

Love and Compassion Ministries

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

December 1, 2009 In The Year of Our Lord

Volume 4, Issue 12



MERRY CHRISTMAS AND GLAD TIDINGS

HOW TO LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE AT CHRISTMAS AND ALWAYS

WORK WITH JOY; Thank you to our Board, our Volunteers
PRAY WITH LOVE; Thank you to all our prayer warriors
DREAM FROM YOUR HEART; Keep the vision of God's Place
SHARE WHAT YOU HAVE; Thank you to all our generous friends
who contribute each month, donate clothing, food, etc.
LIVE SIMPLY - LOVE DEEPLY - THANK GOD ALWAYS

May God Bless You All!

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A Flesh-and-Blood Miracle

By Dr. Ralph F. Wilson (reprinted with permission)



If you were to ask the average person on the street, "What is Christmas all about?" you would receive a variety of answers.

- "Christmas is getting together with family and friends."
- "Christmas is about giving."
- "Christmas is about trees and ornaments."
- "Christmas is about Santa Claus and toys."
- "Christmas is about Rudolph with his nose so bright."
- "Christmas is about last minute shopping in stores with long lines and full parking lots."

But so many miss the real meaning of Christmas. **Christmas is about Jesus and the multiple miracles of Jesus' birth.**

The Miracle of Birth

Birth itself is a flesh-and-blood miracle. The umbilical cord is cut, the baby's mouth cleared, and he lets out a cry -- sometimes a loud and very persistent squall -- that lets the world know he has arrived. Then he is given to his mother. And all around, even veteran obstetricians, experienced labor nurses, and wizened old midwives, smile and enjoy the moment, and think to themselves, "What an amazing miracle birth is, the beginning of a brand new human life!"

The birth of Jesus of Nazareth is a miracle on a number of fronts, first and foremost, I suppose, that here is another healthy baby boy born to an exhausted young mother and a father so proud he can burst with joy. Jesus has those tiny little fingers and toes -- ten of each -- and wisps of jet black hair on his scalp, still a bit misshapen from its traverse down the birth canal.

The Miracle of the Virgin Mother

It is a miracle, of course, that Mary, the infant's mother, is a virgin. The New Testament account is very specific. Mary and her fiancé have not yet slept together as husband and wife. But an angel of the Lord, Gabriel by name, announces to Mary that she will be the mother of the Messiah, that her son will be called the Son of the Highest, and that this son will be conceived in her not by human means but by the Holy Spirit of God himself. In a very real, physical sense, Jesus is the Son of God. Christmas is about the miracle of the Virgin Mother.

The Miracle of Joseph's Dream

It is a miracle, too, that Joseph believes Mary. A man, even a man in love, finds it hard to understand how a fiancée can be pregnant without him. Jealous creatures, men are inclined to believe the worst. But Joseph, too, is visited by an angel who tells him that the boy will be called Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins. Joseph's continued love for Mary and her child is a

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Christmas miracle in itself.

The Miracle of Bethlehem

It is a miracle of sorts that he is born in Bethlehem. His parents, after all, are residents of Nazareth, four days journey to the north. The only thing that could have brought about such a last minute journey is a court order. And that's what Joseph has received, a summons from the royal court of Augustus Caesar to appear in his ancestor's birthplace for a census. Since Joseph is a direct descendent of King David, he returns to the town where David had been born and cared for sheep on the surrounding hillsides.

"But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel."

(Matthew 2:4-6; quoting Micah 5:2)

And so God arranges a trip for Mary and Joseph -- a rather inconvenient trip for a woman nearly full term -- a trip to fulfill a prophecy.

The Christmas story continues. This flesh-and-blood baby grows to be a flesh-and-blood man. And on the night before he is betrayed he takes bread and blesses it, and says it is his flesh. He takes wine and blesses it, and says it is his blood. And the very next day his flesh is torn and his blood is shed to save us, his people, from our sins.

What is Christmas all about? It is about Jesus, and that amazing day when God himself came among us humans as a flesh-and-blood baby boy.



"Share Jesus Without Fear"

Evangelism Training Session
sponsored by Love and Com-
passion Ministries

How many times have you wanted to share your faith but didn't? Did you know that you can go beyond the concern of rejection and not knowing what to say when opportunities arise with the lost? Well, twenty participants attended the above session which was held on Friday, November 6th & Saturday, November 7th at Cypress Lake Baptist Church

and learned a non-threatening way to share the gospel and trust the Lord for the results. We learned how to avoid arguments and fear of failure.

The statement, "sin of silence" touched all of our hearts but we examined reasons why we are silent so many times and learned it might be because we think we have to win the lost to the Lord. We just need to be obedient.

Witnessing should be a normal part of our life and we should try to be open to the

opportunities God puts in our path. If we don't share our faith, many including our friends and family may not have the opportunity for the Holy Spirit to work in their life.

God working thru us can change the peril of the lost. If you find a chance to attend this worthwhile seminar please take advantage. We will try and post future dates for any upcoming seminars.

Sue Giambra

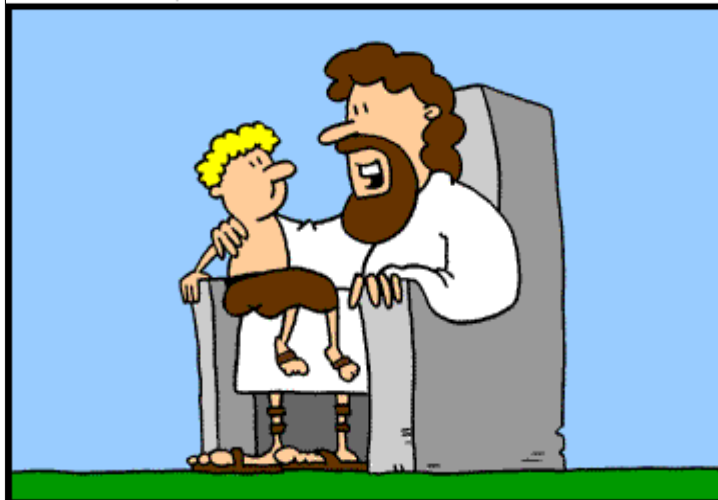
Love and Compassion Ministry News:

The past couple months have been very busy here in the office between phone calls, people stopping by and those who brought donations of food and clothing and household items. The following is a breakdown of some of the areas we addressed:

1. We assisted people who applied for food stamp benefits and/or cash assistance. This is a lengthy process which can be confusing to many and most did not have access to a computer.
2. Please pray for a young man named Derrick who needed to get home to family in Tennessee. We were able to purchase a bus ticket for him.
3. Pray for these people we were able to supply groceries for, prescription, socks, and antiseptic spray for a homeless man, auto parts, assisted a rent payment, filled numerous gas tanks.
4. Pray for a young girl who needed to get to Georgia by car to be with family after the death of her mother. We provided gas and a Visa card for additional expenses. Also, continue to pray for this young girl as she also since then lost custody of her small child.
5. Pray blessings for the people who donated clothing, food and funds.
6. Pray for a young lady that is in desperate need of a drug and alcohol program.
7. Love and Compassion Ministries and Cypress Lake Baptist Church coordinated a Seminar "Share Jesus Without Fear" that was attended by 20 people including some of the staff .
8. Please pray for Richard who is in prison who wants to make sure his two daughters have Christmas presents. They are 7 and 2. If anyone would like to send gifts for them, please contact LCM's office. Also, we have helped secure an apartment and are trying to find donated furniture for a man recently released from prison.

In all circumstances we offer prayer and words of encouragement to all who contact us. This is why our contributors, our Board of Directors and our volunteers are so essential to accomplish God's call to this ministry.

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Thanks to Christopher Huffman

12-24-1998

HOW ABOUT IF INSTEAD OF GIVING YOU EVERYTHING THAT YOU THINK YOU WANT FOR CHRISTMAS I GIVE YOU WHAT YOU NEED?

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Thanks to Dan

12-03-2007

ANOTHER ESKIMO BAPTISM GONE BAD

10th Annual Homeless Service Day Stand Down 2009 was held on Saturday, November 14th at the Broadway Community Church in Fort Myers.

On November 3, 2009 the Lee County Board of County Commissioners approved a resolution declaring the week of November 15-21 as National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week in Lee County.

“Stand down” is a military term referring to an opportunity to achieve a brief respite from combat. Troops were given a chance to receive a variety of services, hence Lee County Stand Down day. Love and Compassion Ministries, along with many other Lee County organizations, serviced approximately 350 needy people. There were over 130 volunteers, approximately 20 providers, and there were 35 State IDs and 2 drivers licenses that were paid for. What a blessing to see the unity of all these organizations come together to meet this growing crisis.

This one day event was able to provide 6000 lbs. of food, hygiene kits, backpacks, information on VA benefits, referrals for substance abuse and mental health counseling, 139 flu shots (flu, tetanus, pneumonia, H1N1), clothing and blankets. Special thanks for Jim and Joann Cossairt who manned the Pepsi wagon all day. Many took advantage of the free haircuts provided by Melissa Endsley of Love and Compassion Ministries and other organizations. What a joy to see their smiles after their new haircuts.

By providing these services, the Coalition headed by Janet Bartos, hope it may help to break the cycle of homelessness. Abundant thanks to Janet for her untiring work and the work it took to bring this day together. Also, thanks to our Lee County Commissioners, especially Brian Bigelow who was in attendance, Labor Ready, Housing Authority City of Fort Myers, Salvation Army who cooked up a great barbeque, Family Health Centers, Lee Mental Health Center, Florida Rural Legal Services, St. Vincent de Paul, SWFAS, Harry Chapin Food Banks, National Alliance on Mental Illness, Eternal Homes, the Thureos Group, Career & Service Center, Health Department, Lee Memorial Health Systems, Department of Veterans Affairs, Lee County Sheriffs Office, Community Cooperative Ministries, Sickle Cell Disease Assoc. of Lee County, Social Security Office, the Division of Motor Vehicles, Pepsi who provided their Pepsi Wagon for drinks, and many Christian Organizations including Love and Compassion Ministries.

By all our generous donors we are able to participate and join together with the many, many needs in the Lee County area. So a special thanks to all of you.





Love And Compassion Ministries

Dear Friends,

God's Place Writing Campaign

We are certainly living in troubled times. Open any newspaper and you will see page after page of disturbing trends. Drug abuse is at an all-time record high; drunk drivers are killing or permanently impairing others; homeless are found living in the woods or causing havoc in neighborhoods. People that have never before been without a job are suddenly at a loss and resorting to living in their cars; more and more teens are out of control and the parents don't know what to do. Our prisons are overflowing and for many the sentence is shortened just to make room for someone else. Most of those released will be quickly re-arrested. Other states send us many of their homeless causing even more problems. Hopelessness abounds and the State of Florida and Lee County pays millions every year in jail, prison, hospital, and mental health cost to care for them.

We have a solution and it's called **God's Place!** It's a place filled with hope. Hope for the **drug addicts** that have lost everything, sometimes even their families, due to "getting the next fix"; hope for those **alcoholics** that just can't seem to get free of the bottle; hope for the **homeless** who feel like an outcast of society; hope for those who are temporarily homeless due to a job situation or illness that has drained them of finances; hope for the **youth** who feel they have only a prison or gang that will accept them; hope for **those just released from prison or jail** with little or no skills and no family support and of course hope for our **veterans** with their mental, physical, and emotional problems. **And God's Place won't cost Florida a dime.**

Love And Compassion Ministries, Inc. is a 501 c3 that desires to get God's Place up and running as soon as possible. God's Place will be a community where respect, yet discipline, is present. The directors of LCM are committed to having more than 73 employees the first year and 155 employees by the fifth year. We will offer love and acceptance to more than 1,250 clients by year five.

God's Place will combine biblical teaching (not religion), responsibility, education and hands-on experience to allow each person a chance to better his or her life. God's Place for many will be a place where they will be given the opportunity to develop self-sufficiency, including educational opportunities and a trade that can be used anywhere in the United States.

It is time for Floridians to embrace the knowledge that people respond in a positive way when biblical teachings are combined with actions that are known to work such as St. Jude, Mercy Memorial Hospital, our Military Base Hospitals, and thousands of others. We all know that the relationship with faith and healing is well known to lead to success.

The one year program is designed to assess each resident's needs. We will use guide lines designed to elevate a person's attitude, trust, and yearning toward positive things of life. They can pick from many programs which will provide them the education they need, with the training and growth they wish for.

The State of Florida owns a 640 acre area of Lee County that formerly was the old Buckingham Army Airfield, Buckingham, Florida, (East of Fort Myers, off Buckingham Road.) We propose that the state rent all the land and

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facilities to Love And Compassion Ministries for one dollar a year so that the God's Place can become a reality. In plain English, Love And Compassion Ministries wishes to take possession of all the buildings and land within the given area and open a drug and alcohol, homeless, youth, and prison reentry program.

The land and buildings located on the acreage are now being occupied by TIITF / Agency for Persons with Disabilities Gulf Coast Center Department of Environmental Protection. They will be vacating the base the middle of 2010. As a responsibility to our community, we are asking the State of Florida, our community, local Churches, other ministries and businesses to assist us in doing what is right for these people.

We wish to set up a professional medical facility on the base that will be designed to take care of minor ailments and illnesses along with a complete dental facility within the compound in the infirmary. The medical facility, including the dental office, will not be part of the LCM's five year budget. Love And Compassion Ministries will furnish the space needed, electric, utilities, and security. All remaining needs will be furnished by the selected medical facility including but not limited to, equipment, staff, payroll, benefits and other related matters.

As residents learn skills and are given responsibilities for the function and upkeep of God's Place, we intend to be self supporting by raising our own crops, cattle, manufacturing and merchandising items for sale, and being able to remove ourselves off the Florida Power and Light grid system as soon as possible. LCM wishes to sustain the group with very little outside assistance and at the same time creating an atmosphere that will be a healthy balance of mind, body, and soul.

For more information please go to www.lovecompassion.com and click on God's Place. I plead with you to please help us make God's Place a reality. Take a moment and send us a few lines on your feelings about this project with-in an e-mail to GP@lovecompassion.com. We will soon present them to Governor Charlie Crist.

In the Presence of our LORD,

Ron Willis

Ron Willis, President
Love and Compassion Ministries, Inc.

LOVE AND COMPASSION NEEDS:

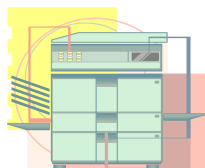
The Ministry is in desperate need of a reliable van to replace the current worn out van. This vehicle provides the means to minister to the homeless, people with alcohol and drug addictions along with many others who are hurting in these difficult financial times.

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Stamp

P R A Y E R



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!

**PRAYER WARRIORS NEEDED
TO PRAY FOR OTHER'S NEEDS**

(239)574-5683