



LOVE LINK LETTER

500 S. Western OKC, OK 73109

405-239-6219

March 2005

"Go-Carts and Life"

Pastor Wayne Stark

I saw it lying in the yard next door to the Seaton House - an old, broken down piece of a go-cart. My grandson had been trying to persuade me that he and I should build him a go-cart. I thought this might be a beginning. After inquiring I was able to purchase it at a very reasonable price. That was just the beginning of an unbelievable adventure.

I asked Jerry who is in our recovery program and serves as our head maintenance man to look the situation over. He immediately saw far more in that old piece of junk than I could ever imagine. Jerry has had his own shops and turned old Volkswagens into fifteen thousand dollar three-wheelers. But in those days the money was soon dissipated through the abuse of alcohol.

Jerry immediately took on the task of converting the disabled go-cart I had purchased into a fine looking and operational machine. He had it together and functioning at one point. But it didn't satisfy him. So he tore it down and started all over. Many times he has backed up after building a particular part and redesigned it.

Although the go-cart has become a deluxe custom built machine, the likes of which I have never seen before, it has cost me very little in materials. Jerry has used parts from disabled lawn mowers, air conditioners, refrigerators, shelving, etc. It has become quite a machine with three forward speeds and reverse. It has a body and looks like an old model car.

Many we endeavor to help through Love Link Ministries are much like the go-cart. They have been disabled by their addictions and have lost their purpose for existence. Through the eyes of Love Link we see the way things can be. We believe that shattered lives can be restored.

Through our recovery program we are endeavoring to help those who are addicted to alcohol and other drugs find a new and productive life. Sometimes, like with the go-cart, we build for a while and then have to tear down and start over. We have had men leave the program and pursue their old addictions for some time, and then come back wanting help. Some we have taken back several times. Some of these have settled in and are now making wonderful progress in their lives.

Jerry looked in many different directions to find materials for the go-cart. We look in many different directions to find help to add to the restoration of the men in our recovery program. We have taken individuals to the Oklahoma County Crisis Center and The Referral Center many times. At times we need to take one of them to a hospital or medical clinic. We help them find resources for glasses or to have teeth pulled. Some we take to the State Department of Human Services. There are schools and training centers that we help some make contact with. Some of our men need counseling and some medications. We often take them to receive such assistance. We help some find jobs and sometimes we help them get their driver's licenses so they can get to their jobs.

All of the above contacts are essential in putting together the lives of these men. But your support in prayer and finances makes it all possible.

There are other resources that we depend on in the recovery ministry. When you come down to First Indian Church to provide a meal or conduct a service, you have an impact on the recovery of these men. When you come as a part of a Work & Witness team and possibly work alongside them, listen to their testimonials, and share your testimony, wonderful things often happen. When you speak to our men at a conference or convention you have become another part of adding something beautiful to their lives.

It is intriguing and exciting to see what Jerry has created in the go-cart. But it is even more exciting to see what is happening in Jerry's life by the resources you and others have contributed to his recovery. And the same is true for many other men we have been privileged to minister to.

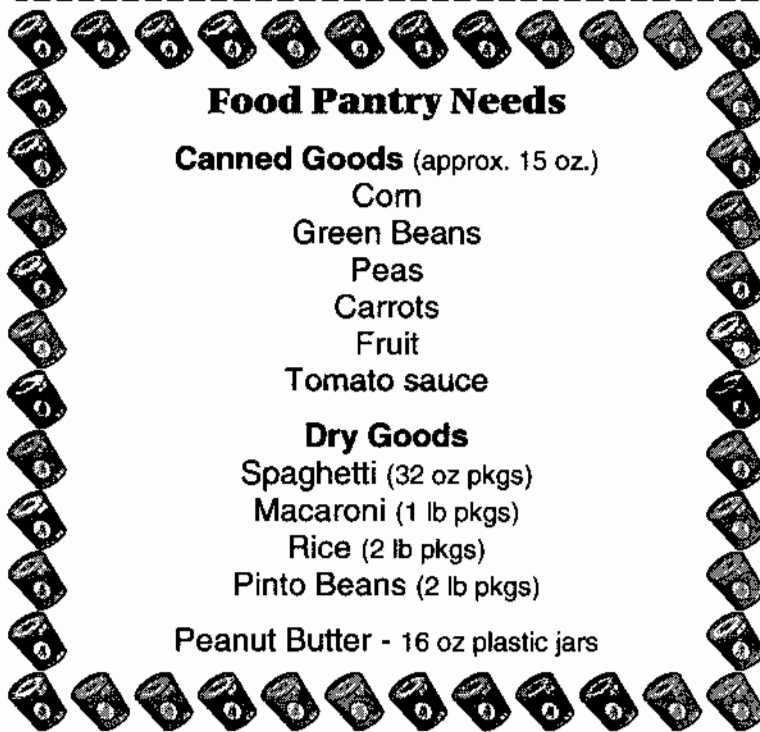
Special Thanks to Tuttle Church of the Nazarene and the **Lingle family** for bringing a donation of canned goods in January. Perfect timing. Also, thanks to all who participated in **Souper Sunday** and brought canned goods and supplies as well as money.

Britton Christian Church and NorthCare Alternative School came in January and provided both the service and the meal on a Sunday morning. You guys were awesome. We're looking forward to you coming again, soon.

Bethany First Church of the Nazarene 5th Graders came and spent a Saturday afternoon with us putting together food baskets and sorting all the misc. food donations we had received. They did a great job. We're looking forward to even more of them coming in June for three days! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Also a big thank you to the **Joplin District Single Adults** who invited us to come to their retreat and share about the ministry. They gave over \$600 in a love offering as well as buying \$300 in crafts and giving a large bag of new art and craft supplies to Craft Link. We'll see you guys in August when you come to work! You're great!

Summer is upon us! The calendar is filling quickly but it is not too late for you to call and reserve a time for your group to come work! We're great for a first time **work and witness** trip or seasoned veterans will enjoy it as well.
Call today!



Food Pantry Needs

Canned Goods (approx. 15 oz.)

- Corn
- Green Beans
- Peas
- Carrots
- Fruit
- Tomato sauce

Dry Goods

- Spaghetti (32 oz pkgs)
- Macaroni (1 lb pkgs)
- Rice (2 lb pkgs)
- Pinto Beans (2 lb pkgs)

Peanut Butter - 16 oz plastic jars

Love Link Ministries, Inc Board Members 2005

Dr. Howard Culbertson - Chairman
Larry Jeffries - Vice-Chairman
Gretchen Martin - Secretary
Bob Martin - Treasurer

Lorna Greenbeck
Dr. Terry Hall
Bill Hane
Sally Munson
Bob Rogers
Eric Sanderson
Gary Seaton
Adrienne Showalter
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; **Pray** for wisdom and discernment in planning for the future. **Praise:** We have a great board with several new board members; **Pray** for each board member to know how he or she can best support and help in the various ministries. **Praise:** We continue to serve more and more people in every aspect of the ministry; **Pray** for resources to meet the needs, i.e. canned goods, pantry needs, volunteers, supplies, finances. **Praise:** Many of our men are growing in their relationship with the Lord; **Pray** that they will continue to grow and become mentors to those around them. **Pray** that those who do not believe will come to know Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. **Praise:** God is in control; **Pray** for His special blessing on this ministry this year.



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 attended the funeral of a 'saint', today. It was indeed a celebration. It made me think again about what makes a saint, a saint? How do they get that way - so godly that it radiates from every pore of their being? I know she would not have considered herself a saint, but everyone around her did. Maybe that's a part of what makes you a saint - humility. Knowing that you always have room to grow. Striving to be all God created you to be right up until the day you go meet Jesus face to face. I also attended the Joplin District Single Adult Retreat held at Stonecroft over the weekend. The speaker spoke on 'Count the Cost'. What will it cost me to be a disciple of Christ? Salvation was purchased on the cross by Christ - it is free to us if we confess our sins, believe He is the Son of God and accept Him as Lord. But to be a disciple, a growing vital part of the Kingdom, is not free. Christ says 'take up your cross, daily, and follow Me'. It will cost us everything. There will come a point in time in your walk with the Lord that you will face a decision. Will you trust God with something really big? Are you willing to leave that job and go ... to serve Him? Are you willing to give that last dollar in the offering plate? Are you willing to ____? --- you fill in the blank. Count the cost. Is there anything worth losing your soul over? Is there anything too big for God? Is there anything worth more than serving Him? Today, I realized that 'counting the cost' and surrendering to God is essential in becoming a 'saint'. It is in coming to points of decision down through our lives where we are called again and again to 'count the cost' in some form or fashion and we decide to follow Him, regardless of the cost that we begin to be more like Him. The more we choose to follow Him, grow in Him, live like Him, desire Him with our whole hearts the more 'saintly' we become and someday, hopefully, people will look at our lives and say wonderful things about our lives giving glory and honor to God. Count the cost - become more of a saint! Start today!

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 Saturday 8 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.

Services and Meals

First Indian Church
SW 6th and Lee

Thursday 11:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.
Sunday 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Please continue to lift Patrick Beery to the Lord. He has had his teeth pulled and bone work done in preparation for his radiation treatments. They also placed a feeding tube for when he has difficulty swallowing. He is doing very well. He has had three days of radiation twice a day and was at work this afternoon, feeling very well. We are praying for a miracle in his life. We have already seen several just in how well he has handled everything so far.

We need 2 churches/groups each month to volunteer to collect specific food items for that month. Would you consider being one??? Call Marilyn at 239-6219 or e-mail LLMIn@prodigy.net

Food Pantry **STATS**

January 2005

528 families served
102 new families

February 2005

500 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

We frequently allude to the need for more space. This is a legitimate need and becoming more and more important. Please help us pray about where to relocate and when is the right time to do so. When we find the right building we will need your help in order to make it happen. We'd like to ask you to start praying, now, about what God would have you do to help us when the time comes. You may even want to start sending money for a building now, that would be wonderful. We need God's direction. We need doors to open. Our building is out there somewhere, we just need to find it!

Thank you for your support in this and every aspect of this ministry!

Straight ahead . . .

A word from the Board

We're in the Lenten season, that 7-week period prior to Easter Sunday. I've known people who gave up chocolate for Lent. I've known people who gave up Starbucks for Lent. I've known people who gave up cheese for Lent. I've known people who gave up . . . well, you get the idea. People who "give up something for Lent" usually do so with the goal of being able to better reflect on the sufferings of Christ. I'm starting to wonder, however, if the "giving up something for Lent" is colored with tinges of selfishness (since it's aimed at bettering myself rather than serving others). "Giving up a want to meet a need" was a phrase coined by Rev. Elizabeth Venum some years ago. Her brainstorming around that phrase led to what Nazarene churches know today as the Alabaster offering. That Alabaster offering is the denomination's international building fund.

Elizabeth Venum's phrase speaks to me during this Lenten season as people ask one another: "What are you giving up for Lent?" If you're giving up something during this Lenten season, why don't you go the next step and "meet a need"? Why not take that money you would have spent on chocolates or Starbucks or cheese and give it to "meet a need"? Let me suggest Love Link ministries as a worthy recipient of your giving. Love Link is an inner city ministry reaching out to families and individuals in the needy central core of Oklahoma City. Love Link is feeding more families than ever, our addiction recovery houses are full and First Indian Church is bursting to the seams during services with people even sitting on the floor for the lack of seats.

Jesus said we should deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Him. Let's not let Lent be simply a season of self-denial focused on us. Let's make it a season of following Christ in the example of servant-hood. This Lenten season, why don't you meet a need? Don't allow "giving up something for Lent" to be just a selfish act aimed at improving yourself spiritually. Turn your giving up something into a chance to minister to others. Give up a want to meet a need. If you've given up something for Lent that has a monetary value attached, make a donation equivalent to that amount to Love Link today.

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