



February 2021

ListenLovePray

Newsletter vol. 5, issue 2

The Greatest of These Is LOVE

February offers a day with a muddled past and an over-commercialized present, Valentine's Day. Just the mention of this day stirs memories and feelings, both welcome and unwelcome, from our past and our present. And yet, a holiday to celebrate the amazing gift of **Love** in all its complexity, mystery, and multi-faceted depth seems truly *Worthy*. How blessed to take time to focus on Love, something extraordinary and fundamentally central for us as human beings.

1 Corinthians 13:13 (this article's title) is a wonderful scripture on love, where Paul places it above all other spiritual gifts, greater than prophesy, faith, speaking in tongues or giving. The featured picture is our LLP logo, a simple heart hanging on the cross. Take a moment to consider the scripture etched at the bottom, **Ephesians 3:16**, and a few lines after it...

I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

The idea of being *rooted* and *established* in love is just one of the numerous mentions of love in scripture. In God's word, we see love in so many places and in so many ways: God so loved the world he gave his one and only son...God is love....Love one

another, as I have loved you...love the Lord your God...love your neighbor as yourself...love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. Love appears from Genesis to Revelation and it is mentioned in nearly every book in between.

Ancient Greek offers several different words for love, in contrast to our modern culture's nearly monochromatic emphasis on romantic love. Some of these words are:

Agape: A love for God; a selfless love; love for all creation, nature, a universal love; an empathetic love; a love for humanity itself

Pragma: A committed love, a longstanding love; standing in love; mature love; accepting of differences and willing to compromise, based on honor, respect and long-term interests like building a family

Storge: Love in a family, especially between parents and children; a natural affection, devoted love

Philia: Brotherly love; a virtuous, authentic friendship

Eros: A romantic, passionate love

Philautia: A self-compassionate love; a care-based love for self that reinforces self-esteem

Meraki: To do something with love; expressions of love in art, food, words, workmanship

Love is truly so enormous, so vast, so deep that the feeling, choice,

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A Message from the Executive Director

Paul David Tripp wrote, *We were designed to have our lives directed by an agenda that is bigger than our truncated personal desires and goals.*"

What a thrill to be part of a diverse organization that God has created to share His healing love. His agenda and purposes originate from a sovereign perspective and are accomplished through the power of His love. Our team keeps on growing, serving, and giving all the glory to Him.

As LLP trains volunteers with different backgrounds, our ministries have developed a richness of grace and wisdom. Ten different churches are represented at Ladies Bible Study every Wednesday. New teachers are leading new classes,

more leaders will be serving at the healing services, and a new staff person has been added to help with education.

We are thankful to The Rotary Club of Frederick for awarding LLP our first grant!



The funds will support the "Great Life Plan," an interactive recovery program for the men at Beacon House to help them develop an individualized plan to prevent relapse upon leaving the Frederick Rescue Mission. The Ladies Recovery Program has expanded to include different sober

houses and those recovering in private homes.

Inside this edition is evidence that we too, are being cared for through a program at Paradise stables, a mini ladies retreat, and open discussion groups.

Psalm 50:4 says, *The Sovereign Lord has given me an instructed tongue to know the word to sustain the weary. He awakens me morning by morning; wakens my ear to listen like one being taught.*

May LLP be found faithful as we daily listen to God and engage the challenges of 2021 with the Word that sustains the weary.

Lucinda Nelson, Executive Director, LLP

LLP's LOVE Reflection

This month, let's transform the modern 'holiday' of Valentine's Day. Let's transform it into a celebration of love in all the wonderful ways that Jesus brings it to us in our lives!

We invite you to write some short love letters, just a quick note or email is more than enough! Go as He leads! Pray for three people in your life that you love. Tell your loved ones how you love them (maybe use a Greek word, maybe even give them a copy of this newsletter), tell them why you thank God for them in your life, tell them what they mean to you and how you value them. Some likely persons might be your spouse (even if they have passed on), your children, your brothers or sisters, your parents, your best friend, your pastor, your music director... and we highly encourage writing a letter to Jesus!

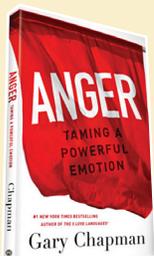
LLP's February Focus: LOVE & ANGER

In a time when many people seem upset at something, LLP hopes this month's focus will cultivate healing as we learn better ways to process our emotions. By intermingling a study of scriptural love with a look at the powerful emotion of anger, we hope to grow and heal.

Love is studied at 7:00 pm on Tuesday nights during the Zoom Healing Prayer Service. Each week, for 4 weeks, a different speaker will focus on a scriptural aspect of love.

Anger is then examined, also for 4 weeks, in a Zoom-study based on the book *Anger: Taming a powerful emotion* by Gary Chapman (author of *The 5 Love Languages*).

The Anger Zoom-study is offered at two times, either Tuesdays at 9:45 am or Wednesdays at 7:00 pm. Choose one time that works best for you. Please register at www.listenlovepray.org



Here is the link to a 2-minute anger quiz from the book's website: <https://www.5lovelanguages.com/quizzes/anger-quiz/>

The books are available on Amazon, print or kindle.

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concept, emotion, institution, really does need different words to show the many dimensions we know. A metaphor might be: the complete, white-hot love of God shines through a prism showing the world all the many colors in it.

LLP is praying for you this month to be filled with the transformational, white-hot love of God. We pray that a new season starts for you as God's love overflows in you and bursts out to all of

your family, your friends, your church, your co-workers, yourself, then flows back to our loving creator. We also pray for a greater capacity for love in all of us. Love for God, love for our neighbor, love for our enemies, and love for ourselves. God loves each of us where we are right now even as our lives continue to need His healing and restoration.

The greatest of these is love.

—Kelley Banfield



Beacon House AGAPE LOVE

Due to Covid, Beacon House is closed and under strict quarantine. The men living there were even quarantined from gathering for Zoom meetings! In this most difficult time, LLP found a creative way to let all the residents and staff know that they are loved.

Ted Winfield gives us the update, "Over 50 letters were written by 11 LLP authors. 24 residents, interns, and staff members of Beacon House received bags. Carolyn was inspired to write a personal letter to each man while Edi created 24 hand-painted "Angels of Hope." Thank you to all the authors and artists.

Judy and I filled a bag for each man with your letters, a few pieces of chocolate, Tootsie Pops, a power bar, and Edi's painting. We had 24 piles spread around the dining-room table. What a wonderful operation to watch unfold. Jesus and the Spirit were at work through all of you. We are all blessed to be part of this awesome foundation."



Edi, an LLP prayer minister, painted 24 unique "Postcards from Heaven" for all the men at Beacon House. Each painting has their name, a message of encouragement and a scripture.



LLP delivers personal letters to every quarantined man at Beacon House. We love these guys! Join us in praying for their safety and recovery.



LLP Finds Natural Healing with HORSES

Elizabeth Tate, owner of Paradise Stables in Mt Airy, MD, felt led to provide an experience for our Foundation to get away from the worldly noise, connect with a horse, and just simply breathe.

Elizabeth has a heart for people and healing – being a pastoral counselor who worked for 14 years at Heartly House – she understands the many benefits of connecting with something greater than yourself.

In each session, participants connected with their horse by brushing them, walking with them, and leading them through obstacles. Everyone was guided by

an expert horseman. All the horses were selected for their gentle nature, and a stable volunteer was with each participant and their horse, so everyone felt safe and comfortable.

At the end of the session, Elizabeth encouraged everyone to put their arms over the horse and just breathe with them. As she said a closing prayer, the whole atmosphere changed and even the horses were more at peace. LLP discovered how healing it is to work with these majestic animals, and everyone came away with a new sense of inner peace and well-being.

LLP Spotlight

Welcome! LLP's New Education Assistant



We welcome Karen Poetzsch to the staff of Listen Love Pray! Karen is a healing prayer minister who will be helping with the many facets of education at LLP. Karen lives in Emmitsburg with her husband, Jim. They have 4 adult children and 2 beautiful grandchildren.

A Big Thank-You to Our Grant Writer, Carolyn Bonifant!



Thank you, Carolyn, for helping us land our first grant from the Rotary Club of Frederick. This grant specifically supports LLP's "Great Life Plan" at the Frederick Rescue Mission. It is an interactive recovery program that develops individualized strategies to prevent relapse upon leaving the FRM.



Emily: I expected to learn about horses, instead, I learned more about myself.

Lucinda: I have been to [Elizabeth's] stable as part of my grief group and can testify that being with her and the horses is profoundly moving and healing.



Ken: I was struck by the intentionality with which we interacted with the horses. Our goal – to communicate clearly as we worked around obstacles – reminded me how intentional God is as He works with us through the obstacles of life.

Kelley: Stretching my arms as wide as possible across my horse, and still not reaching from end to end, reminded me that I am a humble part of God's creation; then leaning on his strong frame, feeling his warm fur under my cheek, and hearing the steady rhythm of his breathing reminded me that I belong.



Blessed to share time with some of God's most noble and honest creatures, horses. From left to right: Edi, Elizabeth (stable owner), Joe (expert horseman), Lucinda, and Ken



Edi: Our creator God has given us so many glimpses of His glory and this experience was one of them. It was incredible to learn and experience how horses mirror our emotions and actions!! I was touched and left wanting more! It was a small taste of how God can minister to us through Nature and His beautiful creatures.

ListenLovePray Events

February

- Feb 1/8/15/22 Ladies Recovery Bible Study**
Mondays • 7:00 pm
- Feb 2/9/16/23 Zoom Study "Anger" #1 (4 weeks)**
Tuesdays • 9:45 am
- Feb 2/9/16/23 Healing Prayer Service "Love"**
Tuesdays • 7:00 pm
- Feb 3/10/17/24 Women's Bible Study**
Wednesdays • 9:30 am
All ladies are invited! Currently, all meetings are on Zoom due to cold weather
- Feb 3/10/17/24 Zoom Study "Anger" #2 (4 weeks)**
Wednesdays • 7:00 pm
- Feb 10 FRM-Beacon House**
Every 2nd Wednesday • 10:30 am
- Feb 15 Mini Women's Retreat #2 "A Time to Relax"**
Monday • 9:30 am–noon
Limited to 6 people to assure a safe space.
Register via lucinda@listenlovepray.org
- Feb 25 Open-discussion Group Zoom "Love and Anger"**
Thursday • 7:00 pm
Register via lucinda@listenlovepray.org
- Feb 27 Prayer Blitz**
Saturday • 9:00 am
- Feb 28 FRM-Beacon House Healing Program**
Every 4th and 5th Sunday • 6:00 pm

March

- Mar 4/11/18/25 Hearing God's Voice (4 weeks)**
Thursdays • 7:00 pm

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LLP Foundation is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit entity.

Your generous donations of time, effort, and money empower the healing transformations that Jesus does here through LLP. To donate, visit our website. All donations are tax-exempt.

Lord, continue to bless the spirits, minds and hands of our loving donors. Keep LLP ever faithful to your call and your word. May each soul touched by LLP feel the healing love of Jesus. Amen.



Hang Your Heart on His Cross

Seek your healing in Jesus! Browse through 139 teaching videos and testimonies on LLP's YouTube channel – see how Jesus is moving and healing today! Stay current by tapping the "Subscribe" button.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9EvNdJsXRY9YTE9890taIq/videos>

Keep in Prayer

- Holy Spirit renewal of Christians around the world
- Those suffering from illness and disease
- The mental health of our young people
- Our Communities for Love, Life, Freedom and Peace
- Leaders, administrators, teachers, students, researchers, healthcare workers



LLP works in recovery centers, churches, and the community. Jesus still heals and delivers people today!