

Love-Lift Ministries

Fall 2006 Newsletter

Delivering God's Love Since 1977



AUTUMN is the time when blazing colors of red, yellow and orange bring their cheerful blessings to the landscape. That is if you live where trees shed their leaves and nostalgically announce a change in the season.

A missionary journey

My husband, Philip, and I have recently returned from a place where the colors of red and orange glorified the landscape, but not one falling leaf was seen. Here the Navaho people live in a land where trees are few and far between, and those seen are sagebrush grey and unchanging evergreen all year long.

Traveling on a mission trip to New Mexico and Arizona, the colors we reveled in early this Fall were the more subtle shades seen in the red rock mesas, and the glorious canyons. Here on the reservation, what changes as winter approaches is not the blazing red and orange colors of Autumn trees, but the gathering freezes, and the oncoming long dark nights when any

sign of cheer is a welcome relief to the starkness of daily life.

The people we visited will face their freezing nights and bitter cold days this winter without a forced air furnace to warm their homes. Natural gas pipe lines are miles away, just as water pipe lines are miles away from home. Firewood, coal, and propane (for those who can afford it) must suffice.

Last winter not far from one of the churches where we visited in Pinedale, New Mexico, a middle aged widow lived alone. No one was there



No one cared.

to see that her needs for fuel and other necessities were known. No one cared! She was found one winter day frozen to death in her small home. The pastor of the nearby church mourned for the life of someone who could have been saved had someone known, had someone cared. 'If only we had known in time we would have been blessed to have helped her!' said this pastor. So near and yet so far from salvation and the support system she would have enjoyed had she been involved with the church-going Christians in her community.

Christians are not alone

Contrast that tragedy with the story of Elizabeth, a Christian lady. Like the lady who perished alone, she is also a widow. But she is not alone. She is connected to a gospel church where the pastor and the people know her and care about her. She has coal to burn to warm her small home. And she has the living Word of God in her Navaho language to comfort and encourage her when life seems difficult.

Pastors are love-lifters too

Pastors in this barren land care about people like Elizabeth. Why else would they struggle to carry on year after year in these little churches where the needs, spiritual and economic, are so



Elizabeth has love and care.

overwhelming? Why would they rise early on Sunday mornings and travel miles on muddy or dusty roads to pick up people open to the Gospel and needing a “lift” to church? These too are Love-Lifters.



The Good Shepherd shows the way.

Sacrificial Love

Another story told us touched my heart. Again, last winter, near one of the churches, an old shepherd watched the sky as the red sun began to set. He had been tending his flock of sheep and goats all day. But now it was time to gather them in and head for home. Wait! One of his sheep was missing. Leaving the flock he headed out into the cold desert to search for the missing sheep. In the intensity of his search the shepherd forgot time. Darkness covered the wide open spaces. The shepherd looking for his lost sheep became lost himself. He was found the next morning frozen to death just fifteen feet from the road, the familiar road leading to his home.

Our Shepherd did not become lost in His search for us. But he did lay down his life in order to show us the way home, the way to eternal life. The Lord’s example of sacrificial love is the pattern our ministry follows.

Meeting the pastors

Early this year in October we packed our aging 1983 twenty-three foot motor home completely filled to the ceiling with your gifts for delivery to the Navaho people.

Meeting with the missionary pastors was an experience we will never forget! Their dedicated labor for God humbles us. Seeing the native people and worshipping with them on Sunday and Wednesday evening was an experience we cherish.

Churches Receive Gifts

How can we forget the first Sunday Service in Navaholand! We had arrived on Saturday night just before an outrageously beautiful sun had, set on the distant horizon. With the help of the pastor, and other love-lifters, we worked for two hours unloading your gifts into the church storage areas.

From this church in Pinedale, New Mexico, fifteen other churches in more remote areas will be blessed as the loads are redistributed. These are churches which had never had before received a love-lift showing them that Christian people unknown to them care about connecting with them to lift them up and encourage their walk with Christ.

Monday, after the BBQ

A special surprise at Pinedale was an outdoor BBQ cooked over a wood fire, and served after the morning worship time. A sheep, not a lamb, was butchered the night before. I was not brave enough to sample the roasted sheep entrails, but Philip thought this was OK. “You must close your mind to what you are eating,” he said. “Then you open your mind to experience a culture different from your own traditions.”

The next day, Monday, the Pinedale pastor and his wife took us on an all day, 450-mile roundtrip to meet some of the pastors and leaders of the churches where the Love-Lift will bless the people this Christmas.

This too, is the gospel

Some have asked me, how can filling a child’s Christmas stocking or personal care gift-bag for a teen or adult, or knitting a warm stocking hat, or stuffing a little girl’s hand-sewn dressed cloth doll, or tying a colorful sewn quilt, or preparing large plastic bags filled with a variety of gifts for missionary pastors, or gathering a layette for a young mother and



Thank you for caring



Arizona Highway — visiting the churches.

her newborn baby, or any of the other fourfold project areas of Love-Lift Ministries "Christmas All Year Long" administer the Gospel? How can working in this way bring the Gospel of eternal salvation to God's beloved poor?

In the many desert places of this troubled world, far from our affluent urban communities, live people with extremely limited resources and overwhelming needs. Into these scorched and empty places, and into the freezing cold and dark winter places the Lord has sent his ministers to preach his Word to the poor.

Who are these Christian leaders, reaching out to their small unrecognized communities? Who cares about their struggle as they offer, with so little reward, God-given love for their people? These leaders must sometimes wonder, 'Does anyone know what this is like? Does anyone care about what we are doing?'

The mission and vision of Love-Lift Ministries is to lift up and encourage Christian leaders and missionaries and indigenous pastors on the mission field so they can bless the people in their congregations, and reach out to their communities with the amazing love of God. The ordinary items we take for granted are sometimes luxuries to people who have limited resources. With your help, missionaries and local pastors can offer gifts to their communities which say, "Someone you will never know this side of eternity cares about your personal needs and desires to bless you." In this way the leader is blessed and is able to offer material gifts as a way to reach out to people both in and out of the church community.

Your gifts offer encouragement, touching the very heart and soul of people in ways reaching far beyond material gifts. Everyone needs love and encouragement. The dedicated

Love-Lift volunteers who work at our warehouse every week all year long without any salary or reward other than the blessing of serving God's beloved poor—these, too, need love and encouragement. The caring people who volunteer to work in their own homes or churches need to be lifted up. Your support encourages them, and enables them to continue on.

I am regularly surprised by the unexpected support we receive from unexpected people and places. Just when our financial resources appear to be falling away, along comes someone, or some group, to lift us up on our feet again. These are the people who understand the twenty-nine year old miracle of Love-Lift Ministries, and who have heard God's call to help.

We are not for everyone. But we are here to bless those who share our vision by offering an opportunity to minister and lift up the Gospel banner of God's love. Without the financial help we humbly ask to receive we could not continue our work. We could not in our last ministry year of 2005 to 2006 have prepared and delivered the over 7,000 personal care bags and the many hundreds of bags of larger gift items especially made up for church pastors in 195 mission churches. This is a miracle in my view!

Thank you to all who have helped us financially sometime since 1977 when we began. And thank you also to those of you who have considered helping again. Maybe now is the time to reach out and lift us up financially, or by volunteering time and labor. Are you blessed to be a blessing?

However you respond, we at Love-Lift Ministries wish each one of you the loveliest and sweetest of Christmas holidays. Since you are on our mailing list you must have touched our lives at one time, in some way.

Marilyn Kunde
Founder & Director
Love-Lift Ministries

P.S. Check out our web site at www.love-lift.org



Does anyone know and care about what we're doing?

LOVE-LIFT UPDATE -FALL 2006
by Marilyn Kunde

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Return Service Requested

If you have changed your address, please advise us. It costs us \$0.39 for every letter returned to us.

If you wish to be removed from our mailing list, please advise us by sending us your name. Thanks.

NEEDS FOR THE MINISTRY

- God's guidance, protection, and strength to endure
- Financial help to meet our rent and utilities (\$2000) each month
- Financial help to purchase the items we use to fill 400 to 500 gift bags each month
- Additional volunteers to work at our facility, or in your home or group

THE LOVE-LIFT MISSION

Our mission is to build up each missionary, each pastor, each congregation, each Christian school, each Bible school, each orphanage, and every Christian, and potential Christian that God has given us an opportunity to touch.

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