to reach out by writing a letter to each boy in camp. Just a short note saying “**Jesus loves you**” with scripture to back it up would suffice. Then they can sign the letter **their first name only and place it in an envelope**. When we go to the camp we will pray and ask The Holy Spirit to meet the needs of each boy and we will place a boy’s name on the outside of each envelope. We did this in other prison ministries and many a prisoner told us that was the ONLY letter they received in over a month. Additionally, when we ask guidance from the Holy Spirit for guidance - many will be touch in ways that are far beyond our understanding!

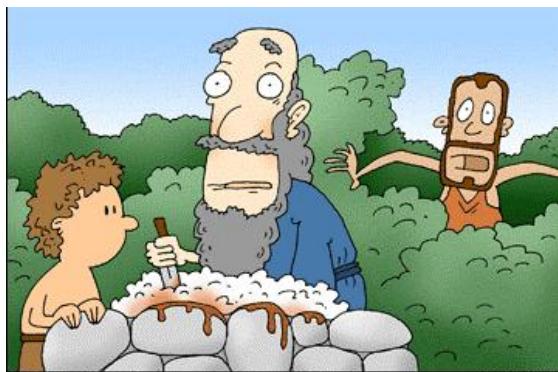
**It's so important that we try to reach the youth that are incarcerated to show that Christ cares about them too.** Letters, posters, artwork of any kind would be greatly appreciated. There are approximately thirty boys at the camp so each project must include thirty letters or thirty pieces of artwork.

Your ideas are welcome!

Love and Blessings in Christ,

John Michael Domino, Christian Ministry Coordinator

PS: You can also help by asking young children in church to color stick figures of Jesus or the cross and add scripture below each drawing. Once again, they should place their first name on the artwork and their age. This would be graciously received by the youth in the camp.



Thanks to Oscar Darling (See Genesis 22:1-18)  
HEY ABRAHAM, HAVE YOU SEEN MY RAM? ...  
I'VE GOTTA FIND HIM QUICK AND GET BACK  
TO THE OTHER 99 BACK AT THE FOLD



Thanks to John Le Blanc  
IF YOU CAN'T PROPHESY ANYTHING NICE,  
DON'T PROPHESY ANYTHING AT ALL

Hello Believers,

My name is George Durant. I'm currently a student at Faith Farm Ministries in Boynton Beach, FL. Recently, matter of fact, it was Mother's Day, May 8, I graduated from Faith Farms' nine month program for recovery from drug and alcohol addiction. Thanks be to God, He gives me This Victory through my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

### **CHILDHOOD MEMORIES**

Growing up, in what seemed to be a normal childhood environment has left me with many memories. I'll never forget all those years of Little League Baseball or the hunting and fishing trips with my dad. Home life seemed to be just like was supposed to be... **Except** for the days my mom and dad would fight. I really don't remember why this happened, but, thinking back, it seems as though it was a regular thing. I remember that dad seemed to always be working, and when he wasn't working, he was drinking beer. It didn't seem that bad to me, but guess it was worse than it seemed.

What I do know, is mom and dad did they best could in raising me, although they were very young themselves. My dad was nineteen and mom was 15 when she had me.

My first exposure to church was while I was in first grade. Mom made me go to Sunday school every Sunday at Broadmoor Baptist Church in northwest Miami. I remember, I hated going to church every week. Life might have turned out different if I only knew then what I know now.

Trouble began when a neighborhood kid, a few years older than me, befriended me and led me to my first experiences with any type of sex. I can't go any further with that, but I am convinced that my life controlling addictions to drug and alcohol are a direct result of the emotional guilt and shame I have experienced for more than forty years now. I've only recently been able to open up and allow someone to listen to this confession in hopes of finally squashing those memories.

### **CLOUDING MY EARLY ADULT YEARS**

After graduating from high school, I began searching for something to ease those painful thoughts of my childhood. I began experimenting with drugs and found that mind altering substances clouded all thoughts and memories of my past. This seemed to be an easy way out of having to deal with my past experiences. However, I never considered the repercussions of drug use.

I was working in the building industry. I learned trades that led to big money, ... and bigger problems than I had ever anticipated. Big money only made living the life of a functional addict relatively easy. I met my ex-wife, and we married in 1978.

### **RECOVERY/FAILURE/RECOVERY**

After nearly twenty five years living together with drugs and alcohol, my wife and I divorced in 2002. Then I began living a meaningless life of a drug addicted bachelor. My self respect and self esteem plummeted to an all time low. In 2006 I found my way into my first faith based center of recovery. I stayed nine of the twelve months this program offered. Leaving, I made my way to West Palm Beach, FL, and entered a faith based halfway house. I did fine for about a year.

Then I became involved with a young lady. Things developed quickly and fell apart twice as quickly. I was very confused. I was sure this woman was a God send, so the breakup at that particular time was especially devastating.

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Like all good addicts, the experience of an emotionally filled break up was more than I could handle at that time. Consequently, I fell victim to the enemy and his persuasion once again.

After following him around for a few more years, I found myself in trouble with law once again.

### TRUE RECOVERY

By the grace of God, I met Ron Willis, founder and director of Love and Compassion Ministries in Fort Myers FL. Brother Ron represented me in the courtroom, and God in all His glory represented me in His Kingdom.

Today, I realize I was shown favor, and Faith Farm Ministries in Boynton Beach became my home for the next year.

Understand, I am not a young man, and I am set in my ways. So, at 55 years of age, I had to humble myself like never before and make a life changing decision. You see, with this decision, I also chose to sell out to God with a full surrender. I realized another half surrender was not going to produce any more fruit than I previously experienced.

Today, I want it ALL! The founder of the Salvation Army once said that, "The greatness of a man's power, is found in the measure of his surrender." Fortunately for me, I'm a black or white person. There is no shade of gray in the middle for me, so the decision was actually relatively easy. **THE ENEMY HAS BEEN DEFEATED!**

I have now completed my nine month commitment to Faith Farm Ministries and have chosen to stay for an additional three months. During this time, I am working as a security guard on the campus of Faith Farms. I feel I have been blessed by taking the all night graveyard shift because this allows my plenty of time to spend alone with my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

### MY FUTURE -- WORK FOR GOD

Today, I have aspirations of becoming a motivational speaker. As a humble servant of god, I'm praying for the opportunity to speak powerfully into many others' lives. Today, as a Disciple of Christ, as well as, an avid bass fisherman, I look for every opportunity to fish for lost souls in the name of Jesus, my Lord and Savior.

Thank you, Pastor Ron Willis, for all of your help and encouragement. Thank you Jesus for your mercy and grace and for saving the life of this lost soul. AMEN

*George Durant*

One day in 2010 George walked into Love and Compassion Ministries office, confessed that he was an alcoholic and that he needed help. We worked with him and the Lee County courts, to get him enrolled into the wonderful drug and alcohol program known as Faith Farms in Boynton Beach, Florida.

His life sounds like that of many of the addicts we work with, but there are some big differences. The two most important differences are: George finally sought help and he found God. Please join us in praying for George as he transitions to the next phase of his life as a servant of Christ.

## FORGIVENESS BY Lyle Smith, Director Love & Compassion Ministries

I met a man while I was teaching a Bible study at the Lee County Jail. He was released from prison last Spring, but he remained on parole until he completed the remainder of his sentence. While he was in prison, his mother died, so he went home to stay with his father. I'm going to change the names of the son to John and the name of the father to Gene so that no one will be identified.

During his time in prison, John, 47 years old, had become severely crippled due to surgery. His dad, Gene, about 72 years old, welcomed him with open arms, and prepared a steak dinner to celebrate their first night back together. Gene was a relatively wealthy man, and he began to show his love to John by buying him a car.

Several times while he stayed with his dad, John called me and complained about he and his dad arguing. The arguments didn't sound serious, so I just reminded him that it took two to argue. But John kept pursuing a way out, and finally his dad suggested he would buy him a home. They bought the home, but before the deal was complete, John returned to many of his old ways. He started using drugs, stole from his dad, and finally forged his dad's signature and withdrew a very large sum of money from his dad's account. All parents, spouses, children, and friends of addicts know this is common behavior for drug addicts. We all know the hurt, anger, frustration, and bitterness, and maybe even feelings of vengeance toward an addict we love.

Gene was overcome with these feelings. John moved out, but failed to notify his probation officer of his change of address, so he was returned to prison to complete the remainder of his sentence. He will be released from prison again in a couple of months. During his time in prison, John has complained to me that his dad will not accept his phone calls and has never answered his letters. One of John's friends told me, Gene does not want to see his son again, and will not welcome him home this time.

I know what John did was not acceptable, and I understand Gene's feelings. I know Gene will never be able to forget what John did. But I do know if Gene could forgive John, it would help both father and son.

What is forgiveness? Forgiving means Gene would let go of the anger, frustration, bitterness, and feelings of vengeance he holds against John. He can ask God to take these feelings away, and he will forgive John. He would still be holding John responsible for his actions. Gene needs to protect himself, and also let John feel the consequences of his actions. Forgiving does not change the past, but opens a way to a better future. Gene will find freedom and peace. He is 72 years old, and forgiving John might even improve his health. Hopefully, upon receiving forgiveness, John would see his dad's love, see the power of God to change people, and seek help with his addiction.

In Ephesians 4, Paul says, Be angry, but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your wrath nor give place to the devil. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another even as God in Christ forgave you.

Mark 11:5 says, And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in Heaven may also forgive your trespasses.

I know, personally, forgiving is tough, but God says He will help us forgive, and not forgiving is a sin. How about it, do you have anyone you need to forgive? Please Pray for John and Gene!

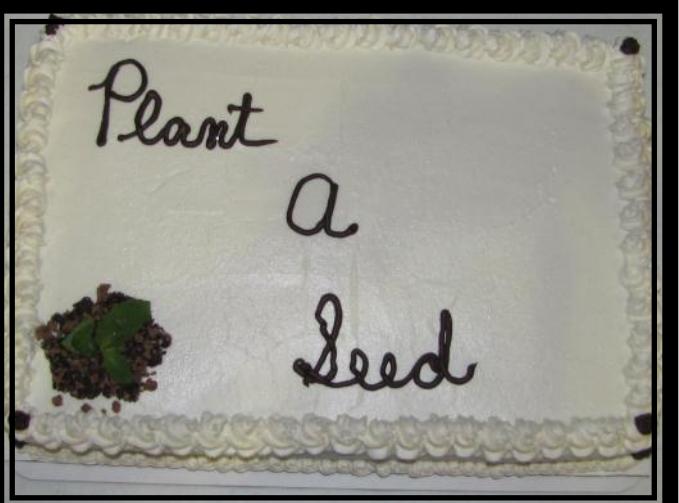
## Who Wants Cake

Have you ever seen a break-a-way cake? This cake is made up of cup cakes put together to celebrate a wining year.

Frank and Mary Beth Blake teamed up with Love And Compassion Ministries many years ago. But today, Mary Beth wants to do more for our ministry. She has committed to giving all the net profit she receives from her bake sales to Love And Compassion Ministries.



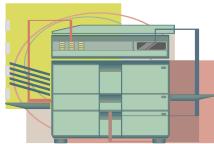
So if you are needing a desert that will have all your friends talking about it for months, call Mary Beth Blake at 239-898-1975. She was so kind to provide the cakes we served at the March 25th Plant a Seed dinner and everyone raved about them.



### LOVE AND COMPASSION MINISTRIES NEEDS:

INK CARTRIDGES - HP 95, 96, 97, & 98      POSTAGE STAMPS      FINANCIAL SUPPORT

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## Love And Compassion Ministries

Good Friends,

Many years ago I was a contractor building offices, banks, and very expensive custom homes. I had a great reputation for taking care of the customer, doing high quality work at a reasonable price. I had the best employees, and they knew what was expected from me. I might add that building a business such as this cost a lot of time and effort. Many times I would pull an all-nighter trying to keep it all going. I started realizing all this was taking a toll on me and my health. I had two heart attacks at the age of twenty-seven.

As God was allowing me to prosper, I became more aware of the life I was living. In most people's eyes I was on top of the world, but I knew that the business was killing me. One day a very wealthy man who owned hundreds of acres of land and several banks asked me to turn an old cabin on some land he owned, into a home for one of his daughters and her newly married husband. We turned this old cabin into one of the most beautiful homes we ever built. I worked with his daughter and an interior decorator to build whatever they wanted. I never gave the owner a cost and the owner never asked about the monthly bill. The owner trusted me completely and never questioned a bill. Believe me he did not become rich by throwing away money. He was tight unless his daughter wanted a big ticket item like a huge master bedroom wing with a fire place, new kitchen, a new family room, etc.

By the way I forgot to tell you this cabin overlooked a huge marvelous pristine lake that was full of all kinds of fish.

Now you have the picture. I was working myself to death and I had very few friends, because I did not have time for them. But after the heart attacks, I started taking time to fish on one of the lakes on the land where we built the home out of a cabin. I had gotten written permission for one of my employees and myself to fish the lake from the owner. This employee had a beautiful wife and two beautiful daughters who loved the Lord. Every time the Church doors were opened, they were there, but they could not get this man into Church.

My employee could take a piece of wood and turn it into a fine piece of furniture, but he did not care for the business of Church. I can't think of but one time in all the times that I would go down to this lake that I saw this employee there fishing. But, one day I went down to the lake, and there he was. I was glad to see him for I only saw him maybe once a week when I got around to a job site where he was working. He was always ready to inform me of any problems that might arise and he was very good at keeping the jobsite clean and professional.

After some communications about family and work, I realized this man was dragging out fish just one after another. So I asked him what he was using, for I had not caught a thing. He told me what it was, so I started looking through all my large collection of tackle to find one for myself. I then realized that I did not have one, so I changed from one lure to another, but still no luck in catching a thing! That is when this man who never would think of going into a Church came over to me and bit off the lure from his line and gave it to me. I immediately asked, "What are you doing?" He said, "I have caught enough and I don't need it anymore." I said, "I can't take it," but he insisted in me taking it and left.

That is when I realized that there was more to being a Christian than a person going to Church. You see when a fisherman finds something that catches fish it is almost impossible to find out what he is using. This man gave something that meant a lot to both of us... something that would catch fish!

What about us! What are we willing to give up in order for others to receive pleasure?

In the Presence of our Lord,

*Ron Willis*

Ron Willis, President  
Love and Compassion Ministries, Inc.

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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!

