



LOVE LINK LETTER

500 S. Western OKC, OK 73109

405-239-6219

November 2005

Defining Moments

By Marilyn Stark

This month I will attend my 25 Year Reunion from college. They sent out a questionnaire for each person to fill out. They asked us to tell three defining moments in the last 25 years. It made me think. "Defining Moments". Moments in time that help define who you are, how you got here and, maybe, where you're going.

In 1990, I was working as a registered nurse in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) when I clearly felt God leading me to do travel nursing. Take a job for 3 months or more in different locations all across the United States, work as a nurse, find a church, help out where I could. I wasn't too keen on that idea. I had a good job. I was working with the youth in my church. I had a great support group of Christian friends. Told God that I was sure He had the wrong folder and to please check again. The leading did not go away, nor did it change. I finally surrendered to His will and said 'yes'. Single, with no money, quite a bit of debt and an old car, I started my traveling career. I really loved it. I learned a lot, met a lot of people, had a lot of fun and grew up a lot. And I paid off my debt. I was also learning to trust God in a new way. I traveled for the majority of the next 5 years.

In Las Vegas I was introduced to rescue mission work. I sang in a couple of services. A seed was planted. Still in Las Vegas in the fall of 1994, I heard about Campus Crusade and Josh McDowell's ministry to Russia. I heard a call to go. I didn't have the money to go, but I was out of debt. I sent out letters of support. I told God that if He wanted me to go, He'd have to supply the money. He did. At this same time, I had friend working as a missionary in Romania. I decided that if I was going to Russia, I might as well go to Romania, too. God provided the money for the additional airfare and expenses. In 1995, I celebrated my birthday in Russia with a group of people I had met that day. It was a great birthday. While in Russia, we gave out care boxes and shared our testimonies in area schools. We interacted a great deal with university students who worked as our interpreters. It's amazing how close you can get to one group of people. The folks from the "Baby Blue Bus" are still very special to me. I then went to Romania for 4 weeks. These two mission opportunities opened something within my heart for the poor, less fortunate, people in the world but not just overseas, in our own country as well. I didn't realize it at the time but this is really where it started. I came back changed.

~~In 1997, I volunteered with 'One Heart Many Hands' for three weeks in San Antonio. My heart was~~ stirred again. We worked with inner city people and projects. My eyes were opened again to a different way of life. Upon returning to OKC, I felt very drawn to a ministry I started hearing about. I didn't know anything about it, but I knew I was to find out about it and go. I committed to God to go. On a Wednesday night He provided the first newsletter from this ministry that I had ever seen. It had a phone number and address. I called and volunteered to sing for a service sometime. I met Pastor Wayne Stark the night of that service. He invited me back to see the food pantry and other aspects of the ministry. I went. Through an incredible series of events I started volunteering three days a week. After three years, I realized I couldn't work and do this ministry, so I quit work. One month later, the board hired me as part time staff. Now, 8 years from that first night I am still at Love Link Ministries.

If anyone had told me 10 years ago that I would be working in a compassionate ministry as the office manager, I would have laughed uncontrollably. But little steps of obedience have redefined who I am. I am not the person I was when I came to Love Link, Working with the people in the inner city, working with the men in recovery, working with the elderly has taught me a great deal about God. Who He is. How He operates. Who I am in Him and who He is challenging me to become. Defining moments - at the time I had no idea where they were leading. What is God asking you to do? Could it be a 'defining moment' for you? I'm looking forward to more 'defining moments' in my life. "As He grows greater, I must become less"

Love Link Ministries, Inc. PO Box 2023, Oklahoma City, OK 73101 e-mail: LLMIn@prodigy.net



12th Annual Love Link Ministries

Jerry White Memorial Golf Tournament

Was a great success. We had 73 golfers!

Over \$3000 was raised for the ministry.

Plan now to attend next year!

We need sponsors and players!

A big thank you to everyone who helped make this one so much fun!

Special thanks for the gifts given recently in memory of and in honor of friends and loved ones.

\$100 in memory of Mrs. Van Horn
\$200 in honor of Rex and Bettye Dorough

These people have been and are continuing to be an inspiration to those around them.

Thank you for thinking of Love Link Ministries in honoring them.



Be A Star

Commit to collect one item for one month during the year. Set your goal high!

We choose the item dependent upon what is happening at your time of year.

Call today!

September Star

Williams Memorial Church of the Nazarene
Pinto Beans

Work 'n' Witness

Now is the time to make your springbreak and summer work 'n' witness plans. We would love to have you come work with us. We are already receiving calls about groups wanting to come. We are anticipating several groups this year so reserve your date, soon! Great for first timers, experienced, young, old and everything in between!

We Need STARS!



August Star

Fargo Church of the Nazarene
Pinto Beans

We need stars for December, January and February
Sign up now!

Love Link Ministries, Inc Board Members 2005

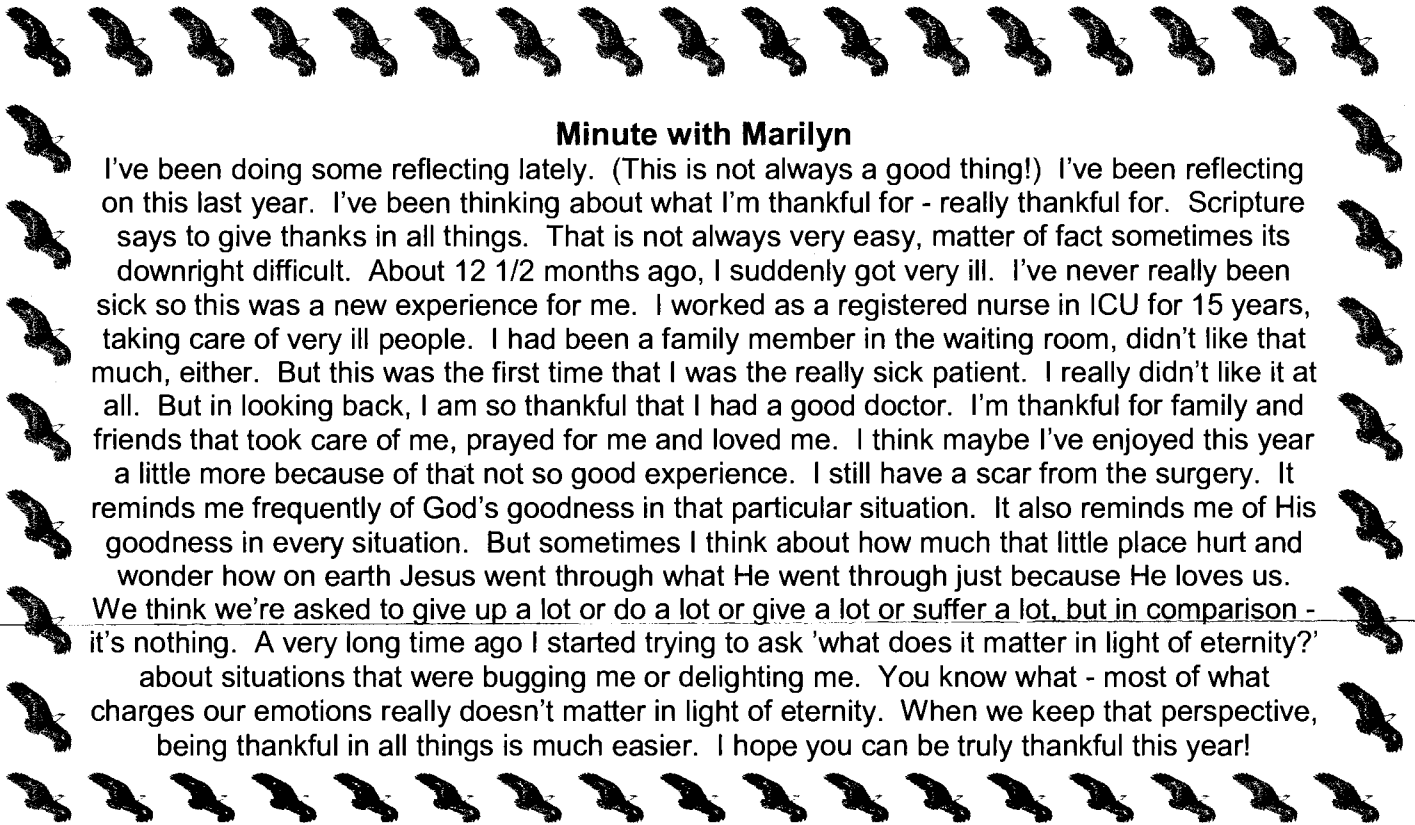
- Dr. Howard Culbertson - Chairman
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- Gretchen Martin - Secretary
- Bob Martin - Treasurer
- Dr. Terry Hall
- Bill Hane
- Sally Munsen
- Bob Rodgers
- Eric Sanderson
- Gary Seaton
- Adrienne Showalter
- Jim Upton
- Les Wright
- Rev. Wayne Stark - Ex-officio

Special Prayer Requests

Praise: God is always faithful in His provision; **Pray** financial donations to increase; for financial needs to be met; **Praise:** Patrick Beery is still cancer free. He is working on the final stages of certification as a drug and alcohol counselor; **Pray** for his continued good health and for completion of the next step in receiving his certification. **Praise:** Gary S. (his story was in the last newsletter) is now working full-time for a local church. **Pray** for his continued sobriety and success in his work. **Praise:** We keep drawing ever closer to obtaining the NuWay Cleaners Building and the beginning of a new era at Love Link; **Pray** for continued guidance, for the remaining pieces to fall into place; **Pray** for grants and donations to come in a timely manner; **Pray** for God to bless our current ministries and lead volunteers to help us in the work.



It cost about \$3.00 per year to produce and send this newsletter to each recipient. Would you consider covering that cost for yourself and maybe even for someone else?

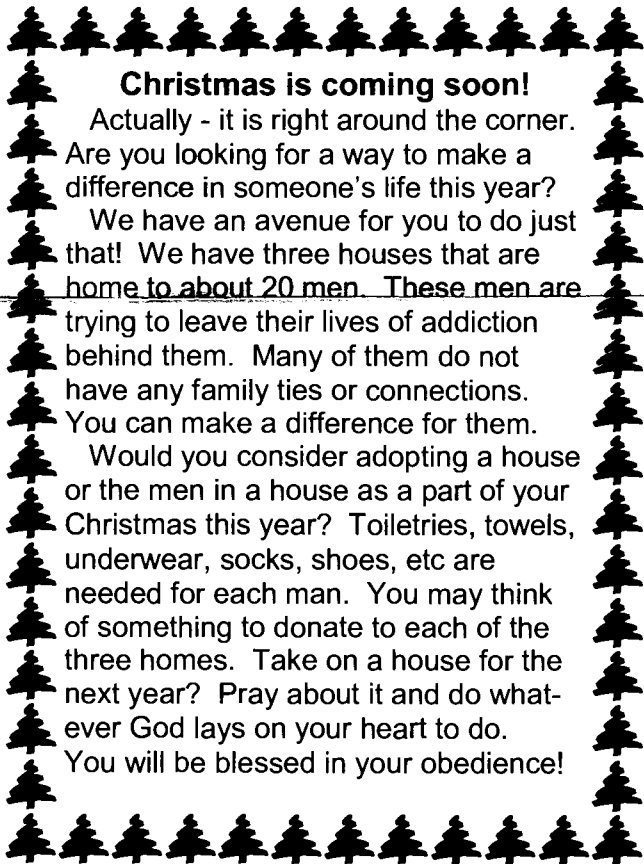


Minute with Marilyn

I've been doing some reflecting lately. (This is not always a good thing!) I've been reflecting on this last year. I've been thinking about what I'm thankful for - really thankful for. Scripture says to give thanks in all things. That is not always very easy, matter of fact sometimes its downright difficult. About 12 1/2 months ago, I suddenly got very ill. I've never really been sick so this was a new experience for me. I worked as a registered nurse in ICU for 15 years, taking care of very ill people. I had been a family member in the waiting room, didn't like that much, either. But this was the first time that I was the really sick patient. I really didn't like it at all. But in looking back, I am so thankful that I had a good doctor. I'm thankful for family and friends that took care of me, prayed for me and loved me. I think maybe I've enjoyed this year a little more because of that not so good experience. I still have a scar from the surgery. It reminds me frequently of God's goodness in that particular situation. It also reminds me of His goodness in every situation. But sometimes I think about how much that little place hurt and wonder how on earth Jesus went through what He went through just because He loves us. We think we're asked to give up a lot or do a lot or give a lot or suffer a lot, but in comparison - it's nothing. A very long time ago I started trying to ask 'what does it matter in light of eternity?' about situations that were bugging me or delighting me. You know what - most of what charges our emotions really doesn't matter in light of eternity. When we keep that perspective, being thankful in all things is much easier. I hope you can be truly thankful this year!

Plan Your Super Bowl Party NOW!

Be creative. Change \$1 admission and send the proceeds to Love Link. Have a chili cook-off, use judges, give recognition in different categories, take up donations for partaking of the goodies and support Love Link. Collect canned goods at the door and send those to us. You have a great idea - put it into play, have fun and great fellowship all while you support your local Compassionate Ministry.



Christmas is coming soon!

Actually - it is right around the corner. Are you looking for a way to make a difference in someone's life this year?

We have an avenue for you to do just that! We have three houses that are home to about 20 men. These men are trying to leave their lives of addiction behind them. Many of them do not have any family ties or connections. You can make a difference for them.

Would you consider adopting a house or the men in a house as a part of your Christmas this year? Toiletries, towels, underwear, socks, shoes, etc are needed for each man. You may think of something to donate to each of the three homes. Take on a house for the next year? Pray about it and do whatever God lays on your heart to do.

You will be blessed in your obedience!

Resale Link

500 South Western

Open: **Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

Food donations (as well as donations for the thrift store, craft store, etc.) may be brought to this location during these hours. Resale Link is open to the public, drop in and visit or shop with us sometime!

Craft Link

712 SW 5th

Open: **Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.**

(May be seen by appointment also)

Native American Arts and Crafts on display, available for purchase. Artists at work.

Food Pantry

500 S. Western

Tuesday and Friday

11:15 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Food Pantry STATS

September 2005

families served
new families

October 2005

491 families served
114 new families

We have people who would love to come and share in your local church or at your local business meeting. Faith Promise Emphasis, Compassionate Ministry Emphasis, whatever. Please call us to set up a time! 405-239-6219

Straight ahead . . . A word from the Board

We're on the verge of acquiring the space we need for ministry. The only thing standing in the way is the money: \$300,000.

I've continually preached "faith" to students preparing to go on mission trips. I've reminded them that their trust should not be in someone's checkbook. I've said to them that they should talk about their vision for that summer in Uganda and ask people to join them in prayer that the Lord would provide the financial resources. I've talked to those students about people of faith like George Mueller, British orphanage director who daily prayed in the food to feed the children in his charge, and Hudson Taylor, pioneer "faith" missionary to China. These days, I'm having to preach that sermon to myself.

As we've moved through the process of buying the NuWay Cleaners building, it seems like every door that faced us has opened with very little resistance. At every step, we've had the feeling that we are walking in the Lord's will. Now, we're days away from closing on the deal . . . we don't yet have the money in hand.

We've been looking for another building for Love Link Ministries for a long time. As we've zeroed in on the NuWay Cleaners, everything has seemed right. Lots of people have encouraged us to "go for it." Now we sit expectantly, buoyed by the belief, as missionary Bill Porter said, that "resources follow vision."

As I look back over Love Link's history, I think of lives that have been changed. I think of children whose laughter has echoed off the walls of our buildings. I think of senior citizens who've received sacks of groceries. I think of people who've been freed from addictions. I think of the jobless who've acquired skills and moved into the workforce. I think of college students whose hearts have been inflamed with a passion for service through the time they've spent at Love Link and First Indian Church. I think of the love that's been freely poured out by hundreds of volunteers.

The other day I was on Sixth Street. As I passed the red brick building that used to house Oklahoma City First Church of the Nazarene, I looked two blocks ahead of me and there was the NuWay Cleaners building. For decades, that congregation beamed the light of the gospel into the urban core of Oklahoma City. Now, God is calling us to continue being a lighthouse in that very same neighborhood.

This is a call to prayer. Help us pray in that \$300,000. Get this need on the "prayer chains" of your local church. Spend time yourself in prayer (and even fasting). Wouldn't the purchase of the NuWay Cleaners building be a wonderful Thanksgiving gift to offer to the Lord?

*Howard Culbertson
Board Chairman, Love Link Ministries, Inc.*

