

Love-Lift Ministries

Winter 2011 Newsletter

Delivering God's Love Since 1977

WINTER DAYS ARE COLD, dark and long. To cheer our spirits and brighten our days we bring out the colorful lights, set up the Christmas tree, and grace our homes with beautiful decorations. But in our home, and perhaps yours also, something was missing until we set up the nativity crèche to remind us of the real meaning of Christmas. When I was young I was given the privilege of setting the nativity figures in place just the way I thought they belonged in the scene. From a box, saved from year to year, I pulled out miniatures of a donkey, the lambs, the three shepherds, the three kings holding their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, the angels, and, of course, Mary and Joseph. But something was missing until little baby Jesus was lovingly laid in the straw filled manger. Jesus is the center of it all!



Jesus is the center of it all

Jesus, "the Son of Man," was born in Bethlehem as a helpless baby. **As a baby, Jesus needed the love and support of Mary and Joseph to flourish. Later on he asked for the love and support of his followers to fulfill his mission. Today, more than 2,000 years later, the Lord still asks for the love and support of his followers to help fulfill his life giving mission.** The mission? "Love the Lord your God, and your neighbor as yourself." Who are our neighbors? How can we love them?

The Lord tells us in Scripture, "I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat. I needed clothes, and you clothed me." Then will the righteous say, "When did we see you in need of food and clothing, and come to give you help?" The Lord will answer, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for the least of these in their need, you did for me." Mother Teresa added this insight: "It is not how much we do, but how much love we put into doing it. It is not how much we give, but, how much love we put into giving." Here at Love-Lift Ministries, we put God's love into what we do, and what we give, with the help and support of people like you. It's what we at Love-Lift Ministries have been doing since we began in 1977. **As followers of Christ we are all, you and I included, called to be a "missionary."** As followers of Christ each of us is called to bless others at every opportunity. At Love-Lift Ministries we have found our particular calling. **We invite you to join us if the Lord is leading you in this direction.**

Scripture teaches us not to despise the day of small beginnings. What begins small in the Kingdom of God, the Lord will use to feed multitudes. Jesus was given five small loaves and two fish, but, with his blessing, his disciples were able to feed thousands. Jesus himself began life as a small helpless baby, but, with the blessing of his heavenly Father, and the help of his devoted followers through the centuries, many millions have been fed, nourished, and brought into the eternal Kingdom of God.

This past September my husband and I had the joy of traveling to Arizona and meeting with a number of American Indian pastors. Our central meeting place was a small church in Winslow, Arizona, pastored by Juanita Vandever. Missionary Pastor Vandever was very helpful in connecting us with about nine Navajo pastors of small Indian Reservation churches. By small I mean an average congregation of about thirty-five adults and a few children. **Each small Navajo church is a living witness to the love of God in a place where the majority of people are steeped in traditional Indian ritual, fearful of change, and sometimes violently hostile to the Gospel.**

During our delivery trip to Arizona, Pastor Vandever drove us out to visit a church property at Castle Butte, about half an hour out of Winslow. Here in an empty place on the Reservation in the middle of a vast landscape, a successful church once

existed with a congregation of about seventy Navajo people. One night someone hostile to the Gospel set fire to the church building, burning it to the ground. The pastor was not to be discouraged by foul play. With the help of other Navajo church congregations, and sympathetic people, he went to work and began building a new church. During the day volunteers mixed cement, laid the foundation and set up the concrete block walls. **The new church facility will be even larger than the destroyed one. Praise the Lord!** We were thrilled to witness the progress on the new building going up. We stood on the "holy ground" of the new building and prayed together for God's protection for the new church. **If anyone is interested in donating financially to help restore this Navajo Reservation church in the "wilderness," please let me know.**

During our delivery trip, in September, we met another Indian pastor and his wife who were ministering together in a small church near the Second Mesa, on the Hopi Reservation. This couple had traveled Arizona highways driving seventy miles one way (140 miles round trip!) to pick-up their share of the Love-Lift at Winslow. Their grateful, thankful spirit blessed and encouraged me. **During our delivery trip, in September, we met still another Navajo pastor who had driven his pick-up truck forty miles one way (80 miles round trip), to receive a Love-Lift load for the people of his church.** A small truck or auto is a necessity for those living on the Arizona reservation.

Thank God for vehicles! We could deliver no large Love-Lift loads if it were not for our twenty-six foot motorhome. When we made our last delivery trip to Winslow in September, my husband and I drove more than **six-hundred miles, one way.** We gladly paid for the gasoline from our own family expense account. **None of the financial resources of Love-Lift Ministries are ever used to pay for our ministry travel expenses.** It is our joy, and our blessing, to serve the Lord in this way. And, furthermore, we genuinely enjoy traveling together through the beautiful American Southwest, the lovely red-rock towers, the vast horizon of desert stretching out as far as our eyes can see, and the incredible sight of an orange sun changing colors with each passing moment as day turns into night. It all speaks of God's glorious creation!

Do you recall the last Newsletter for Spring, 2011 showing pictures of the people in Mexicali, Mexico living in tents, and worshipping in an open air church? The large earthquake on Easter day, 2010, had destroyed their homes and their church. Recall that in this area of Mexicali, the Summer temperatures average 115°F or more. Too hot for comfort ! This Winter, 2011, most of the church congregation in Mexicali are still living in unheated tents. Now the problem is not that it is too hot, but that it is too cold! In Wintertime, the temperatures in Mexicali are much too cold for comfort, and much too cold for health. The people shiver and shake in the bitter cold, and pneumonia is much too common. We are planning a return

trip to this area as soon as possible to bring warm clothing, loomed hats, neck scarves, and comforting blankets to help our brothers and sisters who suffer from the cold, and too often become sick under such poor conditions. **We remember the words of Jesus, "I needed clothes, and you clothed me. I was sick, and you looked after me." Matthew 25:36 NIV**

We would love to have you, both men and women, visit us soon at our warehouse some Tuesday or Friday, the days when volunteers are working each week. Would you consider helping us fill Love-Lift gift-bags at our warehouse in Santa Ana? We need you! Would you come and help for a couple of hours sometime? **Our faithful volunteers, Angelo, age 91, and Rikki, age 90, would enjoy meeting you, and you would enjoy meeting them.** This faithful couple have been regular volunteers at the Love-Lift warehouse every week for sixteen years! Please pray with us that the Lord will lay it on someone's heart to volunteer, and to minister God's love along with Angelo and Rikki and the entire Love-Lift team.

Early in October merchants everywhere begin setting up displays of colorful decorations for sale. As early as November decorations go up on downtown streets and community homes. Christmas tree lots appear on street corners. Santa Claus sets up shop in every busy mall. But on the day after Christmas, or at the most the day after January 1st, the beautiful lights are removed and put away. The trees are set on the curbside as trash to be burned, and the exciting holiday celebrations come to an end. **Here at Love-Lift Ministries, Christmas does not end on December 25th. At Love-Lift Ministries it's "Christmas all year long." Love-Lift Ministries is here to offer you an opportunity to help us celebrate Christmas blessings, and God's great giving love all year long. And, Remember, Jesus is the center of it all!**

Blessings,

Marilyn Kunde,

President, Love-Lift Ministries



You're invited! Angelo and Rikki would like to meet you at our warehouse, on any Tuesday, or Friday, 10am to 3pm.



This Navajo pastoring couple met us in Winslow, Arizona. They had driven 70 miles, one way, to receive their Love-Lift load.



My husband and I drove more than six-hundred miles, one way, to deliver a Love-Lift for Navajo pastors in New Mexico.



Our 26 foot motor-home was completely filled with Love-Lift gifts for Navajo churches on the reservation.



Vincent, a Navajo convert, volunteered to help us unload our motor-home.



You and Love-Lift Ministries have blessed this Navajo Christian mother and her little Navajo baby.



This is the Navajo pastor and his wife whose thriving church was burned to the ground by Navajo people hostile to the Christian gospel.



After the fire nothing remained of the church building at Castle Butte.



Missionary Juanita with Marilyn standing on the foundation of the new church at Castle Butte. Standing on the promises of God.



United in prayer for God's protection and blessings on the new church.



LOVE-LIFT UPDATE - WINTER 2011

by Marilyn Kunde



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Return Service Requested

NEEDS FOR THE MINISTRY

- God's guidance, protection, and strength to endure
- **Financial help to meet our montly rent and utilities as we expand our warehouse space and expense needs.**
- Financial help to purchase the items we use to fill more than five-hundred 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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