

Love-Lift Ministries Newsletter

Celebrating Twenty Three Years of Ministry

FALL 2001

Dear Love-Lifters,

2000 AD. What a year as we faced the unknowns and anxieties of the new millennium! We gave a collective sigh of relief when the anticipated crisis of January 1st, 2000, passed without incident. Then without warning we all awoke one morning, 9-11, to face a new and unexpected national crisis.

Commentators have remarked that the world will never be the same.

One thing remains unchanged **God's eternal love for mankind** – His love in action. In spite of the world's devastating problems we must continue to focus on God's call to love, pray for and actively support the many hurting people who have not yet been reached, rescued and impacted by God's salvation, mercy and peace. Our fall theme for Love – Lift 2001 is: **God's Great Rescue Love in Action.**

Together Love-Lifters are part of a rescue action-team inspired by God's love for all people everywhere. We will not allow the magnitude of the task to deter us from our active rescue efforts. Through your faithful kindness and generosity working as churches, schools, and other

groups, and as individuals we have joined together and have been enabled to minister God's love in a powerful and tangible way this past year.

In these times of turmoil our ministry program is more vital now than ever. Many families throughout the world struggle daily against the onslaughts of the evil-one who seeks to weaken and destroy them with hunger, poverty, disease, discouragement and lack of opportunity for advancement in any form. Life is so hard for so many, but our Love-Lift gift-bags and stockings that you and your groups fill and give with heartfelt compassion will count for eternity in His everlasting Kingdom. These gifts not only



Young Asian- Indian, Evangelistic Pastors holding Love-Lift gifts in the Himalayan Mountains of India



Students from Vanguard University who worked and delivered L-L gifts to precious Asian-Indian pastors in northern India.

encourage and support struggling people, they represent our way of reaching out to those who need to hear the truth of God's saving grace and His love for lost and hungry souls.

God has confirmed His blessings in this wonderful and unique ministry by giving us successful opportunities to help needy people in various countries throughout the world. As an example, two different mission teams were sent out from Vanguard University in Costa Mesa, CA, to the Himalayan mountain region of India. One hundred, eighty-five Love-Lift gift bags were lovingly prepared specifically to bless and encourage a good number of young pastors and their deserving families. These student pastors completed their Bible school training and were sent out to new frontiers where the *Gospel has not yet penetrated*. Many boxes were carefully packed and filled to the limit with basic necessities; those personal and household items that we daily take for granted but which mean so much to these young Christian evangelists who have so little. These pastors' base of support is small since the local churches are made up of people who themselves are desperately poor. Yet they are determined to make a difference, and to extend the Gospel to an area of the world where there is much opposition to Christianity and where church planting is very difficult, and often even dangerous.



Tarahumara Indian Girl living in a remote, mountainous village in northern Mexico receiving gifts from Love-Lift Ministries.

You would rejoice with these dear people if you had been able to be there to hear their expressions of joy and thanksgiving when they received the much needed items provided through our ministry. What a great opportunity to walk through open doors never available before. We are sending God's love to the harvest fields of the world. We are being used to unite, and *uplift* those who are in service for His glory. Those Vanguard student teams who delivered the Love-Lift were touched and blessed as they witnessed the thankful spirits of the Asian-Indian pastors. This scripture verse was manifested in these mission trips:



“As we have opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto those who are of the household of faith.” Galations 6:10.

Closer to home we continue to minister to the Tarahumara Indians of Chihuahua, Mexico. Two Christian mission organizations have been able to help us deliver the Love-Lift to this very remote and hard to access mountain area. These undeveloped people are far removed from modern life, as we know it. They still grind cultivated corn with stones, and sleep on the floor of caves, mud huts and log cabins. Their poverty is profound and made even worse in recent years by severe draught resulting in a scarcity of basic crops and animals upon which the people depend for food. Because of the famine, ministry groups have been called by God to bring basic needs,

including delivering needed food supplies—corn, beans, and rice. Along with the food deliveries, brought in by other groups, we have been given an opportunity to also send a good supply of Love-Lift gifts including quilts and blankets, our filled bags and stockings, and complete baby layettes, all prepared by our volunteers. We are thankful to be God's people showing **"Rescue Love in Action."**

When the Love-Lift is delivered to these Tarahumara people, orphans and widows are served first, then everyone else. In this way we show God's special attention to those who are most in need, and most dear to His heart. **"Pure and lasting religion in the sight of God our Father** means that we must care for orphans and widows in their troubles, and refuse to let the world corrupt us." **James 1:27.**

Not only has Love-Lift Ministries reached out to those in other countries, and to our American Indians, we have also been given an opportunity to share **God's Rescue Love in Action** with those of Southern California. We were called upon by the **Dream Center** of the **International Church** in downtown Los Angeles to provide Christmas gift-bags for their Discipleship program – an outreach to rescue and rehabilitate "street people" living in the central city. This program is making a complete change in the empty lifestyle these desperate people have lived in hopelessness. Those who are willing to be helped must promise to finish and graduate after a year of rehabilitation, life-planning classes, and a strict, disciplined routine. We at Love-Lift Ministries could have replied by saying, "No," but this scripture from **Isaiah 58:7** spoke to me, **"Divide your bread with the hungry. Bring the homeless poor into the house, and clothe them."**

Those in other countries are not often able to send us their thank you notes, but we received encouraging letters from some of the people in Los Angeles:

Thank you for your thoughtfulness and kindness. You have made this Christmas the best ever. I am a life that has been changed!

Another person wrote: You were certainly a blessing to the Discipleship ministry this Christmas. We really appreciated all of your time, work, and gifts that you gave to make this such an extra special Christmas this year.

One other letter: Dear Marilyn and Love-Lift Ministries, Thank you for the wonderful gift-bags that you provided our Discipleship program for Christmas. For many, this was the only present that they received. I still hear members from the program talk about their "Surprise Gift." It is heartwarming to know that you made a difficult holiday truly enjoyable for many. — Maria Everts, Administrative Assistant

This ministry to street people in need in Los Angeles teaches people not only to think differently about the trap of hopelessness by renewing their minds through the Word of God, but God renews their entire body, soul and spirit, and then gives them love and compassion for others. **In this rescue effort those we have helped now become people helping other people.** And so God's Kingdom grows and is expanded beyond our ordinary expectations—**the miracle of rescue love in action.**

Although we would have liked to show you pictures of this Love-Lift outreach to the street people, we could not do so due to privacy considerations.

For years this special lady has set an outstanding example by working on projects at home. In 2001, 80 sewn and stuffed pillows and animals were completed, 124 baby items sewn such as quilts, receiving blankets, bibs, sleepers, onesies, and 80 bags and stockings sewn with 30 completely filled from our gift list. These 284 gifts show **God's love in action.** May we all use our talents, resources, time, and finances as we participate in **God's Love-Lift action team** this Christmas Season of 2001!



Linda Tepe showing her handiwork of quilts and pillows, part of 284 gifts of Love in Action to help God's poor.

God's richest blessing to you all!

Marilyn Kunde, Director