

# THE LOVE CONNECTION

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## Sherry Speaks at Tacoma Bible College

By Sherry Phinisey

On March 17<sup>th</sup> I was invited to speak at Tacoma Bible College about ministry possibilities & opportunities outside the church walls.

At the beginning of the class I asked each of the students why they were there. It was such a blessing to see so many people who wanted to be involved in God's work, be it formally within the walls of the Church or as lay leaders wherever God gave them opportunity.

Many didn't know what the future would look like, but they were opening themselves up to the many different possibilities. Most weren't set on being a pastor, which was my stereotype of why people would be in a bible college.

It was really a joy for me to share how Love INC is networking Churches from many, many different denominations to bring about a "Kingdom" vision of The Church, not just one denomination of churches helping their neighbors in need. Love INC seems like a little piece of heaven, because I get to connect with the people from many different churches who really want to serve God, to be a part of whatever He is doing. To me that is the cream of the crop ( I'm not judging the others 😊 just really love the folks I get to work with ) from a

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bunch of different places and I get to know them. They are all so loving and so giving it is j just a joy to have them (you readers too 😊) serving with us.

I've been on the other side of the business world where you have people that work for you that don't really want to be there, they just want the check.

Love INC is such a different atmosphere, people are here because they choose to be here, they can't wait to get here most days, miss it when they can't come and it's a joyful environment, even in the midst of the crisis situations that are going on because God helps us to find help for those who are hurting and when the help comes, we are all rejoicing!

If you want to get involved with some of God's work, but just don't know where or how to get plugged in, give us a call!

## Why a Personal Care Pantry?

By Sherry Phinisey

With the State budget cuts taking affect, people in poverty will be hit hard. Those currently getting TANF financial assistance of \$453.00 will be reduced to \$368.00 a month and those that got GAU of about \$339 will not get any financial support. In an effort to be of some help we are creating a new "GAP" ministry in the development of a Personal Care pantry that will have items people can't purchase with food stamps such as:

Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Laundry Soap, Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, Female Hygiene Products, Diapers, Baby Wipes, Body Soap. We'd like to ask donors and churches to consider "Adopting a Product" pick an item and donate that item monthly to help us stock the pantry for those clients who are calling on the churches for assistance. To get these items people will still call our helpline and then will be given a voucher to pick up the items at our Christian Bookstore. People will not be able to "Come in and just shop" for items. Bags will be put together with the items they asked for and brought over to the bookstore for the people to pick up.

I have put together a half sheet insert that can be sent out to put in the churches bulletins to help promote the gap ministry. Just email Sherry at [execdir@loveincpiercecounty.com](mailto:execdir@loveincpiercecounty.com) for the bulletin! Thanks

### Personal Care Pantry needs donations!

Leave His imprint on someone's life! Love INC is you, the Church, reaching out to people in need with the transforming love of Jesus.

YES, I'd like to share my treasure and "Adopt a Product" for a person in need. Just buy that one product each time you take a trip to the grocery store and deliver to us at the bookstore.

- Toilet Paper
- Paper Towels
- Laundry Soap
- Diapers (variety of sizes)
- Baby wipes or other baby cleaning items
- Household cleaning supplies
- Shampoo
- Female Hygiene products
- Body Soap
- Toothpaste or toothbrushes

Items can be delivered to our Christian Bookstore Tuesday-Saturday from 10:00 a.m. till 5:00 p.m. 10213 139<sup>th</sup> St. Ct. E. # B1 Puyallup, WA 98374

A BIG thank you, to those who responded in March to our Facebook message of needing supplies. YOU encouraged us so much!

## Love's Treasury 2<sup>nd</sup> Hand Christian Bookstore Specials

*"Books are the quietest and most constant of friends; they are the most accessible and wisest of counselors, and the most patient of teachers. ~Charles W. Eliot*

Help us spread the word about THE PROM DRESS MINISTRY!

We have over 200 beautiful dresses that we are renting for \$25.00 each. That basically helps with the cleaning costs after they've been worn. Help us to get the word out so that girls who's parent's can't afford the hundred dollar dresses can still attend the schools formal dances!

Spread the word for us on your **FACEBOOK** account and print off the communication page and we will give you 30% off your purchase at Love's Treasury Christian Bookstore! How's that for partnering in ministry!

Love INC of Pierce County is on Facebook. Friend us!!

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=18043692416&ref=ts>

### *Home School Curriculum.*

*Bring your used Home School Curriculum into the store  
for a donation and receive  
20% off your next purchase!!*

We look forward to sharing all

Our Treasures with you! Come in and visit us at

10213 139<sup>th</sup> St. Ct. E. # B1 in Puyallup

We are off Meridian, across the street from Firgrove Elementary School  
in the 2<sup>nd</sup> row of buildings in the business park



*We take donated musical instruments and partner with Puyallup School District to help kids who can't afford instruments be able to participate in the school program!*



*Help us get the word out! Link us in your FACEBOOK!! [www.lovein Piercecounty.org](http://www.lovein Piercecounty.org) We have over 200 Prom dresses available to girls who can't afford to purchase such expensive dresses so they too can be Cinderella for a night at the School Ball! Located at Love's Treasury in South Hill Puyallup*





## God's peace that passes understanding

Doris called our office. I knew from the first minute I talked to her that it was not going to be a easy intake with this client. She sounded like she had a hardcore attitude and a chip on her shoulder. She said her car had been vandalized because it looked like another car in the parking lot that belonged to a gang member. She said she didn't have the money for her rent because she paid to get the car fixed. She said she had proof of the police report and offered to fax it to me. I knew she was not enjoying this intake and it would be better if we just got through it quickly and gave her the numbers that would help her. She is a 44 year old single Mom who has an 18 year old in the house who is attending high school. She is also raising a 5 year old grandson. Her son and daughter in law are currently in prison. She gets no financial support to raise her grandson.

As we went through the intake, the questions were pretty general and you could tell she has answered these same questions before. I asked if her if she had any family to help her and she hesitated a minute. In the smallest voice she said "My momma died last year." I heard something in her voice and said, "I bet you miss her". She suddenly started crying and crying hard. I listened to her cry for what seemed like a long time. She began to moan and cry at the same time. She then began to say she was sorry and that she had not cried over her Mom's death and had no idea why she was crying now. As she cried she said she has had 13 surgeries in the last two years and that she just wished her Mom would have been there for some of them as they were painful and hard. (I don't know about you, but it seems like a part of my heart breaks when people call us and are crying) She continued to cry and I offered to pray with her and began praying softly. I prayed for peace and healing in her heart. I prayed that some resources would become available to help her with the rent, she couldn't pay because of her car repairs. As I continued to pray, she got calmer and within a few minutes she was able to write down the phone numbers that I could refer her to for the help & support in raising a grandchild. We hung up and I thanked the Lord for being able to be the one to talk to her. I told her she might not get financial help but she would get their newsletter that has lots of resources for activities & support with other grandparents who are in the same situation she was in, raising a grandchild.

She called a half hour later and told the receptionist it was very important she talk to me. I was still in awe that this "divine appointment" had turned into such a great experience. When I answered her call she was crying again and said the resource I had given her had paid her rent in full. She asked me if I was her guardian angel ☺. She begged me to call her again and talk to her because she felt such peace talking to me and she was just sure there was something special about me and that I had some connection to her Mother. I assured her that I had no connection to her Mom but what she was feeling was the love & peace of God and that I wanted to share with her what God has given me. I promised to follow up with her and I have. I look forward to talking to her again to see where live is taking her.

Submitted by a Love INC intake advisor

*Coming soon Thanks to a new volunteer with great technical skills you will be able to order online personal care items and for them to be a recurring purchase monthly and be automatically sent to Love INC's pantry and save you a delivery trip, a trip to the store and Love INC will also get a financial donation for each item ordered through this new site! Can't wait to see this in operation!*

## We did it for the children

The first week of March we had a 19 yr old girl call in from a Motor Inn. Her mom was already in our data base and got help in various ways. They lost their housing (sect. 8) which allows low income families to have a house with a subsidized rent. They pay a very minimal amount and the state pays the rest to the landlord. One of the agencies was willing to work with them to try to get that housing benefit restored, but in the meantime, they were homeless, staying at a motel, paid by a different ministry for a few days. This ministry was a group of churches working together for this specific benefit.

There are 6 girls in the family ranging from 8 - 19 years old. They are all trying to remain in school, but it is very hard being homeless. Teachers have been very supportive in transportation for them. The family had used up their income check already, it was the 8<sup>th</sup> of March and they wouldn't get another welfare check till April 1st.

While the actions of the parent sometimes deter us from helping a family over and over, the Resource Advisor was worried about the girls, not having a place to come to after school. They didn't have the funds to pay another night at the motel and were already actually sitting on the steps of the motel when the oldest daughter called us.

We got the phone number from the rescue mission case worker to confirm their efforts to get the family into a more stable housing situation. Our Resource Advisor encouraged the 19 year old to remain strong and stay in school. Not to allow these hardships to affect the rest of her life negatively, but positively. Become somebody who is strengthened by the struggles. She shared her own struggles of once being just where this family was.

Even though many of our networking churches were closed that particular day, we were able to recruit help for 2 more nights at the Motel for them. (2 rooms each for 2 nights because there were so many in the family)

It was a "from the heart" decision...we just couldn't let go. Sometimes we tell volunteers you have to put the heart on hold, so your head can figure out the details of something. This is one of those times the heart won over and even though some would reason this mother had done something wrong, or it was her fault they were in this situation, the help was given because of God's grace and all the kids who had nothing to do with the situation, other than to be born into a certain family.

## Calling

I read a book recently that got me fired up! It's called, "Calling" by Frank Tillapaugh and Richard Hurst. I want to share some of the notes I wrote from the book to encourage you to consider it's information.

Calling is for:

- People who want to discover their passion for ministry
- Leader who wants to unleash the mission potential of the church
- All those who want to see Christians have a greater impact on our culture.

Above all, this book is for the church to become a player in the community, it must learn to value the particular ministry calling of EACH of its people. Sitting in the pews of churches across America are literally millions of Christ-ones who are God's gift to a hurting nation. They are mechanics, doctors, tutors, and entrepreneurs, whose hearts break for the homeless, the hungry, the addicted, etc. 98% of America's Christ-ones are not ordained ministers, but their callings to ministry are just as important as the pastor's calling.

With that in mind, how do we empower people to be ministers and live out God's dream for them (Ephesians 4:11,12)? How do we discover our ministry calling and how do we help others discover their calling? How do we create environments where people will want-to be involved in service and ministry?

- It may be your Life, But It Is God's Call

Most current church's system assumes a few people, i.e. missionaries and pastors, are the ministers and everyone else in the church is their supporting cast. People in the pews need to know there is more they can do besides pray for missionary's and give financially to support the work of the church, they, too, could have ministries that were just as significant as those being done by the missionaries. ...The vast majority of lay people are trapped in systems in their church that do not recognize their ministry potential.

"Every Member a Minister"

That is a nice thought, but the way most "Do Church" makes it clear that they do not really believe their greatest asset is the ministry calling of the average person. Rather, they think their greatest assets are their pastor, facilities, location and perhaps their style of worship.

Want to open some dialog? Love INC can help you and your church consider ways to create an open system of ministry and look at things through this material with a "Kingdom" outcome and the church as the method instead of Church being the outcome of all our energies.

### Love INC's 2011 Board of Directors

Serving on our Board of Directors this year is:

Jeff Ott, President from Centerpoint Christian Fellowship, Paul Dawson, Vice President from Rainier View Church, Mark Anderson, Treasurer from Puyallup Nazarene Church, Karen Asbjornsen, Secretary from Lighthouse Christian Center, Leslie Giba from Real Life Family Center, Timothy Acker from Chapel Hill Presbyterian Church.

**Love's Treasury**

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**Helping Churches Help People**

*We're on the Web!*

*Visit us at:*

[www.lovincpiercecounty.org](http://www.lovincpiercecounty.org)

[www.lovestreasury.com](http://www.lovestreasury.com)

We recognize that a piece of your heart is included when you write that check and we appreciate and guard your trust, support and your partnering with us to make a difference in our community.

*\*Yes, I will help meet the financial needs of Love In The Name of Christ as indicated below:*

*Special Gift of \$25\_\_ \$50\_\_ \$100\_\_ \$250\_\_ \$500\_\_ Other \$\_\_\_\_\_*

*I'd like to be a Table host for the February 4<sup>th</sup> Fundraiser \_\_\_\_\_*

*I'd like to help with Love's Treasury Ministry*

*\_\_\_\_\_ I'd like to sponsor a child for a prom dress (\$25.00 will cover the dress and the cleaning)*

*Charge my credit card for easier processing:*

*Card # \_\_\_\_\_*

*Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_*

*Your Name \_\_\_\_\_*

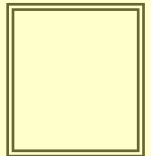
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*Billing Address \_\_\_\_\_*

*City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_*

*Phone number \_\_\_\_\_*

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