



Love INC
Love In the Name of Christ

Helping Churches Help people

December 2009

It's really tough out there

I'd like to first remind you & myself, to count our blessings! For those of us who still have our homes, our cars, food in the freezer and shelves, heat, and our jobs, we are blessed. It's so easy to take for granted all we are blessed with. Every day we are getting calls, more and more families, single moms struggling to keep the electricity bill paid, keep enough food in the shelves for her kids, families who once were doing good who now have someone with an illness they are battling and it is taking much of their resources. One family in particular really broke our hearts this month. The mom and dad are working, just got their own home and have three boys. The oldest is about 14 and they just found out he has been diagnosed with bone cancer. They are spending a lot of time at doctor's appointments, the hospital, and it takes away from the hours they get paid at work, and it's harder and harder to make ends meet. Cont.....pg 4

We are God's "Pay It Forward" Community

"Pastor Paul Scanlon shared, "The local church is the best idea God ever had! We are God's "pay it forward" community, we are His overflow, His expression, His smile, and His address in town. Sadly, many churches don't realize this and as a result, millions within reach of God's house die in the sorrow of their own houses, never recognizing Jesus through the disguise of religion and irrelevancy many churches wear." He shared how his church was trapped in what seemed like an endless cycle of looking after what could only be described as "high maintenance, overfed, and under-exercised Christians. High-maintenance Christians are one of the devil's best-kept secrets in his plan to neutralize the church. These are some of the nicest people you will ever meet, and therein lies the problem! Pastors all over the world are at a loss to describe what's missing in their churches and ministries, and they don't want to appear restless or negative by saying so. When everyone is so happy, loving friendly and blessed, who wants to announce that we are dying? Many Churches have the theology and language about reaching the lost but were not actually reaching anyone. Most had become an inward-looking religious club, and in their comfort and blessing had lost sight of God's heart for others who were still missing and hurting. Pastor Paul said, "We are leaving the 99 in the 99 referring to Jesus who left the 99 for the one lost sheep. The church can no longer be the first priority, but that our priority must become for others. God's heart for the lost had found Pastor Scanlon's heart.

Getting the local church to reach their communities is still for him the greatest battle we face across the church in the world today. Maybe as pastors we will have to be willing to lose hundreds to gain thousands and even thousands to gain millions. Stunning in its simplicity, and profound because of the insight it gives into Jesus priorities and driving force was that Jesus looked into the eyes of all those blessed people and simply said, "I can't stay here with you any longer because I was sent to reach others, others, others! See Luke 4:43 It's all about others.

For generations the church, like the people of Capernaum, has been trying to keep Jesus to itself, and for generations Jesus has been trying to leave comfortable Christianity to continue reaching others. This fundamental misunderstanding about what matters most to God is at the heart of the churches failure to impact a hurting world.

We are blessed to be a blessing; we are saved to seek and save others. We are healed to heal, forgiven to forgive, and we are loved to join God's great Love Revolution. It's is not about me, us, ours, me or mine. It has always been about others.

The Apostle Paul said that even the comfort we receive from God does not belong to us alone: "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows to others. 2 Cor 1:3-5"excepts taken from Joyce Meyers "Love Revolution" book

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Our mission is to mobilize the Church to transform lives and communities In the Name of Christ.

Board of Directors

Ministry Update December 2009

*Sharon Colyn Tacoma Christian Reformed
Community Church
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*Jeff Ott CenterPoint Christian Fellowship
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*Pastor Mike Boisture Puyallup Nazarene
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*Keith Miller Graham Evangelical Covenant
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Table Hosts needed for our Annual January 22nd Fundraiser

We are in the process of recruiting 50 Table Hosts for our Annual Fundraiser. This event is crucial to helping us raise the funds we need to operate in 2010. Will you consider being a host? A host will be given a packet of information and invitations that you personally give to enough people to fill a table of 8. There is no charge to you or your guests. We are trying to get event sponsors to cover the cost of providing for the food or refreshments.

Our theme this year is "Reflecting Christ's Glory". Please contact Sherry Phinisey at 253-468-6236 or email her at shephinisey@aol.com if you'd be willing to partner with us and fill a table. It would be awesome to have each church host one or more tables and we would fill the Puyallup Fair Expo Hall with the body of Christ from every denomination, truly Reflecting Christ's Glory for our community.

"And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into His likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit." 2 Corinthians 3:18

Contact us below:

www.loveincpiercecounty.org
Client Referral # 253-531-2366

www.lovestreasury.com
253-301-9752

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

"If your Church Leadership team would like to network with other area churches please give Sherry Phinisey a call 253-468-6236 and we will come talk to your ministry team about ways we can work together to make a far greater "Kingdom" impact on our community together than any one church can make alone."

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Dear Love INC Supporters,

Thank you for your continued support. We on the Board are now looking toward our fundraiser in January. Some of you have been to this annual function several times. We are counting on many of you to agree to invite family, friends and neighbors to attend and support us. Recently I spent some time in the office and heard the staff as they interviewed and talked with clients who were in need of rent help, utility help or food. We are so blessed to have caring and compassionate staff talk to these clients and encourage them. They truly reflect the love of Christ. We need your help to keep these staff paid for their hours of work. Many of them volunteer hours also. My prayer in these coming weeks is that we will hear from many of you as you commit to this ministry. Thank you so much!

Sharon Colyn
Board President

If you are looking for custom made jewelry for your Christmas giving, please come see our display of semi-precious earrings and necklaces at Love's Treasury!
100 percent of the sales goes to support the ministry.





Love's Treasury

Love INC's pre-owned Christian Book & Gifts!

The store is set up and ready for shoppers! Please come support the ministry by purchasing pre-owned books or custom made jewelry!

Please bring your treasury of Christian books that you have used and no longer are reading to our office to share with someone else, and at the same time, helping us to help those in need who call us for help. Our office is open Monday – Thursday 9:30 a.m.-3:00p.m. in Lakewood at 9116 Gravelly Lake Dr. S.W. # B4 Lakewood WA 98499.

If that is too far, maybe you are from the east side of the county, call Sherry at 253-468-6236 for an address in the Puyallup School District area and she will give you another address you can use.

Maybe your church can hold a book drive and collect them at your church! Then one person can deliver them all to us. I just know there are thousands of books on shelves not being used anymore that were very helping in bringing people closer to God because I have met so many awesome Christians who are growing in the Lord all the time!

It's tough out there continued from page 1

Blessed to be a blessing

Rent and mortgage help this month in particular through agencies has about dried up. There aren't really any places to get pledges for mortgages unless it's our churches. Many of them have members themselves who are struggling too. We had 9 churches this year reduce the giving they gave us to support our expenses, but there is strength in numbers, praise God and 19 churches increased their giving over what they gave last year to help us with the increasing number of families in need and to get us moved into the bigger office with more phone lines to help the increasing numbers of people. . Thank you Lord for touching their hearts and making a way for them to help.

We have really seen an increase in families referred to us by Associated Ministries, who is administering utility assistance from one of the utility company grants I believe. With their guidelines, they can't help families that make under a certain amount of money in their income, or families who have already been helped in the year through another agency, Metropolitan Development Council because both of their funds I guess come from the same source. Just this week as I write this, we had a number of callers back to back who said they can't get help with their utilities from Associated Ministries so they referred them to us.

When Love INC started in 2002 I was actually told Associated Ministries doesn't help with rent or utility assistance. That was and is what the majority of our calls are for. It's good to see they have added some utility administration help from agency funds, the needs are so great and no one place can meet them all. Together we can do so much more than any one of us alone!

Love INC Announcements

Sherry is looking for a couple cheerful, friendly volunteers who can work at the bookstore Monday – Thursday and greet guests as they come in and help sell our books and jewelry.

If this is something you can help with over the holidays please email Sherry at shephinisey@aol.com or call her 253-468-6236

Judy in our clearinghouse center needs volunteers to help in the following areas:

Receptionists: Taking phone calls and writing up information for our intake advisors to follow up on.

Caring Card writers: people who will come in and write encouraging notes on our premade cards to send to clients who are struggling.

Data entry volunteers who can help key in client information into our online database so that churches have up to date information of needs and who is being helped.

Sarah and Lisa would love to have help with doing the intakes for clients. This is one of the hardest jobs, talking to clients as they talk about what is going on and what help they are looking for. If you are one who likes giving people advice all the time, (and that's a good thing here...)

Sherry is looking for helpers to help be at the bookstore desk to sell books when clients come in. Interested? Email her at shephinisey@aol.com

Love INC

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www.lovestreasury.com

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Return Service Requested

**Yes, I will help meet the financial needs of Love In The Name of Christ as indicated below:*

\$25___ \$50___ \$100___ \$250___ \$500___ Other \$_____

Your Name _____

Email address: _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Donations can now be made directly on our website at www.loveincpiercecouny.org

OR

Please fill out the coupon and return it with your TAX DEDUCTIBLE financial gift to the address below:

Kindly make checks payable to Love INC and mail to:

Love INC, 9116 Gravelly Lake Dr. S.W. Lakewood, WA 98499

Thank You, for being an answer to prayer! Love In the Name of Christ is a 501 (c) 3 corporation and your contributions are completely tax deductible. You will receive a tax receipt letter thanking you for your gift!