



Love INC  
Love In the Name of Christ

## Back To School For All of Us?

September 2011

### Message from the Executive Directors

The most difficult part of our job is when someone has a need and we can't help them. I have to constantly remind our volunteers they can't get emotionally involved, but when God has given you a heart of compassion it's very hard not getting emotionally involved. We got a call this morning from Maria who called us about a week ago needing diapers for her baby and a gas voucher. We were able to help her with diapers through one of the ministries started by one of our volunteers called "Bundles of Joy". We couldn't help with a gas voucher because there isn't any. Maria called us because she wanted

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## Mary's Story

About the middle of August we received a call from Sarah (not her real name) and she has four children. She had lost her job and her home and needed a place to store all her belongings. She was going to move in with her parents who were elderly and not in very good health. She wanted to know if we could find a storage place for her furniture that wouldn't charge her for the rest of August and then she could start paying in September when she got her unemployment check. Mary who is on loan from the SER program in Madera (they pay her wages) took the call from Sarah in our office. Mary was able to get one of the storage centers in Madera to agree to what Sarah needed. Mary called Sarah back and gave her all the info, prayed with her and said good bye. Two weeks ago Sarah called back and asked for Mary. She told Mary she couldn't take life anymore and was going to drop her four children off at CPS and go take her life. Mary is an awesome Christian woman, but she isn't this powerful anointed Evangelist, but she has a heart for people and knows her Jesus, so Mary starts telling Sarah no don't do that. That she needed to pray to Jesus and He would help her no matter what and that her children would be destroyed if she took her life. Mary then asked her if she could pray with her and Sarah said yes so Mary did. Before Mary hung-up she got Sarah to promise she would give Jesus a chance and Sarah agreed. Mary waited about 20 minutes and called Sarah back and she said she was okay and wouldn't do anything foolish. When Mary came into the office the next morning the first thing she did was call Sarah to check on her. When Sarah answered the phone she was a completely different person. She told Mary that ten minutes after they hung-up the day before a company she had applied for work with a month before called and hired her. She was so excited because she would now be able to take care of her children and get a place of her own. And she told Mary she had asked Jesus to be her Savior. After they talked and probably cried together, Mary said she needed to go and Sarah said, "I called you because I knew you cared". God is so good! This is what it's all about. Thanks Mary for being Christ to Sarah in her time of need.

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## Board of Directors

Pastor Michael Stipe – Board President  
 Pastor Lance Leach – Brd Vice President  
 James Merrill – Board Treasurer  
 Roger Poythress – Board Secretary  
 Mary Long – Board Member  
 Vicky Bandy – Board Member  
 Jon Barsotti – Board Member  
 Al Christoffersen – Executive Director  
 Barbara Christoffersen – Executive Dir.

## Partner Churches

We hope that all the Christian Churches in Madera County are our Partner Churches. We would appreciate any donations you can give us on a regular basis. We operate on \$2,000.00 per month and we are receiving around \$1,000.00 per month. When Barbara & I became Co-Executive Directors last October we had a nice cushion to work with, but working with a deficite will drain your funds quickly. We are in a place right now that if things stay the same as the first 6 months of 2011 we will have about enough funds to stay open for another year.

We are working on a couple of ideas for fund raisers during the second half of this year.

Please keep us in prayer.

Blessings to you all!

# Love Stories

This story only relates to Madera LoveINC because it has to do with my wife Barbara. Barbara has been fighting a virus for about 11 days and yesterday we decided she needed to go to the doctor. Barbara doesn't have any insurance so sometimes she will stretch out a virus way to long. Our family doctor is a strong Christian and works out of the Linder Quann Medical Group in Fresno. When you enter the office you have to go to the window and pay before you go into the doctor's office. The medical group charges \$75.00 for a regular office visit. Now, Barbara hasn't been to the doctor for more than six months and the last time she went I went with her and gave them my debit card and we were charged the \$75.00. When Barbara went to pay yesterday they told her she didn't owe anything. That we had a \$75.00 credit. Then after seeing the doctor he gave her samples for the meds she needed. So, one doctor's appointment total cost: \$0. God is good, all of the time. The rest of the story. Valley West had a women's conference last Friday night and all day Saturday.

Barbara attended and also felt lead to invite three other ladies and paid their way. The cost was \$25.00 per attendee. You do the math! I just want to say this and I hope I don't offend anyone. Faith is NOT a noun! Faith IS a verb. Faith only works when it is put into action. As Christians, Christian business owners and Christian Churches we can't afford not to be givers. Givers not just of our money but also of our time as volunteers. We have a number of para ministries in Madera that need support from our commuinty. In finances, time (volunteering), and donations of clothing, furniture, etc. Some of those ministries are Doors of Hope, Youth for Christ, The Rescue Mission The Foodbank and LoveINC. God is calling His Church to rise up and become what He created it to be. We are the hospital, welfare department, foodbank and even the Bank when needed. There is no resession in Heaven. God has more than enough to take care of his kids. We just need to learn how to receive it. Amen?!  
 From my heart!  
 Al Christoffersen

# Announcements

Ernie Bandi resigned as a Board Member this month because of the heavy load his job has placed on him. Please join us in giving Ernie thanks for his service to us at Madera LoveINC. Say a prayer for him that his work load would lighten up. Thanks Ernie for your service on our Board at LoveINC.

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to come by the office because she had something for us. This is her story – After we connected her with “Bundles of Joy” Barbara prayed with her over the phone and over the next few days everything changed for her family. The unemployment she was told she would not be getting came anyway and was back paid to June. Her and her family is getting ready to move into a place of their own and her husband is looking for work. The reason she wanted to come by the office was because they wanted to give us \$20.00 to help someone else who has a need. They are attending the Catholic Church and she said the priest’s message every Sunday is like it was written just for her family. Here is a young woman who is a young Christian that gets it. She said to me, “I want to plant a seed”. I can’t wait to see her garden grow. Thank you God for Maria and her family, bless them as they pursue You and your Kingdom. In Jesus’ Name – Amen!

Al & Barbara Christoffersen  
Co-Executive Director



You can help make a difference in the lives of people in need.

- I want to help with a monthly pledge of \_\_\_\_\_ \$10 \_\_\_\_\_ \$25 \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ \$75 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ Other
- One time gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Please send me information about volunteering in the Love INC office.

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Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Church Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_