



## Known As “Purple Rose”

Undoubtedly you have heard the little rhyme “Here’s the church, here’s the steeple, open the door and see all the people” [or, similar varieties of this]. Well, we are a community of churches, with many steeples, even more doors and lots of people.



Often desperate individuals outside of the church ask: **Who** can help? **Who will** help? **Who else might** help? They reach out in every direction they can imagine and, more often than not, they eventually are lead to directly contact the churches of the community -- and often they receive the help that they seek.

But that may not be the best resolution. In fact, Love INC was developed in part to put “a road-block” in the way of this approach – for reasons that will soon become obvious. At the same time, Love INC came into being to provide a caring resource for those who do not know where to turn.

Like the churches, we want to see the needs of the hurting met whenever possible. And with Love INC serving as a clearinghouse for the community of churches, resources can be more wisely used to serve the needy.

The following story puts a “little flesh” on these words – the story of a woman who we came to know as “Purple Rose”\*.

When Love INC learned of this lady who seemed to be in great need, in keeping with standard procedure, the staff contacted other helping agencies concerning the request in order to confirm the truth of what they were told.

And in this case, every agency contacted was quick to confirm the details that challenged them in reaching out to this family. Her problems were almost legendary, as had been her frequent emails strewn about the internet to anyone whose email address she could find. To read the pitiful pleas for help, one would think everyone in the area had rejected her needs entirely.

Yet, after some investigation, Love INC found that **Mount Moriah United Methodist Church, Chestnut Grove Baptist Church, Maple Grove Christian Church, Laurel Hill Baptist Church, Nortonville Church of God, and Hand to Hand Ministries**, among others, were all helping her, independently of each other – and not realizing that fact.

In recognition of this tendency, Love INC’s director, Raymond

Klein, has sought long and hard to coordinate services, so that such situations won’t develop. And while there had been an uncoordinated effort in ministering to “Purple Rose” — as evident by the many churches reaching out independently — the value of having Love INC as a central focus was strongly clarified in this particular situation. And Ray really pushed for such coordination in meeting the needs of this family.

Then a new problem surfaced and the effort for coordination was, thankfully, successfully carried out. The family had run out of heating fuel after the winter months with no prospect of getting more. (Most businesses will only deliver a full tank load and that with cash up front before pumping begins.) This family had no cash – ever.

Only God knew what was to take place next. At just the right time, He sent Albert and Jeanne Huber of **Covesville Presbyterian Church** to Love INC. They shared the fact that they had a tank full of kerosene fuel they could not use. It was free for delivery but the glitch was that no means of delivery could be found!

With this knowledge, during the summer months Ray Klein did his best to identify a means for

delivery. But, went round and round with volunteer agencies, fuel companies, and individuals, trying to find someone to donate their delivery services for the fuel oil. He met one road block after another. Then, finally, Ray appealed to all the churches.



**Don Hardman**, pastor of **Lebanon Evangelical Presbyterian Church** answered the call. He wrote to Ray, “One of our members has collected a 275 gal oil tank from a friend. The tank can fit in a trailer or pickup truck. He also borrowed an electric pump from Charlottesville Oil Co.”

“I am trying to get other details together -- like workers and a truck or trailer all lined up. We are looking at delivering the oil sometime on Monday morning if all the givers and receivers are available at the same time. I will let you know when we get it done.”

Finally it was done, just in time for cold weather to set in. The Hubers said that Ray was “like a bulldog,” going after this request relentlessly.

Many thanks go to those at Lebanon Evangelical Presbyterian who put so much time and effort into the lives of “Purple Rose” and her children. In fact, she wrote one of her characteristic emails to say “Thank you” to all involved — a message shared with you below in her own words [and personal, somewhat unorthodox, spelling forms].

*“Thank u all so so very much u all will never never no how much we appreciate that so very much u will never have no idea.*

*i do not no any men that would have took there time out like that for us and go thru the trouble they went thru to get it for us. they was so sweet. i will always be grateful for that. it took them along time to get it done but they did it. thank them again for us.*

*i can not thank them enough. or u for helpin make this happen. thank u. Raymond thank u. God Bless u all.*

*i can not get over what they went thru to do that anyone else prob would have given up and went on but they didn't. they reminded me of my friend that passed he was the only one that i no those to men didn't seem to mind. i felt so bad for them and hated seein them haven to do that but it means a lot to us.*

*they made me feel so good to no there are still people in this world that do care for people. i would have wrote sooner but one of my daughters thought i was gonna have to take them in to see a Dr but she didn't thank God. so i am gonna get her there tomorrow if they can see her. and this computer is very bad shape like to never let me send this. it has bout had it. haha.*

*but anyway i had to write and let u no we got it and we appreciate that so so much. thanks and i am sorry for bein such a pain.:)”*

Indeed, wasn't it wonderful how the Lord put all of this together? There was not just “Purple Rose's” thanks to Love INC, but we imagine many thanks lifted to the One who “engineered”

every ingredient of help to match her need.

**B**ut another lesson out of all this is that we can't do it alone. We need to depend on others. Yes, we need to depend on the church. And we need to depend on Love INC. But we especially need to depend on the Lord Jesus Christ. He also expects us to let others depend on us for the love that only He can provide.

**S**o what's the bottom line? Helping others is a means to an end. We think of Love INC as a helping activity, and that we are! However, let's not forget the reason for the existence of “Love INC” — a shortened form of its full name: “Love In the Name of Christ.” But the love goes deeper than just a “love your neighbor as yourself.”

**W**hile we do anticipate that those serving through the churches in the network will offer unconditional love, the hope is that such service will lead to the development of relationships and create opportunities to introduce others to Jesus Christ and to His saving love. Helping others allows Christians to be seen in such a way that others are more inclined to ask, “Why are you different?”

That's an open door to let Jesus shine through us. It's sometimes the only Bible that some people see. And this is the primary reason for the existence of Love INC.

**B**ut this will never happen in our own strength. May we serve the “Purple Roses” in our lives as did the apostle Paul: “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” [Philippians 4:13]. ■

\* Names of those served have been changed throughout the newsletter to protect confidentiality

## “It is With a Heavy Heart That I Let You Know ...”

The letter that began with these words was painful to read as the phrase that followed divulged the reason for the heavy heart: “we buried Tashia Turner today.” Now to most of us, that name doesn’t “strike a bell,” but to Tashia’s five-year old daughter, to Natalie (who heads the **Hand to Hand Ministry** — a Love INC related Gap Ministry) and to many others who serve with Natalie, the loss is significant.



But it was also painful to dozens of residents of Whitewood Village, for this is where Tashia -- who suffered from several ailments and was just 33 years old – served as an integral part of the Hand to Hand Ministry. Many testified that “she was always taking care of folks and never asked anything for herself.”

Is the loss of a young life ever a cause for “praise?” In the world’s eyes, there is only grief. But in Christ, the “Home Going” and the celebration of the life of Tashia Turner had many praises attached. In the world’s eyes, she was just another single mom living in public housing, a young woman with health problems needing public health care assistance.

But Tashia had another identity, which had its foundation in her childhood. It was then that Tashia gave her life to Jesus Christ. So, as a daughter of the King of Kings, her funeral was one long

testimony to the difference that Jesus Christ had made in her life, and in the lives of others served through Christ in her.

Like the widows who praised Tabitha (Dorcas) in the book of Acts, many praised God for all Tashia had done for others. She was the Hand to Hand Ministries envoy for the Park’s Edge Apartment complex. She was the one who alerted the rest of the team to people needing a ride to the Hand to Hand evangelistic services, to shut-ins unable to go to the services — and therefore also unable to get a food box.

To broaden your understanding of this wonderful work, the Hand to Hand Ministry holds periodic evangelistic services. At the same time as those in need are fed a hot meal, they are fed with the Word of God, introduced to the Lord Jesus Christ, offered baptism, and given a box of food to take home.

Natalie bore witness to all that Tashia did for those in need. Did a mom need diapers? Tashia would be outside waiting for Natalie, her arms folded, her bearing tall and imposing. “Did you bring the diapers?” were the first words out of her mouth.

Did the elderly man on the third floor need a box of food? Tashia made sure, double sure, there was a box packed for him and placed in the van that had brought Tashia and others from Whitewood Road to the Hand to Hand service.

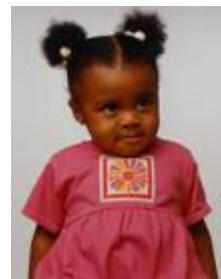
Someone would remark “Tashia, your feet look pretty swollen today. Don’t you think you should

take it easy?” “Never mind about that right now,” she would reply, “Let’s just get this done!”

All the while, over the several years we knew Tashia, her faith increased, but her strength and stamina in this body decreased. Many never even knew that.

“She watched my baby so I could get out to work and get on my feet,” said the young mother of a particularly lively 14 month old.

“She was my best friend,” said a middle aged woman. A young man sang a song testifying to Tashia’s faith.



There were folks from dozens of churches, most affiliated with Love INC and Hand to Hand. There were Native Americans, African Americans, Asians, white folks, and all in between. And on it went at this funeral. Little glimpses of heaven shone through.

Thank you for all you have done, Tashia! Thank you, Natalie for giving Tashia the opportunity to serve her Lord. ■

*“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Ever-*



*lasting Father, Prince of peace” [Isaiah 9:6].*

## Walking Alongside Erin in the Face of Death

A phone call to the Love INC Clearinghouse from South Carolina ultimately triggered a host of responses from the Lord's people in our community that brought real encouragement to a distraught mother. Heeding the counsel of her sister, who works at **Olivet Presbyterian Church**, Donna initiated the call to share the plight of her daughter Erin, who was born with spina bifida, and was facing life threatening heart surgery in a few weeks.

Donna desperately sought someone to walk alongside her daughter during the pending trial – someone to visit and talk with her. Erin had given birth the previous year to a baby girl, a pregnancy that nearly cost Erin her life.

Now mother and daughter feared that this operation might take Erin's life leaving her baby motherless. Furthermore, the father of the child was severely disabled with uncontrolled seizures and could never be left alone with the child due to his own health issues.

Quickly responding to Donna's plea, Love INC passed word of the need broadly through its email list. And, almost immediately, Donna Authers of **First Presbyterian Church** in Charlottesville answered the call. And what a match it was, for you see she has written a very important book about death and dying called [A Sacred Walk: Dispelling the Fear of Death and Caring for the Dying.](#)

This caring Donna took the time out of her busy writing and lecturing schedule to track Erin down and visit with her. She shared with Erin how she too had lived in fear of death and how learning to de-

pend on God can bring peace at the time of facing death. Rev. Liz Emrey of **New Beginnings Christian Fellowship** also contacted Erin to pray with her about the upcoming surgery.

But there were logistical problems as well as spiritual problems -- and Love INC was able to help with these as well. Donna, the mother, had found temporary housing in a student sublet enabling her, and her husband, to stay in Charlottesville during the time of the surgery and recovery afterward. The sublet had room for them, the toddler granddaughter and Erin herself after surgery.

**First Baptist Church (Park St.), Portico Church, and First United Methodist Church** all assisted with beds, bedding, and household items the family would need. Donna assured Love INC that the items would all be returned by the end of the summer – they were on loan only!

Unfortunately Donna soon discovered that the sublet was obtained in error from the young student tenant and that new housing had to be found at once. This time Love INC sent out an urgent plea on the internet.

Barbara Lowrey of **Belmont Baptist Church** telephoned Love INC, reporting that the church had a tiny 2 bedroom house on its property that might be suitable with some work. As it turned out, Donna's husband was able to do repair work on the little cottage and around the church to help make



a quick move a possibility. With Barbara and Bruce Lowrey's help, the family was able to move in.

Surrounded by all the constant worry, the toddler seemed to sense that all was not right and, as a result, was not eating well and was becoming thin. Furthermore, there was no money left over for items like disposable diapers or summer clothing, so again Love INC mobilized assistance.



**The Pregnancy Center** donated some 'Ensure' type drinks and snacks designed for toddlers, which were given for the little one. The Pregnancy Center, along with Olivet Presbyterian Church, **Charlottesville Church of the Brethren, Mount Eagle Baptist Church, and Hand to Hand Ministries**, donated disposable diapers to tide the family over during their stressful financial time. Willing donors brought in suitable summer clothing for the child.

A prayer chain was initiated through **First Christian Church and Calvary Chapel, Charlottesville** for the family and for Erin's safe passage through the surgery. And the prayers of many were answered!



Erin came through the surgery with flying colors and within a few weeks was well enough to be out

and about. We thank and praise God for His mercy and grace in this family situation. Here is what Donna wrote to Love INC and all the churches:

“Thank you and your organization for all you have done for myself and family. You furnished the things we needed to make this extended stay in Charlottesville as comfortable as possible. We will soon be going home after being here for 4 months. I truly feel you were a God-send to me when I first spoke to you from Murrells Inlet, SC. and where this journey led from there, I know you were.

“Erin has recovered very well from her open heart valve replacement and thanks to you and

all the churches for all the prayers for Erin and our family; we all have been truly blessed. I am so grateful to God; prayers move mountains and we are witnesses first hand.

“I want to thank Belmont Baptist Church for giving my husband work and housing for all of us and making us feel we were part of the church family. The generosity and kindness made us feel at home. A special thanks to Bruce and Barbara Lowery for making sure everything came together. They have been like family to all of us.

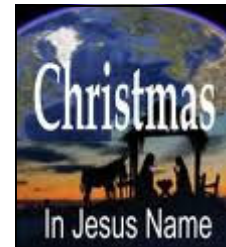
“The other thanks I want to give is to Olivet Presbyterian Church and First Christian Church for all their help and prayers.

“There are not enough words to express our sincere thank you to all!”

Sincerely,

Donna & James Guevremont,  
Erin, Brianna & Greg Williams

P.S. Please forward this email to all the churches. Thank you.” ■



*The Board and Staff of Love In the Name of Christ wish you a blessed Christmas — in His Name, in His love!*

## The Laundry is Done!

**T**he house behind **Belmont Baptist Church** already has been a hub for meeting the needs of many in the community with its Clothing Center, but the church will take on an expanded role with the opening of “Loads of Love,” a laundry facility. With four washers and dryers soon to be available to families screened for need by Love INC - one more gap in the support of needy residents has been closed. Now there is a place in our community for families to complete the weekly laundry at no cost, even supplies are furnished.



Under the leadership of Barbara Lowery, the Laundromat will set the hours of operation, and yet it goes beyond the expectations of a commercial Laundromat in

other ways. By giving babysitting support on the premises, clients have a taste of loving care for their children from volunteers while they attend to their laundry.

The volunteers plan to give each family encounter, the sharing of Christ’s love, and hearing the gospel will be manifest then, caring relationships should develop.

As shared in the Fall issue of the LINC newsletter, Love INC’s “Gap Ministries” are designed to create individual centers, typically but not necessarily in a church’s facility, to focus on meeting a specific need that otherwise would go unmet. In that issue, handcrafted “Holding Crosses” was the focus and here the Laundromat. But, what will it be next?

As mentioned in that issue, the gaps become most apparent through a sampling of the re-

quests that come to the Love INC Clearinghouse. Actually, even a cursory review makes it clear that a heavy need is for a filling of the furniture gap.

What does that mean? Well, a warehouse is the foundational need — a place to store donated furniture and household items (hopefully, in due time, clearing the Love INC office of some of these items). Then there will be a need for trucks and, as always, church volunteers.



Would you pray that this would become a reality over the next year? If you have any leads as to how this need might be met, please contact the Love INC office. ■

## God is in the Miracle Business

Name recognition wasn't difficult when it came to Ramona. Over a period of more than a dozen years, she had called into the Love INC Clearinghouse seeking assistance, invariably related to her financial woes. But this time it was different.

In fact, Ramona's words were "music to our ears." They went something like this: "I just wanted to take a minute to let you know how God is blessing me! I am doing well at my job and am in line for a promotion within the next few weeks. It will mean a substantial increase in income for me.

"My oldest daughter is off to college at Hampton University and, although my fiancée' has been incarcerated for five months for failure to pay child support, God touched his heart in jail and he is coming out as a new man.

"We now have a stable home and our family is stronger and closer because of the trials we endured. Needless to say, we still have financial obstacles to overcome, but God is in the miracle business and I am a living testimony to that fact. Please keep us in prayer and I will do the same. God Bless."

Yes, we believe that God is in the miracle business!! Over the years, as Love INC and its network of churches have ministered to this family, we have seen them come a long way. The ups and downs have been many. On occasions, when there seemed to be hope for a long-term resolution, it was frequently dashed. Even now, the story probably isn't over, but it seems to be headed in the right

direction.

So, to "jump in" to her story, we need to go all the way back to 1996 when **Trinity Presbyterian Church** first helped Ramona and her family with their rent. And then the following year, **First Baptist Church** did the same.

At the time, however, no one was aware that the children's father was a heavy substance abuser. This fact surfaced in 2002 when Ramona revealed that her husband had blown his paycheck on drugs, leaving the family without resources for food despite the fact that Ramona was working two jobs in an attempt to make ends meet.

At this point Tracy from **Word of Faith** stepped in, bringing food from the church food pantry, supplemented with additional items she had purchased, to Ramona's home. Observing the family dynamics during

her visit, Tracy prayed with Ramona, then upon her departure followed up by alerting the Love INC staff to the fact that there were problems in the home. She also assisted Ramona in finding other food pantries in the area and in drawing from their resources.

Later that year, Love INC provided a referral to the Emergency Food Bank and then there was silence for another two years. But, during that period, Ramona's husband finally went to rehab for his substance abuse and, by the fall

of 2004, he had been released and was attending support group meetings. Both were working, but the bills had mounted in the interim and they were in need again.

This time the family was matched with **Peace Lutheran Church**, who provided Thanksgiving and Christmas meals. But, sadly, the time of remaining clean and sober was short lived and by early 2006 Ramona was back in the search for rent money -- and it was concurrently learned that drugs were again the issue. Then there was no mention of her husband. She only spoke of her three children.

On top of that, it was revealed that Ramona had lost her job six months previously. She was in a deep crisis with no apparent way out. But, surprisingly, by late summer of 2007 she had almost dug her way out of the pit, finding herself just one month behind in her rent.

By 2008, Ramona was again in need and Pastor Yacky of **Rockfish Outreach Center** came to her aid. But then several members of the congregation went a step further. They accompanied her to **Union Grove Baptist Church**, her church in Scottsville, for its revival services.

Also in early 2008, Ramona made an important connection with Laurel Chruma at Trinity Presbyterian, who did more than help Ramona with food and an electrical disconnect notice coverage.



While a budget counselor could not be identified and Ramona's evening hours precluded her participation in evening budgeting classes, Laurel persisted in talking with Ramona, counseling her and guiding her. But Laurel put her foot down when it came to bailing out Ramona's family financially again.

Still Laurel had ignited a spark in Ramona's attitude. On her own, Ramona began scraping together every penny for rent and utilities. Others, including Rockfish Outreach Center, **Lake Christian Church** volunteer, Dorothy Schladitz, **Holy Comforter Catholic Church** and the Emergency Food Bank all helped with food. Yet it ended up being just another stop gap measure.

By September, Ramona had reached another low point. She had been denied food stamps, was again behind in her rent, her car had broken down and been towed in, with the repair costs to come from a garnishment of her pay. She needed money for food and gas. Her landlord was irate. An attempt to garner a second job was being stifled with the sour economy. She

considered going into a shelter, but that wouldn't work with her kids. She was at her wits end.

Somehow, Ramona managed to get by for the immediate moment. Reaching out further, Trinity Presbyterian provided a Thanksgiving dinner for the family and Laurel kept in touch with Ramona as she could. The Love INC staff continued to call and pray for her. Ramona was back in touch in February 2009, again seeking resources to cover rent, utilities and car repairs. Sadly, her draw on financial assistance from the churches and community had reached its limit – additional help just wasn't available..



A month later Ramona walked into the Love INC office in tears, distraught once again by the burden of bills she could not pay. Further, she reported being terminated from her job for misuse of a computer on the job and now she was facing possible eviction because of being delinquent on her

rent. There was nowhere for her and her children to go. Her new fiancé was now incarcerated and there was no income coming in except from her job.

Ramona returned to the Love INC office in April, broken and reaching out for more than financial support. Susan provided a listening ear and they discussed how her struggles could actually be good for her children and might bring all of them closer to the Lord. As was so integral along Ramona's painful way, Susan then lifted prayer on her behalf once again.

The words at the beginning of the story arrived in a letter this past July. Ramona still has a long way to go, but God is patient. Join us in prayer that she will indeed relinquish everything to Him – wisely raising her children, entering into godly relationships, working faithfully, using her resources wisely and allowing Him to rule in every aspect of her life.

■

## We Have a God Who is Not Phased by Deficits!

Typical of most non-profits — including Christian ministries — Love INC once again comes down to the last month of the year with income lagging behind expenses. This pattern is probably created because our operational expenses run fairly even from month to month throughout the year, while at the same time a segment of our donors hold back on their giving until their financial picture for the year becomes clearer.

In healthy financial times, the December giving boosts the income

sufficiently to make up for the deficits coming into the month. But, in the present financial climate, this may not be the case.

Despite this situation, we know that we have a God who is not phased by deficits! If He desires the work to flourish, He will move others to give to meet the need.

So, first off, we would ask you to pray. Pray that the ministry would continue to walk under His lordship. And then pray that He would speak to His people to give as He

leads and enables — and that He would guide you to know whether and, if so, how much to give.

To give you a feel as to where we are, at our last monthly accounting — through the month of October — we were about \$4000 behind our targeted income.

So, if the Lord would have you share in helping us to complete the year in the black, we would be most appreciative. ■



Love INC

Love In the Name of Christ

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Fax Line: 434-293-4499

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