



# LOVE LINK LETTER

500 S. Western OKC, OK 73109

405-239-6219

May 2005

## **"A Hunger for Recovery"** Pastor Wayne Stark

They've been attending First Indian Church for some time now and showing a deepening spiritual hunger. They have stopped by for counseling on several occasions and expressed a deep desire to get out of their old lifestyle and to serve God. On more than one occasion she has sobbed as she shared what she is involved in and how much she wants to change. (I will refer to this couple as David and Sarah, to protect their anonymity.)

At the present time David and Sarah are homeless, sleeping in a camp not far from the church. Their shelter is provided by some boards propped against an abandoned building. They are both addicted to crack cocaine and she also struggles with addiction to alcohol. They have come to support their addictions by him serving as the pimp and her the prostitute. Things weren't always this bad. They have been together for 2 1/2 years. At one point they had a three bedroom, two bath house. He was working and things were going pretty well. They have changed locations several times, moving from state to state. Eventually they ended up near First Indian Church.

David and Sarah both seem to be quite intelligent. Sarah has twins someplace, a boy and a girl. They are about nine years old, and beautiful children. Sarah carries their pictures with her all the time.

On a recent Thursday evening David came to me and expressed a desire to get into our recovery program. I told him he would need to go to TRC first to become detoxed. He said he wanted a couple of days to think it over and to make sure this is what he wants to do. On Sunday, he came back to me and said he was ready. I took him to TRC. On that Sunday evening Sarah came to me sobbing and said that she wanted to go to TRC.

Yesterday, David and Sarah came to me and said they had found a program they can both be accepted in. They said they want to keep coming back to First Indian Church. Sarah asked me the question she has asked several times before, "When are you going to open up a women's recovery house?" She expressed that she would very much, after she has experienced recovery, desire to be a part of our ministry and help others.

Love Link Ministries presently operates three recovery houses for men. We have discussed many times the need to have recovery houses for women. There is a great need for such programs and especially programs for women with children. Pray for us about the future endeavors of Love Link Ministries. And pray with us for David and Sarah.

*Pray not only for 'David' and 'Sarah' in this story but all the  
'Davids' and 'Sarahs' that we see everyday!*



## Minute with Marilyn

I just attended the Northwest Oklahoma District Assembly. It seemed like every speaker, every presentation, all the emphasis was on reaching a lost and dying world for Jesus. I had already been thinking along these lines and God has continued to speak to me about this. What would it cost for you (or me) to really make a difference in someone's life? Can you love someone that may not love you in return? Can you do what's right regardless of how it is received? I have the opportunity to work in ministry all the time. I see hurting people. I see people who need the Lord. But to make a difference in someone's life, I have to answer the above questions, plus a few others. I have to be willing to commit some time and energy in someone else. I have to be willing to go and do whatever God asks me to go and do. I want to do just that. I want God to use me - not only to help feed the hungry through this ministry but to help feed the spiritual hunger that I encounter on a one to one basis. I challenge you to ask God to bring one person into your life that you can help bring to Him. Just one. Trust me - it may be all you can handle. Pray, believing, sincerely desiring to reach one person for the Lord. See what happens! But be ready to respond, in faith, believing that He can and will not only make a difference in someone else's life but also in yours. As you reach out to others, God has a way of reaching into you. He has a way of speaking and showing you His great love for you. At first you may think it's about reaching someone else but I believe He uses everything to reach into our lives and make us more like Him - when we let Him. Ask Him to use you to reach someone. Trust Him to not only help someone through you but help you through them. He commands us to 'go . . . and make disciples'. Discipling takes time. Are you willing?

### 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.

The utilities for the recovery houses were \$708 this month. Would you consider helping cover this cost next month? Send your donation marked utilities. It will be greatly appreciated. Thanks!

### Update on Patrick Beery

Thank you for your continued prayers and letters of encouragement. Patrick is finished with his radiation treatments. He is continuing his chemo for a while longer. His voice is returning. He may be able to return to work in two to three weeks. The tumor is not completely gone but is much smaller.

Please pray for his complete healing. Pray for him to continue to grow stronger. Pray for his faith to remain unshaken. He has truly been a blessing and a witness of God's faithfulness through all of this.

## Food Pantry STATS

### March 2005

483 families served  
106 new families

### April 2005

508 families served  
113 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 May Be Moving!

We have long been asking for your prayers about relocating. With the re-routing of I-40 to the south of us our current office/warehouse building will be at the end of the first exit into the downtown area. It will be very busy with city traffic and not too ideal for our poor, homeless and elderly clients. We want to relocate before all of this happens. Also, we have just completely outgrown our current buildings. We have been looking for a building that could not only accommodate our current ministries but also allow for growth and development of new ministries. We think we may have found that building. Will you please pray with us that if this is indeed the right building that all the pieces will come together under God's direction, quickly and efficiently. Also, please pray about what the Lord would have you do to help us accomplish all that He has planned. He may ask you for a time commitment, a financial commitment, a prayer commitment or all of the above. Thank you for praying with us and supporting us in this huge undertaking. It is all about Him and not about us at all! It is exciting to be in His hands!

*Straight ahead . . .*

*A word from the Board*

The story of Moses and Jethro is found in Exodus 18. As the leader of the Israelites, Moses heard complaints and settled disputes. People stood in line all day long to receive help. Jethro saw how much time it was taking.

"It's not right!" his father-in-law exclaimed. "You're going to wear yourself out...this job is too heavy a burden for you to try to handle all by yourself... Choose men to be responsible to serve the people. ..that way it will be easier for you because you will share the burden with them."

The same principal is true for Pastor Wayne and the ministries at Love Link. We need each other in order to show God's love to those around us. There are ladies who help with the monthly newsletter mailings. Churches bring meals once a month. The men in the recovery program help in the food pantry and resale store.

There are many opportunities for you to get involved. You could donate food and other items, volunteer your time and talents, contribute financially, make and/or serve a meal, and everyone can pray for Love Link Ministries.

Thank you for using your abilities and resources to share the load and share the Lord!

*Gretchen Martin,  
Board Member, Love Link Ministries, Inc.*