

Love and Compassion Ministries

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

November 1, 2011 In The Year of Our Lord

Volume 6, Issue 11

THANKSGIVING



The first Thanksgiving was probably celebrated by the colonists in Plymouth in 1621. In 1620 the Mayflower left Plymouth, England with 102 people who were seeking a new home where they could find prosperity and freely practice their faith. After a treacherous journey, they established the village of

Plymouth. Most spent the first winter on board the Mayflower. They suffered from exposure, scurvy, and many contagious diseases. Nearly half of them died during that winter.

The following Spring they were surprised by a visit from an Abenaki Indian who spoke in English. A few days later he came back with a Pawtucket Indian. As a result of these visits, the Indians taught them to grow corn, fish, harvest maple for syrup, and avoid poisonous plants.

With the help of these Indians, the Pilgrims had a bountiful harvest during their first year in the new country. To celebrate, Governor Bradford organized a feast that would last three days. Most of the dishes served were probably native American. There were no pies or cakes because flour and sugar were in short supply.



But it was not until 1789, that George Washington made an official proclamation of Thanksgiving. In the first paragraph of his proclamation, President Washington said,

"Whereas it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor; and Whereas both Houses of Congress have, by their joint committee, requested me to recommend to the people of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer, to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many and signal favors of Almighty God, especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness:"

Isn't it great to remember our founding fathers gave credit to God for all their safety and successes? They also asked for His protection.

But George Washington did not set a specific time for the Thanksgiving celebration. In 1863 President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed the last Thursday in November, as our national day of Thanksgiving. (That was later changed to the third Thursday by President Franklin Roosevelt to lengthen the Christmas shopping season.) In the first part

(Continued on page 2)

Inside This Issue

Story:	Page
THANKSGIVING	2
THANKSGIVING	3
THANKSGIVING ONE COMMUNITY..,	4
MISSION STATEMENT CHRISTIAN HUMOR	5
THE PINK DRESS	6
LETTER FROM PRESIDENT	7
PRAYER	8

❖ This is a monthly publication produced by LCM. 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

Board of Directors

Frank Blake
Stacey Davis
Mark Decker
Tony Distaffen
Mark Johnson
Lyle Smith
Ron Willis

(Continued from page 1)

of his proclamation, Lincoln said our ancestors were prone to forget where their blessings come from, and he noted that more and more blessings were being added:



"The year that is drawing towards its close, has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature, that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever watchful providence of Almighty God."

Toward the end of his proclamation, he went on to recognize that although God was undoubtedly upset with our ancestors for their sins, He was merciful.

"No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy. It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American People. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens. And I recommend to them that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquillity and Union."

Nearly 150 years have passed since Abraham Lincoln wrote those words, but we are still prone to forget that no mortal hand worked out the great things we enjoy today. We are still prone to forget the source is our Almighty God! We still fail to remember that despite our sinful nature, He is still merciful.

Let's remember President Lincoln's invitation and observe Thanksgiving 2011 as a day of Thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent father who dwells in the Heavens. As Lincoln said, let's ask Him for forgiveness of our sins. If only America would do this with one heart and one voice today!

Think of what we have today:

- Family
- Freedom
- Beautiful scenes of nature — (the trees, lakes, the gulf, the sky, the clouds)
- Food (for most of us, in abundance)
- Clothes (already made, no iron)
- Doctors, nurses, hospitals, medical equipment, and medicines to keep us healthy
- Comfortable homes to share with our families
- Furniture and appliances to make us comfortable
- Cars and highways to get us all around our wonderful country
- Planes to quickly fly us all around the world
- Phones Landlines and cell phones to communicate anywhere
- Television to inform and amuse us
- Computers to make our work easy, communication easy, and to entertain us
- Defense weaponry to keep us safe from our enemies

Remember back to the Pilgrim's first three day celebration. They were celebrating freedom and a good harvest. How much more God has blessed us with!



THANKSGIVING 2011 REMEMBER HIS MERCY AND BLESSINGS — AND THANK HIM!

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

I asked the board of directors of Love and Compassion Ministries to share with you the blessings they are thankful for.

Lyle Smith I have been truly blessed! I know God, and know Jesus as my Savior. I am blessed to feel the joy of working with an organization like LCM where I can love and help God's needy people! I am thankful God has used me to work with him helping many people improve their lives. I am thankful for a comfortable life. I am thankful to share the joys of the Kuter family, Henry, Marianne and their children, Henry, a four year old, and Sean and Seth, two year old twins, who live with me.



Marianne, Sean, Seth, Henry III,
& Henry V

Mark Decker I am a building contractor. We all know that times have been difficult at best. I have lost 3 trucks, a home, and almost \$100,000.00 in cash trying to keep things afloat. In spite of all the losses I count myself a very blessed person. I have a beautiful wife who has been there beside me all the way, willing to do whatever is needed. We have both worked very hard to keep our heads above water. I have been blessed with an ability to fix just about anything, and there is always someone who needs something fixed. Our 5 children have had their difficulties also, but as a family we have stuck together, and so far so good. I don't know what is going to happen tomorrow, but I know who holds tomorrow. The LORD will continue to work out His will, and we will continue in His service till He comes. Truly we are thankful!

Ron Willis I have had my share of hurt and pain. I have hurt to the point of death. I have been broken into so many pieces that it has taken even God many years to put me back together. Even though I would never want anyone to go through what I have, I can say that I am a better man for it. God has always been there for me even when I did not feel his touch. He gave me strength to endure all things. I praise God for always being there through the rough times and good times, for calling me into the ministry, for giving me the heart for the hurting and for allowing me to serve with some of the most Godly people on this planet. I thank God for all the wonderful people that have teamed up with LCM to support us and pray for us. May we always give thanks to the Lord!

Frank Blake There are so many things that I am so thankful, there are the things I have received and there are the things that I have encountered in my life that have made me who I am today! So with that said, here are some of the things I am thankful for today. First and most importantly, I am thankful for the grace of Jesus Christ dying on the cross for my sins which has changed my life. I am thankful for having an understanding wife who loves me and supports me when I am involved in different ministries and activities. I am thankful for having good children who God has blessed me with. I am thankful for having a strong and God-fearing mother in my life. I am thankful that God uses me as a servant helping others who are in need. I am thankful for all the friends I have grown close to through my walk with Jesus. I am very thankful to be a part of a wonderful ministry such as Love and Compassion Ministries that truly cares for the needy, and I am thankful my fellow Board members have allowed me to walk beside them in the great honor God has given us to reach needy people for Christ. In closing I am thankful that when I was lost, God sent a believer with enough courage through Christ to approach me and introduce me to the cross.... **For I will never be able to repay that step of faith by someone like you and I for sharing God's Love with me!!**

Mark Johnson I'm grateful for many things in life today, and I start out by saying that for a reason. We can all think of something we're grateful for if we try hard enough when someone asks us, but; was I always a grateful person? I hate to say it, but the truth is I was not. I was a self-centered addict living for myself, as if the whole world owed me something. Never reaching out to anyone in need for fear it might actually cost me something. My gratitude today comes from a never ending supply of joy that God gave me when I received his Son as my Lord and Savior. He taught me something about reaching out to others in need. He gives us back so much more than we could ever give of ourselves. Out of gratitude, I comfort others as the Lord comforted me, and I'm grateful for the people He has put in my life.

Tony Distaffen What I'm thankful for; my wonderful wife, my 8 children and 10 grandchildren. Most of all, I'm thankful for the Word of God. The Old Testament that gives us the history and promises of God. The Psalms that teach us how to worship and praise God and Proverbs that teaches us how to live in a Godly way. And the New Testament that teaches us the love of God and how to love one another with love and compassion.

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

Stacey Davis First of all I would like to thank my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ for blessing me with my salvation and my walk with him. I would also like to thank the Lord for blessing me with my loving family to whom I am extremely grateful. During the course of one's life, he or she will encounter many challenges that will try to impede their walk with the lord. These challenges come in many forms today, but the correct answer to these challenges, our Lord and Savior, remains constant and true. With the above said, I am also thankful to have an opportunity to coach Varsity Football at Southwest Florida Christian Academy. This opportunity has truly provided me the platform to minister to the young men on the football team about life lessons, while being an example that they can trust and follow. Finally, I am thankful for having the opportunity to serve with a great group of Godly men through Love and Compassion Ministries.

Please join us. Look carefully at your blessings. Realize no mortal hand worked out those great things. Your blessings were gracious gifts from God. This Thanksgiving solemnly, reverently, and gratefully acknowledge His gifts to you. Thank Him and praise Him!



One Community.... One Future First Annual Homeless Awareness Event

The Lee County Homeless Coalition organized the first get together of twenty five provider organizations at Vineyards Community Church in Cape Coral Saturday evening October 15. We enjoyed meeting and sharing with the other Lee County organizations that work to improve the lives of Lee County's 3400 homeless people. We especially enjoyed the chance to talk and listen to many of the homeless .



Vineyards Community Church provided and cooked hot dogs and hamburgers for the crowd. Musical entertainment was provided by DJ, Malike.

Love and Compassion Ministries helped organize the event by obtaining the Pepsi wagon and getting the truck and trailer that was used as the stage for the speakers and performers.. Mary Beth Blake baked 350 beautiful and scrumptious cupcakes to share with the homeless and providers. Jim and Joann Cossairt served soft drinks and water to the crowd for nearly three hours. We had about ten other volunteers talking with the homeless and other agencies. What a great time!

Provider organizations participating with the Lee County Homeless Coalition include:

- | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ACCESS | Gideons | Parish Nurses Lee Memorial |
| Alcoholics Anonymous | Harmony Transitional Housing | Southwest Florida Addiction Services |
| Cape Coral Board of Realtors | Lee County Sheriff's Office | St. Matthew's House |
| Cape Coral Bootstrap Ministries | Lee Mental Health Center | Street Watch Ministry |
| Cape Coral Police Department | Lifeline Family Center | The Salvation Army |
| Community Cooperative Ministries, Inc. | Love and Compassion Ministries | Veteran Affairs |
| Easter Seals | Love & Light Ministries | Value Options |
| Elijah's Coat | Lutheran Services Florida | Vineyard Community Church |
| Eternal Homes | National Alliance Mental Illness | Visiting Nurses Association |
| Fort Myers Pregnancy Center | Next Level Church | Word of Life Ministries |



LOVE AND COMPASSION MINISTRIES

MISSION STATEMENT

1. To introduce as many lost people to Jesus Christ as possible.
2. To give God all the glory for any and all work that this ministry accomplishes.
3. To minister to the needs of the people as inspired and directed by God.
4. Be committed to being good stewards of all our resources including time and money.
5. To always present ourselves in a Godly manner.
6. We vow to have respect of person(s) just as God has respect of person(s) and we are his representatives here on earth, thus reflecting His love to all.
7. To work with individuals, area churches, organizations, and communities for the betterment of mankind.
8. To seek God through prayer for guidance and direction in every step this ministry takes, as well as seeking Him for the needs of others.
9. Live our lives according to God's word and the convictions He places in our hearts

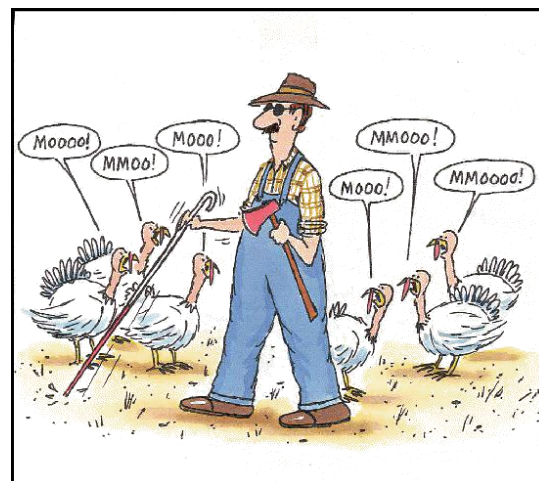
CHRISTIAN HUMOR

A doctor, scientist, boy scout, and the Pope were all on a plane. The pilot came in to tell them they were about to crash, and that he was ejecting soon. He told them he only had 3 parachutes, so they would have to decide among themselves who would receive the parachutes. The doctor said, "I'm the world's greatest physician, the world needs me." The scientist said, "I'm the smartest man in the world, they will need me." The boy scout said to the Pope, "You take the last parachute." The Pope responded, "I am an old man. I have lived a wonderful life, and if I die, they will replace me with another Pope." The boy scout said, "Don't worry Father, the scientist, the smartest man in the world, took my back pack, so we both can have parachutes."

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



"I miss the good old days when pastors wore suits and ties."



The Pink Dress

There was this little girl sitting by herself in the park. Everyone passed by her and never stopped to see why she looked so sad. Dressed in a worn pink dress, barefoot and dirty, the girl just sat and watched the people go by. She never tried to speak. She never said a word. Many people passed by her, but no one would stop.

The next day I decided to go back to the park in curiosity to see if the little girl would still be there. Yes, she was there, right in the very spot where she was yesterday, and still with the same sad look in her eyes. Today I was to make my own move and walk over to the little girl. For as we all know, a park full of strange people is not a place for young children to play alone. As I got closer I could see the back of the little girl's dress. It was grotesquely shaped.

I figured that was the reason people just passed by and made no effort to speak to her. Deformities are a low blow to our society, and heaven forbid if you make a step toward assisting someone who is different. As I got closer, the little girl lowered her eyes slightly to avoid my intent stare. As I approached her, I could see the shape of her back more clearly. She was grotesquely shaped in a humped over form. I smiled to let her know it was OK, I was there to help and talk. I sat down beside her and opened with a simple, "Hello."

The little girl acted shocked, and stammered a "hi;" after a long stare into my eyes. I smiled, and she shyly smiled back. We talked until darkness fell and the park was completely empty. I asked the girl why she was so sad. The little girl looked at me with a sad face and said, "Because, I'm different..." I immediately said, "That you are!", and smiled.

The little girl acted even sadder and said, "I know." "Little girl," I said, "you remind me of an angel, sweet and innocent." She looked at me and smiled, then slowly she got to her feet, and said, "Really?" "Yes, you look like a little Guardian Angel sent to watch over all the people walking by." She shook her head, "yes", and smiled. With that, she opened the back of her pink dress and allowed her wings to spread. Then she said, "I am". "I'm your Guardian Angel" with a twinkle in her eye.

I was speechless — surely I was seeing things.. She said, "For once you thought of someone other than yourself. My job here is done." I got to my feet and said, "Wait, why did no one stop to help an Angel?" She looked at me, smiled, and said, "You're the only one that could see me," and then she was gone.

And with that my life changed dramatically. So, when you think you're all you have, remember, your angel is always watching over you.

Have you seen your Guardian Angel?

MAKING DONATIONS TO SUPPORT LOVE AND COMPASSION MINISTRIES HAS NEVER BEEN EASIER

You Can Use PayPal at www.LoveCompassion.com

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

THANKS!



Friends and Partners,

I AM SO THANKFUL TO GOD

On March 15, 1949 a young man named Robert was pacing the floor in a small waiting room waiting for his first child to be born. His wife had gone into labor the morning before, and even though they were in the local hospital, she was having great difficulty in giving birth. After many hours of pain and suffering, the doctor came out and told Robert that the baby was turned wrong. He said it did not look good for the baby or his wife. He said that the baby probably was not going to make it, if they saved his wife. Robert said, "Save my wife; we can always have more children." Then the doctor informed him that his wife could never have any more children.

As the doctor returned to the delivery room, Robert prayed to God as he had never prayed before. After a lot of talk and study on how to save the mother, the delivery nurse was persuaded the child, a big baby boy, could be born without losing the mother or child. While all of this was going on, the Lord was spreading a small blanket of pure white snow, on this very small town in Tennessee.

While the child was being delivered, you could see at a glance that he was not right. His legs were over his head. The hospital worked with the child's legs, but nothing seemed to help. The child was not able to walk, even at the age of three, so the parents took the child to a very expensive specialist.

The specialist ran tests, put the child in special shoes, and had the parents monitor and exercise the child's legs and feet. At around six years of age, the child wanted to play baseball, basketball, and so many other sports as other children did. The doctor told the child that there would never be a time in his life when he would be able to play sports. "You are different!" Each time the child had to see the specialist, he was told over and over again that he needed to study hard and get a good job working at a desk.

The child's desires to play, as other children, overcame the specialist's halting words, "You will never be able to play as other children. You are different! You cannot do the things that others can." The child went to bed every night in pain. His legs and feet were so bad that his mother would rub them every night so he could sleep.

On August 21, 1960 this young man found out that the old specialist was right when he said that you are not like others, you are different. But he was dead wrong when he said, "You will never be able to play as other children, for that was the day he ran forward to the front of the little Baptist Church, and asked God to forgive him of his sins, and he accepted Jesus Christ as his Savior.

Even though no pain medication was ever prescribed or taken, the boy grew up riding his bike nearly every day. He became a pitcher on the Church baseball team. He played football and was very good at that. He played basketball and was very good at that also. He grew up knowing that he was different. He knew that he was a miracle. He knew that Jesus had found favor in him and had given him his life. He knew Jesus had healed him just as He had healed the lame to walk.

How do I know all of these things? I know all this, because I was that child who was given life that snowy night on March 15, 1949. By the way, my mother gave birth to my brother (healthy in every way) on March 19, 1955 when doctors said that she would never be able to have any more children. Isn't God great?

I pray that I will always bring honor and glory to God's Name as I seek God's Will for my life and for Love And Compassion Ministries.

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**

**We're on the Web!
www.LoveCompassion.com**

Stamp

**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!