



# Jesus Loves You Ministry, Inc.

Mobile Outreach Program for the Homeless

Physical Address:

1734 Cedarwood Street  
Port Charlotte, FL 33948



We here at **Jesus Loves You Ministry** would like to **thank each and every one of you** and your various organizations for all you have done in support of this ministry, albeit, prayers, financial donations, item donations or volunteer hours. Each newsletter will be listing a few of the churches who are involved with us. The following is a brief overview of the wonderful things the Lord has done through His ministry here.

At the beginning of this year we were providing showers 2 times a week besides the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays. Now, we are providing over 100 showers Mon.-Fri.! The homeless exchange their clothing and we average 7 loads of laundry per day. The bulk of the showers are given between 10 and 12:30 while having sandwiches & yogurt between 11-1. We also

offer the homeless opportunities to do 10-15 minutes of community service volunteering by picking up trash along our streets, sweeping the sidewalks, dusting and sweeping inside the building, folding laundry and more. They love helping where they're receiving help. Please feel free to stop in during that time to see the shower, clothing, lunch and prayers in full swing. If you'd like to bring a group, please call ahead so we can better accommodate you.

Many folks have either **accepted Jesus as their Savior** or rededicated their lives to the Lord this year, with follow-up of coming to 1 or more of our 3 Bible Studies per week, attending local churches, being baptized and watching their lives change. We feel like we're "along for the ride" while watching how the Lord works in the lives of our local campers.

**IMMEDIATE NEEDS:** Tarps & tents (dark colors), rope, peanut butter, jelly, razors, deodorant, small hand-sanitizers, men's shorts/pants sizes 28 to 34 waist, men's underwear (all sizes), women's small size clothes and underwear.

## THRIFT SHOP

### Wednesday through Saturday 10am to 2pm

Donations can be brought during hours of operation.

If you have large clean furniture to donate, please call and we will make arrangements to pick it up.



If your church would like us to bring a trailer on a Sunday to receive donations (including unopened non-perishable foods), please contact us at 941-661-8117. Thank you for your consideration.

Thank you for being "co-laborers" with us through prayer, volunteer hours and donations, both physical and financial. You are all the "arms and legs" of His Work to the precious people we serve, including each other.

Dear friends of Jesus Loves You Ministry,

We are writing this letter to give you an "overview" update of this ministry as well as sharing a great need we presently have. As many of you know, within 2 months of moving into our new building in June of 2014, we have been out of storage room. The Lord has blessed us so much with donations for the thrift store and the homeless.

A lot of our donations for the thrift store come through estate sale leftovers as well as personal donations from individuals. We also have an organization that donates paper products when they have an overflow. All these wonderful donations coupled with storage for thrift store inventory we put out Wednesday through Saturday has put us in a position of real need for a storage shed.

Presently, we are providing a minimum of 100 showers per week. Most of these individuals recycle their clothing and we wash them and put back into our inventory for the homeless. As many of you already know, we often get a lot of cold-weather clothing in the spring when people "clean house" and the same happens in the winter when we get a lot of hot-weather clothes. This also means storage space is needed.

We have obtained a quote for a 13x40 shed. The price to purchase the shed is \$10,210 including all permitting, set-up fees, etc.

We are asking you to prayerfully consider making a contribution over-and-above what you are currently donating to help us purchase this shed. Please mark your check "for the shed." We are so grateful for what all of you have already done and continue to do in support of this ministry.

The Lord continues to impress on us "we have not if we ask not"; so we are asking for your help.

Thank you for your consideration.

**Proverbs 19:17** He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will he pay him again. (KJV)

We'd like to take this opportunity for 3 people in management of the ministry to share their personal testimony:



Hello, my name is Jeff Burns and I am the President of the Board of Directors for the Jesus Loves You Ministry and I want to share with you my

testimony. I grew up in a house of abuse and alcoholism. My Mother knew Jesus and my Father did not; we seldom went to church.

At a young age I fell into drugs and alcohol abuse. I quit high school at 17; throwing away scholarships in music, and by 18 I found myself homeless in

Texas living out of my car because of addictions and anger issues.

It was during this time I met a girl who I knew I was going to marry (she was a Christian).

We moved back to Florida and started attending church... periodically. The abuse of alcohol continued. At 25 we married in a Christian Church and I was baptized. I believed in God but I didn't "know" Him.

I was a functioning alcoholic, had a prospering business but always looking for something -never finding it - never having peace. A tragedy occurred in our family in 1999 that changed us.

Some for the better, some of us not so much. I knew my wife was praying for me. In 2000 after my marriage was nearly ended because of my alcohol abuse, I literally cried out to the Lord to save me and I gave my heart to Jesus. Since that day there have been changes and healing taking place in my life and it continues to this day.

If you want healing from addictions, put your trust in Jesus. If you want forgiveness and want the ability to forgive others, put your trust in Jesus. Your life will never be the same!

I pray that my testimony will bring you hope that whatever you are facing that you can know that Jesus saves!

Hi, My name is Ashley Polk and I am a case manager here at Jesus Loves You Ministry. I was raised in a great home with wonderful parents and sisters in Arcadia, FL. After battling drug addiction for years, I found the solution to my problems...JESUS! I accepted Christ as my savior and began attending a local church. Things were going well. I was enjoying life with my 2 kids, Adrian and Madison. I wish I could say I never went back to drugs but that isn't the case. I began using again and within months was worse off than before. I was a mess. I ended up in big trouble facing a lengthy prison sentence but God had other plans! As an

alternative to prison, I was put into a drug court program where I was given a chance at recovery. As part of this program, I was ordered to do community service. With a referral from my counselor, I headed out to



Jesus Loves You Ministry, Inc. You can't imagine the sigh of relief when I found out where I was sent. I knew without a doubt God was looking out for me and had

great plans for my life. What began as community service turned to a part-time job and soon after full time. I began attending church again. One thing I never understood when I first got saved is the importance of developing a deep relationship with God through reading His Word and prayer. I don't plan on making that mistake again!

I expected after getting in trouble, my life would be a constant struggle with no real joy...just getting by. But God's plans for my life have always been better than mine. My life is better today than I could ever have imagined and all the glory belongs to God!

Hi, This is Leslie Martin, Executive Director. My parents raised me in a wonderful home with every opportunity a child could ask for, ie: music lessons, summer camps and college. There was always a spirit of rebellion in me which got really bad when I left for college at 17. At 27 years old, someone asked "are you a Christian? My answer was "oh yes, of course". Well, I thought, "what a strange question to ask somebody". Of course I'm a Christian, I'm an American! After two more years of heavy drinking, a friend and I went to the movie the Exorcist. Knowing how terrible my life was, I thought maybe I was possessed and saw the reality that I had no spiritual base in my life. After sleepless nights of fear, I went to see a local pastor and he explained why I was feeling afraid and that God was convicting me of my need to repent of being a sinner and to receive the free gift of salvation that Jesus paid for by dying on the cross for me.

My reply to him when he asked if I wanted to ask Jesus into my life was "no thank you, I feel better now," (of course I didn't know at that time by him just reading scripture to me was soothing to my spirit).

That night I decided to do some of the self Bible study he gave me. As I read one of the verses in the study, all of a sudden I saw a picture of the cross and I saw me at the base of the cross with this huge, huge black garbage bag on my back. Then God opened the eyes of my understanding! All I could say was "oh my God it's true", oh my God it's true", "Jesus, really did die on the cross for my sins". While asking God to forgive me of my sins and for Jesus to come into my heart, I saw this huge garbage bag on my back come loose, roll off me, down the hill and disappeared. The Lord instantly took away the craving for alcohol and cigarettes and there was a tremendous hunger for His Word and telling everyone I could about Jesus.

Having been forgiven of my sins and asking Jesus to come into my heart, He did come in, in the person of the Holy Spirit and my spirit was truly born-again with the Spirit of God. And Now I was a Christian.



After a few years, there was a dark period in my life where my sins were worse than before I met Jesus, but through much suffering, He drew me back and there is no doubt in my mind that He truly is my only hope for a life of peace here and forever.

Not to glorify sin, but if He had not allowed me to fail so badly and suffer through great hardships, my relationship with Him would not be what it is today. All glory and honor go to Jesus for what He's done for and in me.

*For those of you reading this newsletter, never give up on your loved ones who don't know Jesus yet - A perfect stranger may stop them on the street and tell them "Jesus Loves You" and the Love of God will constrain their hearts! Truly, your loved ones are set apart for special treatment by the Lord.*

Here's a follow-up on 4 of the men who were pictured in our last newsletter:



Brian T. is now in housing thanks to VA monies. He's so grateful and adjusting to being inside after many years of being in the woods.

Brian D. is now in housing thanks to VA monies. He's really enjoying his new home. We have known Brian for 14 years during which he was homeless the whole time.



Edward P. was able to find a room to rent in a large home with other men coming from similar circumstances. He is tickled pink and so grateful to the Lord to be out of the woods.



Mike has moved to Naples where he has graduated from a substance abuse program and is now working and in stable housing. He's very happy!



Gary and Susan Adams

Susan is from Holland Michigan originally. She comes from a 2 parent family with 2 brothers. She did not grow up in a home with alcohol abuse, but at the age of 20 started drinking and continued for the next 25 years. Due to the alcoholism, Susan became homeless in 1987 and has remained homeless until this time. However, on January 1, 2001 she went to a church in Sarasota, FL and asked Jesus into her heart. He delivered her immediately from the alcohol addiction and she has remained alcohol free ever since!!!

Although Susan was still homeless, in 2008 she met her husband Gary and they were married June 1 2008. They

were both in Sarasota at the time and moved to Charlotte County in 2008.

Gary is originally from New Hampshire from a non-drinking family with 2 brothers and 1 sister. He began drinking and drug use at age 18. After years of losing jobs, houses and in and out of 8 drug and alcohol treatment centers, he finally began asking the Lord to deliver him. He continued to fight the Lord for the next 10 years but finally gave up in 2008 and he was delivered from all drugs and alcohol.

We at Jesus Loves You Ministry, call Gary and Susan our "Homeless Missionaries". Gary has severe hearing

issues and will soon be able to receive Social Security Retirement. They would like to move inside, but with limited finances it may be impossible. Please keep them in your prayers as they continue spreading the Gospel and sustaining themselves in our Charlotte County woods. Notice the beautiful hand-made cross that Susan is wearing in the picture.

They sell these crosses for \$20 each.



*These are just a few instances of the awesome things that are happening at the Jesus Loves You Ministry house.*

**3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Charity Night**  
**JESUS LOVES YOU MINISTRY, INC.**  
*Proudly Presents*  
**GOSPEL DOO WOP**  
**50<sup>th</sup> SANTOS**  
 A SPECIAL OFFERING WILL BE TAKEN FOR SANTOS

Love offering will be taken for Jesus Loves You Ministry "Charlotte County's only Mobile Outreach Program for the Homeless."  
 www.jesuslovesyouministryinc.com (941) 661-8117

**Date:** Friday, February 24, 2017  
**Time:** 7:00 P.M.  
**Place:** Souls Harbor Church of God  
 451 W. Helen Avenue  
 Punta Gorda, FL 33950

A Drawing will be held for a 5 Day 4 Night Caribbean Cruise for 2  
 Tickets \$5.00 each 3 for \$10.00

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Thank you Murdock Baptist Church for printing the Santos Concert fliers!

If you would like a quantity of our newsletters to share at your local church, congregation or service organization, please give us a call at 941-661-8117 and we'll see you get some.

As we strive to contact each local church/congregation Pastor, Missions Director we ask if you could present this ministry to your leadership and we can set up a time to have your group come for a private tour of the agency and you can see first hand how the Lord provides services to our local homeless community.

Please visit our website at [www.JesusLovesYouMinistryInc.com](http://www.JesusLovesYouMinistryInc.com)

You will find our past newsletters as well as on the "Camper Page" you see the current monthly letter for the homeless.



Are you a THRIVENT MEMBER?  
 If so, you may donate your CHOICE \$ to Jesus Loves You Ministry, Inc.



**Jesus Loves You Ministry, Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 380275**  
**Murdock, FL 33938 -0275**

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## CURRENT RESIDENT OR



**Annual Volunteer Carry-In Luncheon**  
**Saturday, February 18, 2017, 12-3pm**  
**at the Jesus Loves You Ministry Building**  
**Bring your favorite Ethnic dish!**

**Watch for our next newsletter as we share more testimonies as to**  
**“What the Lord hath done”**

**We pray you have been blessed by this newsletter as we share what God is doing**  
**through this ministry on the “highways and by-ways” of Charlotte County.**

If the Lord leads you, please send a tax deductible check payable to: Jesus Loves You Ministry, Inc.  
Send to: Jesus Loves You Ministry, Inc., P. O. Box 380275, Murdock, FL 33938-0275  
Our telephone number is **941-661-8117**

**Visit our website!!! [www.JesusLovesYouMinistryInc.com](http://www.JesusLovesYouMinistryInc.com)**

**\*\*\*If your address label is incorrect in any way, please email: [LeslieJLYM@gmail.com](mailto:LeslieJLYM@gmail.com)\*\*\***

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