

# Love and Compassion Ministries

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

May 1, 2011 In The Year of Our Lord

NEWSLETTER

Volume 6, Issue 5

## **I Am A Prison** By Molly Martin

*I am a prison. I'm damp and I'm cold, I hold women who are young, women who are old. I am surrounded by fences and gates that have locks. My walls are made of concrete blocks.*

*I am a prison. I am feared by all, I'll give you a chill, when you hear me call. Your name becomes a number, your face just another, I'll show you no pity, I am not your mother.*

*I am a prison. Designed to be rough. I am where society houses its tough. Nobody has beaten me. Though many have tried, but mostly they all still remain inside. I have no answers. So don't ask me why, but I'll put those tears in your children's eyes*

*I am a prison. Where nobody wants to be. I confine women who were once free. I control their pace. I slow down their stride. I strip them of dignity. I take their pride. Like animals that you might put in a cage, I contain these women and watch them age.*

*I am a prison. I am full of despair. I can be woman's worst nightmare. I've been here many years, and will be many more. You'll recognize me by my loud slamming doors.*

*I am a prison. A place you don't want to live. I've so much to take, but nothing to give. But there is One who does, and He hears your pleas. So, pray to the Lord Jesus, for He has the keys.*

### **About the author**

*Molly was training to become a stockbroker when while driving under the influence of prescription drugs, she killed a man. She served nearly ten years in the Florida department of corrections. She was released January 24th of this year. She has an 18 year old daughter who was without a mother for 10 years. Since get-*

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*ting out of prison, she has obtained a good job and is helping care for her 95 year old mother. She regularly attends alcoholic anonymous meetings, and became aware of Love and Compassion Ministries through her sponsor, who is a client of LCM. Molly wishes everyone to know she turned her life around because of God and people who did not give up on her.*

*A prison fellowship ministry brought personal hygiene products to the inmates. At that point, Molly did not really know God. She thought God was someone you could bargain with, and good things might happen. Nothing good had happened in her life, but Molly wrote to thank the ministry. Much to her surprise, a lady from the ministry wrote back, and they corresponded for a while, then the lady asked Molly to call her. Through these calls and correspondence, Molly came to know Jesus and His love, and her new life began.*

### ***How do our jails, prisons and LCM help people like Molly?***

*As of February 1, 2011, more than 101,000 inmates were in Florida Department of Corrections prisons, and another 115,000 were on active community supervision. More than 2600 of those in prison were sentenced in Lee County, and there were more than 25,000 bookings into the Lee County jail in 2010. The annual cost of incarcerating these inmates in our Florida prisons is more than \$2.4 billion, and the 2010-11 budget in Lee County for law enforcement, corrections, and courts is more than \$150 million.*

*Both the Florida Department of Corrections and the Lee County Sheriffs Office deserve tons of credit for the work they do to improve the life skills and attitude of these inmates. Both have programs covering, narcotics, anger management, and Bible study, etc. But as Molly says in the last line of her poem, only our Lord Jesus has the keys to changing lives. Many find Jesus while they are incarcerated.*

*Like the fellowship ministry that changed Molly's life, Love and Compassion Ministries helps people find Christ while they are incarcerated. We also try to help them before they get into trouble or go to jail. We reach out to share Jesus with people who have not been charged with a crime, but are involved with drugs. We get many of them into Christ centered drug and alcohol programs before they get into deep trouble. When they do get into trouble and face a judge, we are able to talk to judges and have them sentenced to a drug and alcohol program instead of prison.*

### ***Homes for Sexual Offenders***

*This month we were contacted by Southwest Florida Addiction Services when they were trying to find a place for one of their clients who had a sexual offender conviction. We were able to find a program to accept the young man, but there was a cost. SWFAS worked with other non-profits to fund this, then they called back and thanked us for our help. These are the hardest people to place because our legal system puts them out, tells them where they can't live, but provides no resources or places to live. Even though LCM has a large database of organizations that help, none could help a sexual offender. We really need some place to put these people, so they do not have to live among us on the streets.*

***Please help us as we try to help people with all kinds of needs!***

## God's Way

was written and copyrighted by the Library of Congress in accordance with title 17, United States Code, © 10/1/1997 by Ron Willis (TXu000821372). It is a book of true short stories written with the hope that other people reading it would come forth with similar situations that they have experienced. The release of these experiences can show God's leading and great glory.

### MOTHER'S DAY

When I was around nineteen or twenty years old, my brother and I decided to take my mother and aunt to a Mother's Day lunch. My mother had divorced my father some time before and she was left to raise my brother alone. I came by and picked up mom and my brother (He is six years younger than me). Mom said we should take her car, because it was bigger and more roomier than my truck.

I didn't feel right driving my mom's car that she thought the world of, but I did anyway. We went by and picked up my aunt and I drove us to a special restaurant on a lake several miles away. We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. The food was great and we had a lot to get caught up on.

Afterwards, we decided to take a ride back home the long way, or the scenic route through the hills around the lake.

Everyone was talking and just enjoying the ride, when I realized that I was lost. I had no idea where we were. I did not want to ruin the day by saying anything, but I started getting worried. I drove, and drove, and drove, and never came to a road sign, store, or anything that looked familiar.

All at once, I looked up on a hill, and saw a farm home with a large barn beside it. Then I saw fire! It was in the barn. I drove up a dirt driveway, hollering to the rest of the passengers at the same time. "Fire!! The barn is on fire!!" My brother and mom ran up to the house and started beating on the door while I ran to the barn. The fire was coming from a car that had been parked in the barn. I tried to get closer to the car, to raise the hood where the fire was coming from, but it was too hot. I started hollering to find a water hose.

As we were looking for a hose, an elderly man, his wife, and a young girl about my brothers age, came out of the house. The girl and my brother hooked up a garden hose at a hose bib that was sticking out of the ground, between the house and the barn.

I ran back into the barn with the other end of the hose. The water pressure was not enough to put the fire out. I later found out that the hose had several holes in it. My brother and the girl were holding the holes with their hands, to get the water pressure that we were getting.

While we are trying to put the fire out with inadequate water pressure, the elderly man went and got on a tractor, and pulled the car out from the barn with the tractor. We all watched the car burn, sitting next to mom's car. By the time the fire department got there, the car was only a lump of burned metal.

We had fought a good fight but could not put the fire out with what we had. I felt so bad for the family and my brother for he was drenched. His suit looked like he had been drug under the car for the last fifty miles.

My mom's car did not look good either. I think the fire got too close to her car. Instead of crying, Mom and my aunt laughed all the way home, even though they smelled as bad as my brother and I looked.

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I apologized to my Mom, my aunt and my brother for what had happened, but you know, I think that day was one of the best days of our lives. Yes, we lost the car, but we did save the barn. If we had not seen the fire, the family would have lost their barn, and maybe their home.

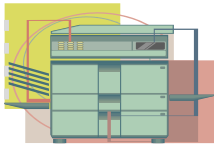
If we had gotten there a little sooner, we probably would never have seen the fire. If we had gotten there a little later, the fire would have already set the barn on fire, and no one would have been able to save it. God timed it just right!

HAPPY MOTHERS DAY, MOM!!!

**My mom died 26 years ago after a long and bitter fight with leukemia. If you still have your mother please show her some love on Mother's Day May 8, 2011.**

**LOVE AND COMPASSION MINISTRIES NEEDS:**

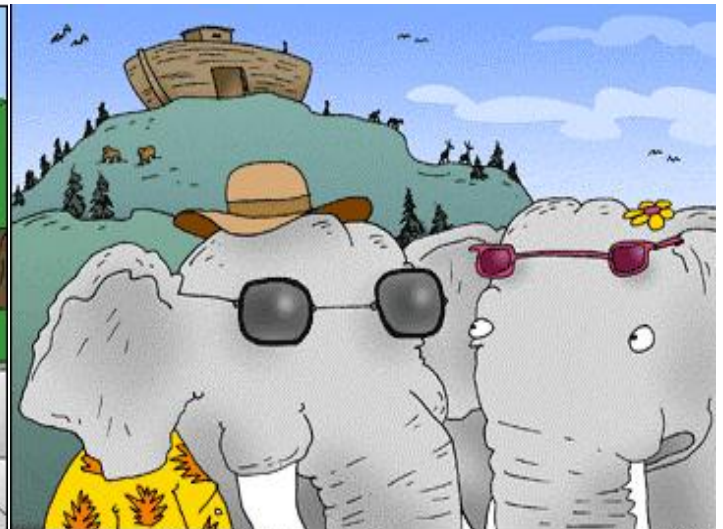
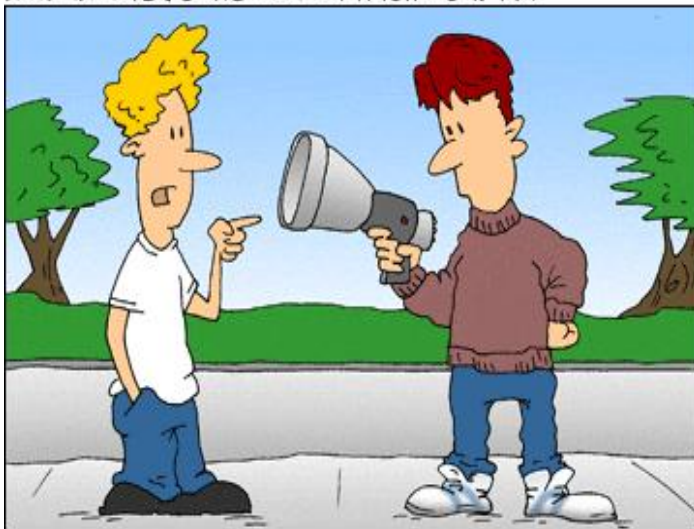
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06-20-2007 Thanks to Pam Winn (See Genesis 6-8)

05-07-2007

I REALLY DOUBT THAT MEGAPHONE IS GOING TO GET YOUR PRAYERS ANSWERED ANY FASTER

YES DEAR, IT WAS A FINE CRUISE, BUT I'M NOT KEEN ON DOING IT AGAIN

## LOVE AND COMPASSION MINISTRIES STREET OUT REACH MINISTRY

We would like to thank Pierce Bail Bonds for allowing us to hold evening dinners and fellowship with street people on their property at 3476 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, and providing us with the use of a huge cooker. Our latest get together was April 8th. About 45 people shared fellowship and dinner with us.



Rev. William Stewart has teamed up with Love And Compassion Ministries to take the Word of God along with hotdogs, hamburgers, chicken and all kinds of other good things to eat to the people on the street. Many street people who would never enter a Church building listened to the Word of God being taught at this get together.

**This is a ministry that is so needed!  
Outreach Ministry is having the  
Church come to the people.**



**We work with prisoners, ex-prisoners, homeless, and troubled youth every day, and we need your help! We are not affiliated with any church, religion, or other organization. We are not supported by the United Way or any government agency.**

**Please help us!**

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## Street Outreach Ministry



Gayla James, gospel recording artist, was kind enough to help feed the street people.



Part of our outreach team, Left to right: Van Wells, Rev. William Stewart, Dr. John Domino, June Rodrus, Tim Barnes, Tony Distaffen, Betty Bates, Torrey Husband. Not pictured, Kathy Jernkins, Gayla James, Marchel Jean-Simon, and Sally Stewart also helped.

### JOIN US IN PRAYER

We receive many prayer requests every day.  
Will you help us pray for some of these people?

A lady who tried to commit suicide and will be homeless

A 28 Year old man in jail for second DUI

Sara, in drug and alcohol program, for a closer walk with the Lord, and for her 3 sons

A lady graduating from drug and alcohol program for reconciliation with her family

For Nancy and her family as they desire to grow closer to the Lord

For the many drug and alcohol recovery programs with which we work

Danny, who burned bridges with his family and is now homeless

For many people in terrible need of jobs

Edna for good transportation



## Love And Compassion Ministries

Good Friends,

I have come to realize that many of the people I went to school with have died from illness or suicide. I am now working with a beautiful young lady who has tried to kill herself three times in a very short timeframe. Suicide is on the increase! A study by the National Institute for Healthcare Research indicates that divorced people are three times more likely to commit suicide as people who are married. The Institute says that divorce now ranks as the number one factor linked with suicide rates in major U.S. cities, ranking above all other physical, financial, and psychological factors.

Statistically, women are more likely to attempt suicide, but men are more likely to succeed.

### **Some of the signs that a person may be thinking about suicide:**

Giving away prized possessions.

Speaking about deep feelings for a person.

Increased drug or alcohol use.

Sleeping too much.

Withdrawing from friends.

Withdrawing from social activities.

Making out a will or funeral arrangements.

Loss of interest in personal appearance.

Risky behaviors.

Dwelling on death.

### **The most important and most alarming sign of suicide is in the words people use.**

I think it's time to end it all.

I think I may just check out.

I don't think I can take this any more.

Life isn't worth living anymore.

Life stinks and I'm tired of it.

I sometimes just want to die.

People are at greater risk to commit suicide if they have a close friend or family member who has committed suicide. They are at far greater risk to commit suicide if they have tried to do it before.

### **So what are we to do if we think someone is ready to commit suicide?**

We often shy away from confronting suicide because we believe that mentioning it might make a person start thinking about it.

If you see enough of the danger signs to be concerned there's a risk of suicide, you need to act. The quickest and most decisive way to deal with a risk of suicide is to ask about it -- directly! Simply ask, "Are you thinking about killing yourself?" If they are, get help right then.

If you're the one who's thinking about suicide, you need to get help now! Call the National Suicide Prevention Hotline at 1-800-273-8255. They are willing to listen.

Look, satan wants to destroy us, but God wants to give us life, and more abundantly. When someone is depressed it tells me that they need to accept the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior and then get busy doing His will, for seeing God work through you, helping people with no monetary motives, is a true depression breaker.

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:  
newsletter@LoveCompassion.com**

**We're on the Web!  
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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!