

Love and Compassion Ministries

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

September 1, 2011 In The Year of Our Lord

Volume 6, Issue 9

NEWSLETTER

Labor Day in the USA falls on the first Monday of September every year.

The holiday is often regarded as a day of rest. Forms of celebration include picnics, barbecues, fireworks displays, water sports, and public art events.

Monday September 5, 2011



The first Labor Day in the United States was observed on August 26, 1878, in Boston, by the Central Labor Union of New York, the nation's first integrated major trade union. It became a federal holiday in 1894, when, following the deaths of a number of workers at the hands of the U.S. military and U.S. Marshals during the Pullman Strike, President Grover Cleveland put reconciliation with the labor movement as a top political priority. Fearing further conflict, legislation making Labor Day a national holiday was rushed through Congress unanimously and signed into law a mere six days after the end of the strike.

GOD'S WORDS ABOUT LABOR

He says rest is appropriate. Genesis 2:2 And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done.

He says He will give us rest (love, healing, and peace with God). Matthew 11:28 Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

He says we should work to help others. Ephesians 4:28 Let him who stole, steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need.

He says we must work and not burden others. 2 Thessalonians 3:10 For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.

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Drug Program

When you look at an addicted person, you usually see a person who is not happy, who is lost, struggling, and ashamed of what they are doing to themselves, their families, and friends. Most think there is no way out for them. We work with many to get them into a Christ centered drug and alcohol recovery programs that will help them become free of their addictions.

PROBLEMS OF DRUG ADDICTION

I am so grateful that my kids were never introduced to drugs, and I am so glad that my parenting days are over. We have so many people living in Lee County who are in desperate need of an Alcohol or Drug Program. We see children at the age of 13 now on drugs. Many teenagers have been in detox several times in the past year or so and we see so many who are on prescription drugs. They are stealing from medicine cabinets or getting the drugs from friends who stole them.



Many of those on drugs are caught using in their own homes, and after several times getting caught, are told that they can no longer live at home. They have stolen everything of value from their parents and friends just to get that moment of pleasure.

Many who end up on hard core drugs started by raiding their parent's liquor cabinet. Then things moved up the ladder pretty fast from there to smoking marijuana. Finally, they progress to the "good stuff" on a daily basis.

The most trusting parents are the ones who are the easiest to take advantage of. Do you know how to tell when a drug addict is lying to you? If their lips are moving, they are lying to you! They will tell you some of the biggest stories you have ever heard, and you will believe them because you want to believe them. The rules you set and the rules you try to enforce mean nothing to a drug addict.

Many adults only use on weekends. They keep their addiction a secret. You would be very surprised to learn that they are drug addicts or even sellers. They hold down important jobs and make life changing decisions everyday under the influence of drugs. Teenage daughters of well-respected families many times will sell their bodies for drugs. Look, our families and our country are in chaos. And my heart cries out for the family members who will do anything to get their loved ones off drugs.

Many would never consider alcohol as a drug, but as surely as cocaine and marijuana are drugs, alcohol is also. For many of our country's young people, alcohol is the number one drug of choice. In fact, teens use alcohol more frequently and heavily than all other illicit drugs combined. While some parents may feel relieved that their teens are only drinking, it's important to remember that alcohol is a powerful, mood-altering drug. Not only can alcohol affect the mind and body in unpredictable ways, but teens lack the judgment and coping skills to handle alcohol wisely. Some of the catastrophic results of teen drinking include the lack of brain development. Heavy alcohol use can impair brain function in adolescents, causing, in many cases, irreversible damage. Many drug addicts tell me that alcohol was the first step in their addiction to marijuana and cocaine.



Drug and alcohol-related traffic accidents are a major cause of death and disability among teens. Drug and alcohol use also is linked with the deaths of young people by drowning, fire, suicide and homicide. Teens who use drugs and alcohol are more likely to become sexually active at earlier ages, and are more likely than others to be victims of violent crime, including rape, aggravated assault, and robbery. The message is clear; drug and alcohol use is very risky business for young people.

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WITH ALL THE PEER PRESSURE ISN'T THIS A GREAT TIME TO BE A TEENAGER?

If you love your children look closely at them. Eyes tell all. Are they glassy? Are your children losing weight? Is their skin pale, discolored, or do they have dark circles under the eyes, shaky hands, dropping grades? Do they have sudden mood changes, a rise in anger at family members? Are they avoiding conversations by giving short yes or no answers? Don't think your child is too young to be exposed to drugs.

If you think your son or daughter is using. Look under their mattresses, under dressers, under cabinets, or even attached to the back of the drawers. Many will hide drugs in their closets, in socks, inside pockets of clothes and jeans they never wear. When your loved ones do not want you to see their friends it's usually because they have something to hide.



Many teens get their drugs in parking lots of fast-food restaurants, superstores, gas stations, and movie theaters. Any place where lots of kids meet is a place you can bet will have drugs floating around. Giving your kids a random drug test is saying I love you. Look, if you care about your family members keep up with them. Keep track of their behavior and whereabouts. That means check your child's attendance record at school. Are they skipping school to go get high? Are they leaving early, arriving late, and sometimes not showing up at all? Are they forging notes from mom or stealing passes from the school office? Many will do without food to have money to spend on drugs, and I promise you, they would sell you if they could. So when things get to this point, where are people to turn?

IS THERE ANY HELP?

Many will turn to their trained health professional, often a doctor specializing in addiction medicine, to make an accurate diagnosis and prescribe the most appropriate treatment. Ultimately, the goal of any treatment method is long-term abstinence, and the necessary initial step to achieve this is the elimination of all opioids from the body.

Some people will rely on very expensive drug treatments such as using drug replacements. Many others will detox for a few days and then go into a drug program. The question is, will outpatient counseling be enough, or will it take long term, in-house alcohol and drug program.

Selecting a drug rehab center is one of the most important and difficult decisions you will make in your lifetime. Each drug rehab has its own program options, cost and effectiveness. The length of stay depends on the severity and age of the person. Many of the drug programs in the state of Florida charge thousands of dollars for every week one stays in the program. And many do not furnish meals at that price. So the questions of expense are:

What services does your health insurance cover?

What are the best programs available? and

What are you willing to spend to get your loved ones off drugs?

If you are seeking the best value for your treatment dollar, remember price can be meaningful only in the context of quality and performance. Also, remember that the cost of drug addiction, if not treated, can far exceed the cost of treatment.

The problem of treating drug addiction is neither simple nor straightforward. A person's entire biology and psychology play into addiction and dependence, and the threads that weave a tapestry of drug troubles are usually highly complex. But, without treatment many will end up in jail and or prison.

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RECOVERY, A TOUGH STEP!

Drug abuse and alcoholism affects the entire family, not just the addict. Quite often family members do not realize how deeply they have been affected by chemical dependency. Family involvement is an important component of recovery. I have been working with alcoholic and drug addicts for more than fifteen years now. I have heard the cries of mothers who are so grateful that they have found out that their son or daughter is now in jail. I have heard the cries of the addicted begging to be released from the demons of alcohol and drugs.

And yet, we have people who have been doing drugs for more than twenty years wanting that quick fix. They call asking for a 28 day program or maybe a 60 day program or less. They cannot see how they can spend 9 months or a year in recovery because they have family and job responsibilities. Although they have never fulfilled those responsibilities while they used drugs, they become too important to allow them to go into a recovery program. LCM teaches that there are no quick fixes for their drug abuse. Recovery is an ongoing process. The skills one learns during intensive rehabilitation treatment must be integrated into everyday life, and this takes time.

The decision to enter a drug rehab program can be a very difficult and painstaking process, but it must be the person on drugs, not their loved ones, who makes the decision to go into a program. They must be at a point in their life where they do not want to live like this anymore. It must be their decision. The problem is that when the person started doing drugs they lost control of their senses and an evil spirit took control of them. The drugs that cause these powerful highs causes changes in the brain, and greater amounts of the drug are required to feel the same effects. Change in areas of the brain responsible for impulse control, makes it harder to resist temptation. Many times people attempting to quit using drugs will go through withdrawal symptoms such as tiredness, depression, irritability, restlessness, hunger, insomnia, nightmares and even suicidal thoughts. Withdrawal symptoms, particularly cravings and depressed moods can endure for months.



MANY HAVE DONE IT!

Breaking free from drug addiction is tough, but doable. Research shows that participation in addiction treatment improves your odds of making a successful and lasting recovery, but my years of working with addicts has given me an insight into a world of healing and deliverance that only comes from our Lord and Savior. You see by His stripes we are healed! Isaiah 53:5

People need the Lord. The only true way for people to be delivered from drugs is by God. That is why we never recommend any drug program that is not Christ based, in-house, and long term. Love and Compassion Ministries works directly with many very wonderful Christian drug and alcohol programs. We believe that without Jesus Christ you cannot be delivered from your addictions.

Many times we go to court and ask the judge to allow a person to complete a drug program rather than go to prison. We do our own evaluations of people who desire to stop living under the bondage of alcohol and drugs, and help the ones who want change in their lives! We do all we can to make sure that when we recommend a person to a program that it is the right place, at the right time, and that the person will be able to complete the program. Love and Compassion Ministries makes all the arrangements for the entry, including transporting the person to the program.

What a joy to see the change in people's lives after completing a nine month, or more, in-house Christian drug program! All of our services and most of the programs are free to the clients. Please pray for the many great Christian Drug Programs that are working hard to help people on drugs and please pray for Love And Compassion Ministries. Thanks!

Hello God

Hello God, are you there?
I was told that you really care
True love I have never known
I've always felt as if I was alone
Hello God, are you there?
If so, please answer my prayer
My heart aches as if pierced with a knife
Is loneliness all there is to life?
All my nights are filled with tears
All my days are filled with fears
Hello God, are you there?
Is it true that all my burdens you will share?
Can it be that you are the reason why
That when I should have, I did not die
When the Bible I began to read
For you I felt the need
Now life's troubles I can bare
Because I know... Yes, God you are there!

Author Unknown

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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



A LETTER FROM A FRIEND

July 28, 2011

Dear Readers, my name is Henry Brown, I have lived in Fort Myers, Florida, since the middle 60's, so what I am about to share with you is not something some one has told me, it is from first hand experience.

I first became involved with Pastor Ron Willis and Love And Compassion Ministries around 1988. I was an inmate at the Lee County Jail, where Ron and Pastor Holbrook were doing Bible studies and handing out spiritual material to all inmates who were interested.

At that time, I was ready to believe that God's purpose for my life was to be a part of Love And Compassion Ministries. Something about those two men, and how God used them touched my heart, but unfortunately I continued to live a lifestyle of sin. Some years later I became a part of the ministry as a volunteer, and I really loved what God was doing in my life through this ministry and Pastor Willis. Again I continued to live my life as though it was mine, and I paid the price for my decisions over the next few years.

In 2010 I moved to Apache Junction, Arizona where I now reside. Before I got on the bus to make this journey, I purposed in my heart to, this time, accept Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. It finally dawned on me what was missing from my life all the other times that I attempted to "find" Jesus. This time it finally hit me, I was the one lost, not Jesus.

I had been unemployed for about 3 years before I arrived in Apache Junction, but less than 3 weeks after coming here, I became employed at Burger King (this is another story that I may tell later).

I write this to say that if it had not been for the love and compassion I received from God through Love And Compassion Ministries, and those two men (and others along the way), I would still be wandering around in the desert just as my brothers and sisters before me.

This ministry is in desperate need of your support. Mine is only one story of how this ministry has helped so many improve their quality of life by introducing them to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

I have now allowed Jesus to be Lord over all, and one thing I have learned, in these last nine months since I've arrived in Arizona, is that God does not work on our time table, and He will let you live the life you choose. I made the decision to believe what God says He has for my life, and if you have not done so at this time, I am praying that you soon do. Thank you and May God bless you and yours.

Sincerely,

Henry Brown

Love Compassion Ministries

Dear Friends,

I love my Lord so much. I want to be more and do more for God. I want to tell everyone that the kingdom of Heaven is at hand. I want to heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils and as I have freely received I want to freely give. (Matthew 10)

We all know people who go through the motions of being religious, but Jesus said it's not the external things that are important; it's what's inside that counts. When Jesus was walking on this earth, the Pharisees were masters of creating a good looking exterior, but inside they were dead. If you went to church with them, they would attend church every Sunday, arrive on time, carry their Bibles, and probably tithe. None of them would ever swear, drink or commit adultery. Yet all would go straight to hell upon their death.

Our righteousness must be more than what people see from a distance. It can't be just on the outside; our righteousness must also be on the inside. You have to have a clean heart, not just a clean shirt. A man is not a sinner because he sins. He sins because he's a sinner. A man isn't a liar because he lies. He lies because he's a liar. Our actions come from our hearts.

Are you becoming self-righteous? Do you wish to be more like Christ? Are you seeking the Lord Jesus Christ or this world? Do you have bitterness in your heart? Is there a feeling of resentment that settles in your heart when you feel someone did you wrong? Do you fly off the handle, throw things, slam doors, shout and pound fists? Do you speak evil about others? Do you say wicked, hateful things? Do you tell your spouse that you wish you had never married them, or tell your children they will never amount to anything? If so, you need to strengthen your walk with Jesus Christ, or ask God to forgive you of your sins and accept His gift of salvation.

Look none of us can ever be good enough or have enough righteousness in our lives to be acceptable to God. We are sinners. If we weren't, Christ would not have had to die on the cross for our sins. You see, all our self righteousness is like filthy rags in the eyes of God (Isaiah 64:6). Real righteousness is that which is imputed to us by God.

When Jesus died on the cross, He paid the debt for your sins and mine. In that act, He imputed His righteousness to us. God credits Christ's righteousness to our account. We don't deserve it. It's not because of anything we did. It's by God's grace. The penalty has been paid. He allows us the opportunity to accept salvation, and upon accepting that gift of salvation, God gives us a new nature. You've been made new, and the Holy Spirit has taken residence within you to guide and direct your steps.

If you have never accepted this gift of salvation, today is the day to do so. If you have accepted this gift, today is the day you need to get busy for the Lord. Call me, I would love to help you either way.

In the Presence of our Lord,

Ron Willis

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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!