

Love-Lift Ministries Newsletter

Celebrating Twenty-Six Years of Ministry

Winter 2003

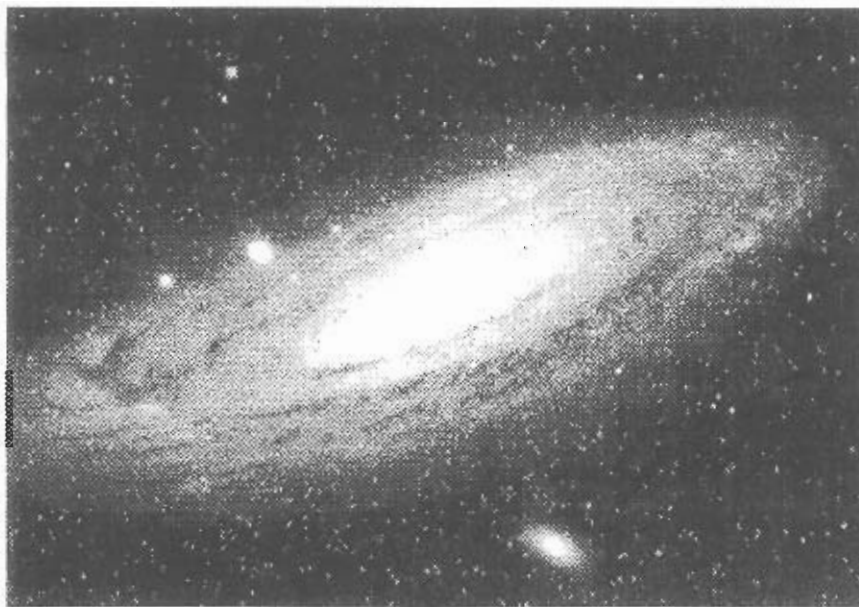


Dear Love-Lifters:

How big is God, and how far-reaching is His great love? God is Bigger than His created universe, and His love reaches us from beyond the farthest star. Astronomers tell us that the earth's magnificent sun is only one star among more than one-hundred billion such stars in our galaxy. Furthermore, our "Milky Way" galaxy is only one of more than one-hundred billion such galaxies in the cosmos. That's a lot of galaxies and a lot of stars! But for you and I the brightest and best of all stars was the Star of Bethlehem.

The Star of Bethlehem led the way to a lowly stable where the creator of the universe was laid in a manger on a bed of straw. In the village of Bethlehem there had been no room available for Jesus in the public marketplace. Is there room in your heart for Jesus today?

How could a magnificent God far larger than our huge universe find a way to live in our hearts? The miracle of Christmas is God's loving answer. Do you have time in your heart for Jesus? In the hustle and bustle of "The Holiday Season" as we rush about in the public marketplace **we are invited**



How Big Is God?

to take time to make room in our heart for God. We encourage you make time in your holiday busyness to quietly focus on God, His Presence, His Nearness, and His Love. The Bible tells us that **"God is Love."** **We at Love-Lift Ministries believe this!**

Supporting Love-Lift Ministries is just one of the ways you can express God's love to others. We invite you to quietly look about for creative ways to show gentle kindness in the name of Jesus to those around you at this Christmas-Time. And, if you are led by the Star of Bethlehem to reach out beyond the limited sphere of your daily public and personal life we invite you to join with us all year long in support of Love-Lift Ministries.

Our mission is to reach out, lift up, and encourage those missionaries and Christian leaders, and the people they serve in needy areas far beyond the world we know of. You can help us. We cannot operate without the ongoing and consistent support of those who understand our vision, and those who value the opportunities we offer to help make a real difference in the lives of people personally unknown to us but who need our Christian encouragement as much as our gifts.

I am thankful for your prayers, your continued support, and your constant encouragement. What a blessing it is to be a representative of our Lord, Jesus Christ, in the area of worldwide missions.

Last year, amazingly, we touched over 10,000 people in need with our four-part ministry program: 1.) **The Christmas Stocking and Gift-Bag Program**, which has two parts: a.) The annual Christmas Love-Lift, beginning early in the Fall, in which participating churches and other organizations fill stockings and bags. b.) The all year long program in which faithful volunteers at our warehouse facility fill stockings and bags from our warehouse inventory every week of the year. *Our warehouse inventory is purchased with your financial contributions, or material donations.*



Girls at the Black Buffalo Orphanage receive special gift bags.

2.) **The "Church Bag" Program**, which sends out larger items such as our created and sewn quilts, new and good used clothing, household items, etc. to help missionaries and pastors of small village churches as they minister the Gospel

3.) **The Layette Program**, which helps young Christian mothers who have nothing with which to clothe and care for their newborn babies. *The inventory for the layettes is purchased from your financial contributions donations of baby clothing, or created by the Dorcas Ministry Group.* Faithful volunteers at the Ministry worship put the layettes together weekly.

4.) **The Dorcas Women's Sewing Ministry Group**, which meets every Tuesday at our facility headquarters and workshop in Santa Ana to work on such projects as sewing unfilled stockings and bags, and crafting new gift-items such as quilts, stuffed dolls and toys, pillows, etc. The meeting is a time for fellowship, as well as for work

Recently Jack Moore, president of White Eagle Christian Academy, met with the Dorcas Women's Sewing Group at the Love-Lift Ministries headquarters in Santa Ana. Jack is a member of the Lakota Sioux. The people of the Lakota Sioux on the Rosebud American Indian Reservation in South Dakota suffer severe poverty. In fact Todd County, South Dakota where the Sioux people live - is considered to be one of the poorest counties in the entire United States. Due to the geographical isolation of these people the opportunities for economic advancement are severely limited. Close to 80 percent of the people are unemployed. There is no industry in this remote area, and no natural resources to develop here. The average annual income per family is around \$4,000 dollars in a nation where in 2003 the poverty threshold for a family of three is \$12,000. Fifty-one percent of the population is eighteen years of age, or younger. Two thirds of all students drop out of school before completing High School. Teenage suicide is many times the national average. Add to these conditions the extremely cold temperatures in this part of the United States.

White Eagles Christian Academy (www.whiteeaglechristianacademy.com) is an oasis of opportunity and hope in this desolate place. Here selected young American Indian students are given a quality general education, including computer and media production skills, while also learning Christian values by experiencing them. **The plan is to develop young Christian leaders who have a desire to serve their people in the Name of the Lord so that future generations**



Young American Indian receives gift a bag.



Jack Moore, president of White Eagles Christian Academy, speaks to our Dorcas sewing group.

will be blessed with a better life on earth, and eternally.

Love-Lift Ministries has been pleased to help this fine Christian school by purchasing and sending them teaching materials. We have also been able to send over 625 Christmas stockings and gift-bags put together by faithful volunteers. And we have sent them layettes for mothers and newborn babies of Christian Life Fellowship, which sponsors the Academy.

Is there room in your heart for these Sioux young people and their families? Jesus tells us, "Whenever you help the least of my people, you help me."

The Tarahumara North American Indians live in the mountains in Chihuahua, Mexico. This also is an area where daily life is very difficult. It is dependent on local farming for food supplies and often the crops fail. The Fall and Winter temperatures are freezing. When children and babies are left with no family to care for them the situation becomes desperate and deaths often occur. (Check out the Ministries page on the Internet at (www.mandley.com) Ray Wilson's Black Buffalo Trails-North American Indian Missions, Inc. has established an orphanage, "The Quiver," for these at risk children. We were blessed to be able to help by sending them 616 filled Stockings and Bags, 30 baby layettes, and 45 baby-quilts made the LLM Dorcas Group.

Is there room in your heart for these Tarahumara people? Jesus tells us, "Whenever you serve the least of these, my people, you serve me."

Lamont Hess, and his son Jessie recently traveled many miles from their home in Arizona to our facility in Santa Ana where they picked up a large load of Love-Lift gifts for distribution to the Navaho people during this Christmas season. Lamont, and his wife, Becky, travel and minister among more than 25 small churches and gatherings of the Navaho people.

Do you have room in your heart for the Navaho people? Jesus tells us that when we serve the least of His people, we serve the Lord Himself.

When you contribute financially, 100% of your contribution goes to operate the Ministry. Even the considerable expense of publishing and mailing this Newsletter is paid for by Love-Lifters. *No one receives a salary. The approval of God is our reward. Our new facility furniture, our extensive shelving, our new*

computer and accounting software have all been donated.

Now that Love-Lift Ministries is an independent, nonprofit corporation, and faith based ministry with our own facility our needs for financial help, and volunteer labor are greater now than ever. Our monthly financial needs include two major areas: The rent for our Headquarters facility is \$1,820.00. Add to this the cost of utilities. Our monthly budget also includes \$1,500.00 used for purchasing the inventory items needed for our volunteers to fill an average of 450 gift-bags every month. We are careful in making purchases of items at the lowest cost possible. Our regular and faithful workshop volunteers are few in numbers. More volunteers are urgently needed. You, or your organization, are urged to call to find out more about how and when you can volunteer to work with us. Ask how you can arrange to visit our facility, or ask to arrange for a speaking and display presentation of Love-Lift Ministries at your church, school, or organization. We need you!



This Navaho family received your gifts.

How big is God? He is far larger than our entire universe, and His love reaches us from beyond the farthest star. Yet He lives within our hearts when we make room for Him. The fundamental needs of most people in our world are vast and largely unfulfilled. Yet He calls us to do what we can to love and serve the least of His people. When we obey Him, "salt" is added. Light shines in the great darkness, and the world is changed. *My prayer is that the Star of Bethlehem will continue to lead us to that place where He patiently waits to speak with us. Not in the busy marketplace but in the quiet places of our hearts where His love can dwell. What can we do to serve and help His needy people? Everything He asks us to do, but nothing more. Little is much if He is in it.*

Sincerely,

Marilyn Kunde, founder and president
Love-Lift Ministries, Inc