

Love-Lift Ministries

Fall 2007 Newsletter

Delivering God's Love Since 1977



In the eighteenth century, two-hundred years ago, Johnny Appleseed taught America a lesson which every schoolchild knows: Set out on a journey, plant the seeds of something good - in his case apple seeds - and in time the seeds will grow and bless many people even into the next generations. Today's school books do not tell "the rest of the story." John Chapman, aka: Johnny Appleseed, was a traveling evangelist who taught and lived the Gospel of God's love, as well as planting apple trees wherever he went in the newly emerging nation.

In 1977 seeds were planted and a journey began. This Autumn, as we at Love-Lift Ministries get ready to celebrate Christmas 2007, I think back thirty years to Christmas 1977. It was the year our journey was begun, and "seeds" were planted.

Where were you in 1977 and what were you doing?

1977 was the year Jimmy Carter succeeded Gerald Ford as our 39th U.S. President.

It was the year American idol, Elvis Presley, died at age 42 in his home at Graceland.

It was the year that the TV series "Roots" was aired, awakening America to the historical evil of African slavery. In America in 1977: Gasoline was 65 cents a gallon, average rent was \$240 a month, a BMW automobile was priced at \$7,990, and the average annual income was \$15,000.

And in 1977 Debbie Boone recorded her beautiful song, "You light up my life," which was on the top of the sales charts for weeks. The words of the refrain help us tell the story of unknown thousands of people who have been lifted up in the name of the Lord through people like you:

You light up my life – You give me hope – to carry on...

Love-Lift Ministries began in 1977 at NMCC as a Women's Ministries sewing circle whose purpose was to create a variety of items such as beautiful quilts, pillows, stuffed dolls and toys, and other crafts which were given out at Christmas time

as gifts to missionary families home on furlough from their various worldwide fields of missionary service. It was my prayer that through giving these gifts to missionaries we in some way lifted them up and encouraged them to "carry on."

I began this sewing circle when I saw a need not only to bless the visiting missionaries, but to bless the women of our church by giving them an opportunity to work for the Lord. We began with only myself and three interested ladies. We called ourselves the Dorcas Womens' Sewing Circle after the New Testament lady who sewed garments for the poor. See Acts: chapter nine.

Our purpose in 1977, and our purpose still is, to lift-up and encourage Christian outreach leaders. We believed then, and we believe now, that by lifting up and blessing leaders we are empowering just those men and women whose outspoken love for people - especially poor and needy people - makes them truly effective ministers of God's love.

As our Dorcas Sewing Group expanded in vision and scope we changed the name to Love-Lift Ministries. Twenty-six years later, in 2003, Love-Lift Ministries became fully incorporated as a California non-profit charitable organization recognized by California and the Federal Government. We now operate from our own workshop and warehouse facility located at 3417 W. MacArthur Blvd., Santa Ana, California 92704 - phone: (714) 751-2683. A core of dedicated volunteer workers now keep busy at our warehouse all year long, not just at Christmas time.

In addition, other volunteer groups and individuals work at their own churches, or at their own homes, near us, or across America - some as far away as the East Coast of the USA. Thank you so very much each of you who worked with such dedication to encourage us in our outreach. We are all workers together, with Christ as our example.

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One of the ways Love-Lift Ministries is able to reach as many locations of service as we do - 160 churches last year - is that we focus on developing a relationship with leaders-of-leaders. These Christian leaders are men and women who have a vision for creating an informal fellowship of like-minded pastors who meet together from time-to-time at a central location to conference and encourage each other in the work of the Lord. Pastoring small churches, many in isolated rural areas and far removed from larger communities, can be a lonely way of life. Love-Lift Ministries is passionate about bringing hope and the light of God's love to these often forgotten pastors and missionaries so they are able to "carry on." During our thirty years I have listened as leaders in some of these places pour out their hearts. They speak about their plans and their vision, but also about their discouragement, and even, sometimes, a temptation to give it all up. Just knowing that other Christians know who they are, and care about what they are doing to reach out to their communities with the love of God gives courage and strength to the pastors we are reaching out to help.

This summer my husband, Philip, and I once again completely filled our 1983 aging motor home to the brim with enough gifts to help thirteen Navajo church pastors reach out to the

families they serve in rural New Mexico and Arizona. We set out across the desert, traveling without a working air conditioner, in temperatures reaching as high as 116 degrees outside, and over 125 degrees inside the motor home.

After traveling 140 miles across the lonely, empty Mojave between Barstow and Needles we experienced a terrifying blowout on a rear tire. The good news, thank God, was that we were only three miles from Needles, California, on a Sunday Morning when most auto repair garages were closed. However, a garage was open where we could replace our blown out tire, as well as the other five cracked and worn tires; the tire salesman convinced us that by traveling long distances in this heat we were at risk for another blowout, or at least a flat.

Traveling on for another 435 miles, constantly pulling up the long slow grade toward the elevated Continental Divide in New Mexico, and beyond, often at 30 miles an hour (slowed down by the overloaded old motor home) we finally arrived at our destination, a Navajo "Chapter House" near Smith Lake, New Mexico. A Chapter House is a center for Navajo community events and recreation. There we were met by a Christian Navajo "leader-of-leaders," and other ministers who helped us unload for over an hour into an empty unfinished gymnasium.

This would be the distribution center for the thirteen churches we were helping. Three small trucks were already there to load up and take their gifts on to rural areas, some traveling miles on narrow dirt roads which we could never have negotiated.

One elderly Navajo pastor and his wife had traveled eighty miles one way to pick up their share of the distribution.

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Christian Leaders met us at Smith Lake, NM)

We rejoice in what God has been able to accomplish as we have worked together with so many of you during the past thirty years. But, as a wall plaque in our home says: "Please be patient. God is not finished with me yet!" Here at Love-Lift Ministries we are looking forward to what God will do as we look ahead to what comes next. Each moment is a place we've never been before.

Looking ahead to the future our volunteers are working extra hard, beyond their normal projects, as we prepare to help Philip and Mildred Mundemba fill a forty foot shipping container to be sent with them when they return to their home in Zambia, Africa. This is a large and daunting project for them as they need to not only fill their container, but to purchase it, pay for transporting it across the Atlantic ocean, and then send it by rail over two thousand miles overland to landlocked Zambia.



The Mundemba family

This is both a great opportunity and a great challenge for Love-Lift Ministries as we work together with our African friends and envision what this seed project will mean for the Kingdom of God in the years to come. I have known the Mundemba's for years as they have been working to prepare for return to Africa. Philip has completed his Ph.D. here in America. Mildred is working on obtaining a R.N., nursing credential.

Philip's doctoral dissertation title is: "Leadership Development". These dear people have a vision to be leaders-of-leaders. After establishing a home church on their already owned property in Zambia, the plan is to develop a Christian Conference Center where pastors may come together, learn Biblically sound pastoral skills and doctrine, be encouraged as families, and receive a variety of supportive services. Mildred will be working to set up a medical clinic to reach out and help families suffering with HIV/Aids, as well as to provide the poor with basic medical care.

If you, or your group, is interested in learning more about the plans and the needs for the Mundembas, and how you may help them, you may contact them by calling me. My home phone number is: (714) 894-8531.



Pastors Martha King (L) & Jan Phillips (R) use their bus, "Lady Bug," to lift up the Navaho community near Yatahey, NM.)

The African project is just one example among many others where God has given us opportunities to help leaders reach out to their communities. We have continued to grow each year since we began in 1977. Last year we were able to fill and deliver a record 7,764 personal care bags for individuals, as well as 320 forty gallon bags filled with larger gift items to encourage 160 evangelical churches. Our baby layette team filled 264 layettes each with 25 items for newborn babies and their mothers. The items used to fill the personal care bags and layettes are not by any means all sewn and handcrafted items. We cannot sew toothpaste and brushes, combs, shampoo, hand soap, hand towels, washrags, small toys, petroleum jelly, diapers, age and gender appropriate underwear, kitchen items, clothespins, warm gloves for all sizes, etc. The cost of filling our warehouse shelves with inventory needed to fill more than 450 gift-bags each month averages \$2,000 monthly. Thank you so very much to each person or group who gave financial support. We could not "carry on" without you!

If you are interested in helping Love-Lift Ministries "carry on" we welcome financial help in any amount, whether as one-time gifts, or as ongoing support. Besides maintaining our gift inventory, the monthly warehouse rent and utility expense is more than \$2,000. Quality Gospel literature, included with outgoing deliveries, is another significant expense. None of your financial support goes to pay our visionary volunteers, myself, or our LLM board members.

You are invited to join us on our journey. Help us plant the seeds of divine love and blessing in discouraged communities and forgotten places where the need for uplift is great. Come with us to a place you've never been before.

Yours truly,

Marilyn Kunde, founder & president
Love-Lift Ministries, Inc.

LOVE-LIFT UPDATE -FALL 2007

by Marilyn Kunde



Love-Lift Ministries
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Return Service Requested

If you have changed your address, please advise us. It costs us \$0.41 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.

CONTACT US

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