

Love-Lift Ministries Newsletter

Celebrating Twenty-Four Years of Ministry

SPRING 2002

Dear Love-Lifters,

Thank you for answering the critical needs of **Love-Lift 2001**. In Luke 10:27 we find a compelling commandment – *“You shall love your God with all your heart, your soul, your strength, your mind, and your neighbor as yourself...but who is my neighbor?”* God’s answer: the person with a need is our neighbor.



These two women were blessed with God’s joy when they were given our baby layettes filled with items needed to care for their newborn babies.

This ministry, of which **you** are a vital part, has had a wonderful impact, making a meaningful difference in the lives of thousands of babies, children, teens, and adults. The entire church body, both givers and receivers, has been greatly enriched and united through the ministries of the Love-Lift over the years, and once again in 2001. Our carefully kept records show that **in 2001 over 6,000 individuals in need were recipients of gift-filled bags, and special Christmas stockings for children.** Can you imagine the joy these people experienced as they opened their surprise gifts that communicated to them the love of God and love of God’s people?

Besides the personal love-lift bags and stockings sent out during the holiday season our ministry has been enriched and expanded as we have developed new ways to minister all year long to a variety of church locations around the world, especially reaching churches in Mexico and on American Indian reservations. **Last year we were able to reach 178 separate church groups with two forty gallon sized plastic bags** for each church group. **These larger bags were stuffed full of assorted household items, including quilts, clothing, shoes, stuffed pillows and animals, toys, dolls, and other crafts made or assembled by our local sewing group at**

Newport Mesa Christian Center Dorcas Group, and by other missionary focused groups working with us. These year-long deliveries of larger sized item were **able to bless about 4,800 people in addition to the 6,046 who received individual Christmas bags and stockings in 2001.**

Our wonderful layette ministry was able **to bless 361 young mothers and their babies last year.** Each assembled layette contained about thirty items – a total of over 10,000 individual items – **needed to give little ones a healthy start** in locations where life is difficult.

So many thousands have been touched by **the love of Christ** in this past year alone. With all parts of our varied ministry **working together we have helped meet the needs of those within our reach.** We are doing what we are able. **We can do no less.** Together, with your continuing help, we will to do what we can to spread the **Gospel and communicate the love of God** to those who are struggling with poverty-- those who are **so dear to the heart of God.**

The people we reach are not often able to respond with thank you notes, but from time to time we receive words like those in this letter from two pastors, who speak for those unable to write.

Federal District Mexico, December 25, 2001

"By means of this letter we want to thank you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the churches that we pastor, for the blessing of the Christmas stockings and bags that we were able to give out to the children and families of our congregations. They were delivered to us by our beloved brother and sister, David and Elena, who kindly brought these gifts to us in your name.

We have made a promise to pray continually for you that this ministry of the Lord would go forward, knowing that no work of the Lord is in vain. We can testify that our children and families found great joy in receiving your gifts. We desire for you that the Almighty God will bless you and your families. Have hope that the year 2002 will once again be a year in which our blessed Savior will do great works in the lives of those in need, His beloved people. We remain your friends. The doors of our churches and our homes are open to receive you.

Sincerely,
Pastor Rolando Orozco &
Pastor Arturo Navarro

A new distribution area for our Love-Lift opened up in the city of Guadalajara, Mexico. What joy it was to have our giving ministry spread to bless people not served before!



This family rode the bus for eight long hours each way to attend the church service and celebration (here in Guadalajara). The compassion of Jesus was shown when they received your love-filled gift-bags. See the smiles of thanksgiving on their faces. Thank you!



Sometimes we think that only children are important in this type of ministry, but in God's Kingdom every person counts no matter their age, whether men or women. These men have received God's grace and mercy by receiving Jesus into their hearts. Angel and Martha Suarez are missionary workers who delivered the Love-Lift gifts.



Precious children from Guadalajara received their special toys from the Love-Lift's large "church bags." These may be their first new toys!

Alice Alford, a wonderful volunteer with our ministry had a special opportunity to travel on a ministry tour to Hungary with the Northern California District's Women's Ministry. She carried Love-Lift gifts to bless and encourage these dedicated Bible School students in Eastern Europe. We received this thank-you note:

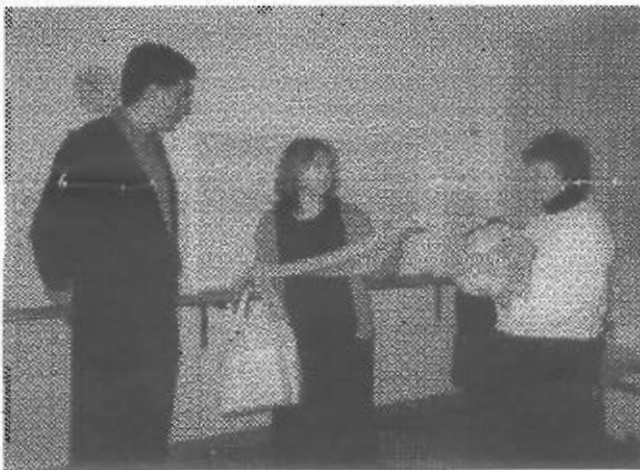
Dear Sister Kunde,

Warm and special greetings from Budapest, Hungary. I am writing to thank-you for the wonderful scarfs and sewing kits that Love-Lift Ministries provided for the students here at Theological Bible College. These kind gifts were a great surprise to the students, and they loved them. Please extend my thanks to all the precious servants who minister in Love-Lift. Your kindness and caring is greatly appreciated.

With warm regards,

Paul Gracza

Missionary Bible School Director



Alice Alford is giving a scarf to Bible students at Theological Bible College in Budapest, Hungary.

Our wonderful warehouse crew spent over 2,500 hours of faithful and consistent weekly work all year long. Others worked at home cutting, sewing, stringing, and tagging for identification the many thousands of Christmas stockings and gift bags for filling during the annual Christmas Love-Lift. Are YOU ready for Christmas 2002? We thank God for each of our faithful helpers! Only God knows all the names, and the many hours of service, joyfully given by our *volunteer* Love-Lift workers. I like these quotations about volunteering:

"Volunteers don't necessarily have the time, they just have the heart," -- Anonymous

"We make a living by what we get, but we make life by what we give." -- Churchill

"A volunteer for Jesus, a soldier too.

Others have enlisted, why not you. Jesus is our Captain, we need never fear. Will you be enlisted as volunteer!" -- Sunday School song

Without volunteers who have given their time and support to this ministry, we would not be able to reach out to help the poor and needy - those that God calls "your neighbor." As the ministry has expanded in successful outreaches, so has our own need for a strong financial support base been increased. Once again our warehouse and office space has outgrown capacity. Due to overcrowded space conditions in our present offices we have to move into larger quarters as soon as possible. This means **another step of faith, and doubling of our monthly lease expenses.** It is a scary and challenging step for us - a step we cannot take without your help and God's continuing blessing. *No financial gift* would be too small to **give us the encouragement** we need now to go on in faith. **Short term commitments, and one time gifts of any amount,** would mean so much at this critical time in our twenty-five years of God's service - *Love Lifting* up and blessing needy people in the forgotten places of our world.



Volunteers are showing handcrafted items for large church bags given to small congregations.

Thank you to each and everyone who has volunteered in any way to be a blessing to others in Jesus' name.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Kunde, Love-Lift Ministries