



# LOVE LINK LETTER

**March—April 2008**

**Love Link Ministries, Inc.  
500 S. Western  
OKC, OK 73109**

**Mailing:**

**PO Box 2023  
OKC, OK 73101  
405-239-6219**

**OUR WEBSITE:**

**WWW.LOVELINKMINISTRIES.ORG**

**OUR NEW E-MAIL:**

**LOVELINKMINISTRIES@TAHOOCOM**

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Designer: Velma Alfson

Executive Director: Wayne Stark

Administrative Director: Stan Martin

Chairman of the Board: Les Wright

Printed by Impressions

## *Tell Them Our Story*

“Tell them our story!” I don’t know how many times Curtis has told me that as we have ended our telephone conversation. Curtis and Ann live in their Indian home in Atoka. Frequently he calls to report what is going on in their lives. Usually he has some positive news to tell me. Recently, however, he expressed concern about Ann and the decline in her physical health. She had become quite depressed. More recently it has been confirmed that Ann has cancer of the liver and has only a short time to live.

On a recent Saturday, Alice and I felt impressed to go visit Ann and Curtis. Although Ann appeared quite depressed when we arrived, she seemed very glad to see us. We hadn’t been there long before Ann’s half-brother and wife arrived providentially. As we visited Ann said she was not afraid to die, but found it hard to leave her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. We all visited together and then prayed for Ann. We all sensed a special outpouring of God’s grace and gave praise to Him.

I was glad I could remind Ann of the more than thirty some years of sobriety and blessing God had given to her since we first met. That first meeting was on the sidewalk around the corner from the Central Church parsonage (now the Shartel Recovery House). Evangelist Ralph Tucker and I visited people to invite them to the revival. We found Ann sitting in the middle of the sidewalk, quite intoxicated. We prayed with her and invited her to the revival. She and Curtis started attending. Even after she accepted Christ as her Savior, she battled with her alcoholism. Curtis tells about times I would go to their house to visit. Ann’s grown children and others would be sitting around drinking. They would hide their beer and run to the back rooms and bathroom to hide.

One day Curtis came by the parsonage and asked me to take him to get Ann. She was in a bar in Capitol Hill. I parked a little ways from the bar entrance on purpose, thinking I would wait there while Curtis went into the bar and get Ann. Curtis insisted I go into the bar with him to get Ann. I reluctantly went in, hoping none of my church members would see me. Ann was sitting at a booth quite dazed. I guess It gave her quite a shock to see her pastor come through the door. As far as I know, Ann never drank after that.

We took a group of our people from Central Church to Mabel Bassett Women’s Facility to minister. I asked Ann to give her testimony. As she shared, the incarcerated women all began weeping. We all sensed an overpowering presence of the Holy Spirit.

For more than thirty years Curtis and Ann have been sharing their testimony wherever they go. What a story to give hope to the many who are battling addictions, and to those of us who endeavor to help them find deliverance!

As Alice and I sat with Curtis, Ann and their kin in Ann’s home, we marveled and rejoiced in what God has done and the added years in the life of this seventy two year old child of God. ws

# Thank God For Brownfields

On January 11, 2002, President Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Through the Brownfields Program Love Link Ministries has received a \$37,000 grant for asbestos clean-up at the NuWay site. This is a big step forward in the renovation of the property for ministry use. I was told several times by EPA officials that an organization such as ours seldom receives a grant from them the first time a proposal is submitted. I was also told at least twice by one of the officials that we should submit a proposal for a grant to set up and operate a training center at our location for hazardous waste clean-up. This would give us opportunity to train a number of people in our area to be gainfully employed. We have worked with the City of Oklahoma City, the Army Corps of Engineers and the EPA, to get to this point. They have all been very gracious, seem quite impressed with Love Link, and are eager to work with us. We believe God is opening doors so we can minister more and more to those in need. *MS*



## Walnut Ridge Baptist Church Work Force

Spring break was spent in a very different manner than most teenagers across our country. A group of College and Teens from Walnut Ridge Baptist Church chose to spend their spring break helping a ministry that needs many volunteers. It was with their help the NuWay Thrift Shop is now a step closer to happening. The tear out is now complete and we are ready to start remodeling inside. Could this be something your group would consider? *va*



**NuWay Update:** There have been three groups come in the last month to help work on the clean-up of the new Thrift Store. A group of Teens from Stillwater and a group of fourth graders from Bethany 1st Naz. Each came for a day and worked very hard cleaning up. A large group of about 50 teen and college students came for four days and worked at finishing tearing out all that needed to be taken out of the Thrift Store so we can now start the remodel work.

**Fire Sprinkler System:** The modification of the requirements for hooking up to the City water main has been completed. J&J Plumbing is working on the necessary updates to their plans. There will be an increase in the cost due to the changes the city requires.

**Building:** We are at a point that we need to have the roof and outside walls looked at and sealed. At this point we are having a problem with rain inside the building. This needs attention before we put new framing in, or we will have a larger problem than we currently have.

**Financial Support:** We will need a substantial amount of financial support, along with more skilled volunteers. Also donations of materials will be a great help in support of the cost factor of the project.

If you would like to take a tour through the NuWay building and see what is being done to make it a first-class ministry center, please give me a call. You can reach Stan Martin at 405-239-6219. *SM*



# Our Needs To Meet Our Demands

As our ministry grows there are also many more needs that show themselves. This corner is going to be designated for letting you know about some of those needs and asking for your prayer in meeting those needs. Also should God lay it on your heart to fill one of the needs we would appreciate it very much

At this time we need:

Volunteers:

To help us finish the renovations to the NuWay Facility & Thrift Shop.

Work groups by day or multiple days would be welcome.

A group of volunteers willing to work in the Food Pantry on a rotating schedule. Tuesdays & Fridays are Pantry days. We need help registering food recipients into the computer. va



We have now been picking up donations from three KFC's, a Red Lobster and an Olive Garden, and two Long John Silver's restaurants for several months now. We had already been picking up donations from two Long John Silver's restaurants. We have dispensed frozen food products from the food pantry and used them in our meals. *We do need someone that would volunteer to pick up these items when they call us.*

## *There Are Ways You Can Help!*

*There are many parts that make the whole of Love Link Ministries. Each of these parts have areas that need workers and donations. If you have a talent there is probably a place you can be useful at Love Link Ministries. If you don't have time, maybe you could start a product drive at our work or church. Along with the many gratefully donated items we receive we also need funds to continue our many parts.*

*Prayerfully consider a donation drive at your work.*

*There may be people there that have not heard of Love Link Ministries and would consider it a privilege to do their small part.*

*If you need help to start a donation drive feel free to call our office and talk to us about a way we can be of help to you.*

***Please Call!***  
***405-239-6219***

*Thank you,*

**SNU IT Dept.**

*They were kind enough to give us two refurbished desktop computers for our office. We had been in desperate need of a reliable computer.*

**Life Church.TV**

*They were able to give us a new lap top computer to be used by the office manager. These computers are truly answers to our prayers.*

**Wal-Mart,**

*Karen, one of our volunteers was able to acquire two boxes of 1,000 plastic bags. We double bag food items, so they go quickly. Love Link is always in need of more plastic bags for our Food Pantry and Resale Store.*

*Could you help us by saving your excess bags for us?*

*We appreciate all your help!!!  
Thanks!!*

# March Food Pantry STATS

392 families served with 151 New families

**Our food pantry is an ongoing ministry that aids people that may not be able to feed their families without our help. We are able to help these people with your added help. When you are able to hold a food or can drive at your work or church, it helps us to offer more to those families we serve. We are very grateful for all the help you can bring our way. Remember, whatever we do for the least of these God is aware of and smiles.**



# LOVE LINK

MINISTRIES, INC.

Compassionate Ministry Center  
PO Box 2023  
Oklahoma City, OK 73101

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## Check Out Our Stars!

Thanks to the following churches who collected food items for Love Link's Food Pantry Feb. & March!

**Western Oaks Nazarene Church**  
A Multitude of can goods with  
a large supply of peanut butter

**Lake Overholser Nazarene Church**  
Bags of Beans & Rice & Cans of Fruit

**Richland Church of the Naz.**  
Unfailing support in gathering bags  
of bread from Panera Bread.  
A collection of various items  
All needed & gratefully accepted.

**Waterloo Church of the Naz.**  
Macaroni & Spaghetti