



Love INC
Love In the Name of Christ

Helping Churches Help people

February 2010

It's a ministry Of hearts

It's a ministry, when you can take care of hearts, while taking care of business. *It's hard to be held responsible for everyone's heart that we come in contact with. Ministry is about relationships and relationships are time intensive. The condition of each person's heart is so different Sometimes it's a huge balancing act. Every client's heart is affected by their crisis, their emergency. God entrusts that heart to us. Every volunteer has a different reason for volunteering. We build relationships with each volunteer and they entrust their hearts to us. When a person gives financially to build this ministry and help us help those in need they send a part of their heart each time they sign a check. That the money they give is handled with wisdom and integrity. To everyone who gets involved we build relationships & sometimes people move on for various reasons. We lost a few volunteers when we moved farther away to the new larger office in Lakewood. When they leave a little part of us leaves with them. We have invested our lives into theirs as they invested their lives into the ministry.*

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Reflecting Christ's Glory Imitating is not Reflection

When thinking about our Theme, Reflecting Christ's Glory I believe God shared a picture with me to help explain His Heart to us, if we are truly to Reflect His Glory to the World around us. I have this picture in my "Be Still and KNOW that I am God room" On the picture is majestic, Mt. Rainier, bright blue sky, snow covered peaks and in front of it is a Lake and in that Lake you see the perfect reflection of Mt Rainier. God was showing me that to reflect the mountain, the Lake had to be very close to the source it was to reflect. The same goes for us. We have to be extremely close to God personally to truly reflect Him, to reflect Jesus to the world around us. The Lake can't be far away and out of view of the mountain, and reflect it, just because someone said how beautiful the Mountain was.....it's not just head knowledge that can create the Reflection. It's being near, next to the Source. We can try to imitate something we have knowledge of, but imitating is not the same as reflection.

I have been obsessed in ways, to be near to the heart of God. I often ask God in prayer what is on His heart..... and spend focused time listening to Him. You hear a lot of sermons on prayer....but rarely if ever have I heard one on Listening to God in prayer. I've brought it up to a pastor or two and got comments like, there is just so many things to teach on, we can't hit them all, maybe, but how can people be a follower of someone if you never spend the time listening to what they are trying to speak to your heart?

Listening prayer ~ some call it contemplative prayer. It's practicing God's presence. A discipline that gives God time and access to work in our inner person. Changing our attitudes & heart to reflect his attitudes & heart that ultimately drive us. We sense our role in God's plan & start to live out the heart of God. God communicates his blessings to others, through us. Listening prayer is a place to delight in God. I find myself hungry for God and trying to run off for solitude. God becomes real in us. God never leaves us. Prayer becomes a meeting of the hearts as I rest in God's presence.

Living from the heart of God teaches you to see people as Jesus saw them. Listening prayer is rooted in scripture. You can hear God when you are listening and many times He brings a scripture to you that you heard Him speak as you read through your bible.

Have you heard God's voice lately? Who's voice have you been listening to?

As we reflect Christ's glory by being His hands, feet and help to those in need around us I wanted to share some of the situations that came in to us recently. You'll find some examples on pages 4 and 5. The needs are much greater than seems the resources available to meet those needs. Please keep us and the families in your prayers.

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

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Ministry Update February 2010

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Psalms 105:1

**Oh, give thanks to the Lord!
Call upon His name; make known His
deeds among the peoples**

Contact us below:

www.lovein Piercecounty.org
Client Referral # 253-531-2366
Monday – Thursday 9:30-4:00 p.m.
Phone referrals only

www.lovestreasury.com
253-301-9752
Monday – Thursday 9:30-4:00 p.m.
9116 Gravelly Lake Dr. SW # B4
Lakewood, WA
98499+ +++++



Love's Treasury

Have you read any good books lately? We have thousands at our new Pre-Owned Christian Bookstore at 9116 Gravelly Lake Dr. SW # B4 in Lakewood. The bookstore is open during our regularly Love INC office hours Monday through Thursday from 9:30-4:00 p.m.

We also have our 2nd hand Christian books online at www.lovestreasury.com You can purchase them online and choose whether you'd like to pick them up or have us ship them to you! You can't beat the prices! \$2.00 for softcover books and \$4.00 for the hardcover books! We have a special set of Zondervan commentaries that are over 130 years old that you can look at that sell for a special price. We have all the "Left Behind Series" books, Jan Karon, Karen Kingsbury. Authors like Billy Graham, Max Lucado, Charles Swindoll, Bill Hybels, Beth More and Kay Arthur to name a few. We have one section just on Devotional books!

Is your church looking for a service project? Maybe you'd consider a used Christian Book drive to help stock our shelves. This is one of the ways we are trying to have a revenue stream to support the expenses of the ministry.

We are also looking to expand to a stand alone site. If you know of someone who would like to partner with us and has a commercial site in East Pierce County that can be donated for our use please contact Sherry at 253-468-6236 or email me at shephinisey@aol.com.



"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."



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. She'd also like to find some energetic people full of ideas to be a part of our *fundraising committee for 2010*.

If this is something you can help with 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.

Phone Angels are people who like talking, and who can just follow-up with some of our clients who just need someone to talk with once in a while. You don't find resources or aren't asked from us to help meet needs, they all come back to the phone center, but just to call some of our clients once in a while to let them know someone is thinking about them and cares that they aren't lonely and alone.

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...)

Calling willing churches to do a "Christian book drive" sometime this year to help Love INC collect books to sell in our resale store to help us raise money

Who's Calling for Help?

Names have been changed to protect client privacy, but we wanted to share what kinds of families are calling and what their needs are.

Debra has 19 & 17 year old daughters. She is on long term disability with a motor-neuro disease but they are telling her she needs to return to work. She needed help paying her 595.00 rent. She told us she currently has no income. We referred her to Phoenix Housing and the Salvation Army. When we called her back on our follow up call she did start working again, but said she is still struggling.

Brian called asking for help because he said they had to take a week off during Christmas week and so his check is short for his January rent. He's happened to call us 4 times this year with various reasons he can't pay his rent. He only has to pay \$ 50.00 but we got him church help in August and July. We didn't find him rental assistance in December. Told him the resources are few and many people are calling in and he'd already been helped twice in the past 6 months.

A girl called for her and a guy asking for \$500 to try to find an apt. She said They'd been homeless 5 weeks and that her parents are keeping her son. We referred them to Phoenix Housing for transitional assistance but didn't try to get money from the churches. The intake advisor discerned there appeared to be issues they wouldn't tell us about so we decided to just refer to an agency who does face to face screening and placement. We did pray with her.

Betty said she was laid off for over 2 years. She was asking for \$1295.00 in rental assistance. She's been living off her \$791 unemployment check and 386.00 she gets from her sons social security disability check . She said she had applied for section 8 and received some kind of 6 month stimulus package. She mentioned she was an evangelist and travels from church to church but left the last church because of a problem with the pastor. We actually had a file on her back to 2005, 2007. From previous info she's been at the same church in 05-07, but in 2009 she mentioned going from church to church. She would not allow us to verify information with her landlord so we were unable to give her any new resources she hadn't already used.

Terry called asking if we knew of any source for wood. It was he his wife and a teenager in the home. They currently were only making about \$1000 a month on his income. It was their only source of heat they said. We sent an email to the churches and was able to connect them with a person who donated the wood! Praise God

Continued on next page...

Luke called to say he and his wife just graduated from the transitional program with the Christian Bikers Tabernacle. He said he and his wife were both in service activities at their church and were ready to move out on their own again. They had been clean and sober for over a year. They didn't have any furniture so were calling to see if we had any beds and dressers they could have. They came by the storehouse the following weekend and not only got two beds and a dresser, but were also given nice sheets wrapped in ribbons, hand made quilts and blankets as well. When they saw the sheets and the quilts they were so excited and just thanked us profusely for blessing them with such beautiful things.

A church in Graham called to see if we had any extra beds because they were opening up a transitional house and had no furniture. We gave them the rest of our single beds, three I think, a coffee table and a few odds and ends. They also picked out sheets, blankets and pillows to help furnish the home.

Annie called, said her husband was laid off and they were just trying to stay afloat. She was asking for help with her utilities bill that was about \$160.00 . After verifying with the owner the amount to keep it from being shut off was \$ 137. He was willing to work with the family so we were able to call two churches who made pledges to cover the \$137. Praise God!

Sue called, had to get the car out of impound and get it towed home. After paying for that she didn't have enough money to pay her \$117.37 utility bill. After verifying with the utility company and the amount to keep it from being shut off was only \$50.12 we were able to find a church to pledge the money and keep her lights on. Praise God again!

Bob called, said his wife is in jail for 9 more years, and his hours were cut from 40 to 20 till after the first of the year and he was asking for \$400 to help with his rent payment for him and his 13 year old daughter. After verifying with the Landlord we were able to call two churches and one agency and were able to help him with 325.00 of the need. Praise God

In December and January many agencies were out of money to help people. We had many more needs than we were able to help with, but we at least made a difference, just like the boy who through the starfish back in the water, with the ones we were able to help.

We will need to raise over \$200,000 this year to operate our clearinghouse that helps over 3300 families per year. We rely totally on donations and the income from our new bookstore to run the ministry. If you'd be willing to partner with us and help with a donation to cover these expenses please return the information below along with your check. You can also make a donation online at our website at www.loveincpiercecouny.org through the pay pal service and it will come directly to us, no postage! We look forward to serving the families with you.

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

*Special gift of \$25___ \$50___ \$100___ \$250___ \$500___ Other \$_____ or
_____ monthly donation. Love INC can send you a reminder in the mail.
_____ Join our new Twenty something club and pledge to send twenty
something dollars a month! We can send you a reminder for this too or you
can pay by credit card # _____ Expdate_____*

Your Name _____

Email address: _____

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*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! 2/2010*