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Love INC posted June 29

Sometimes we get busy and do not take time to celebrate what God is doing in our midst. Today I want to give thanks to God for the active part that this church plays in reaching out with the Love of Christ to our community.

- Did you know that the money given to the Pastor's discretionary fund is often used to help clients whose needs have been verified through Love INC? It is such a blessing to know that we can refer clients to FUMC to receive help both physically and spiritually.
- Did you know that Love INC refers clients that request visits from pastors/lay ministers to FUMC?
- Did you know that a number of our current and former clearinghouse intake workers are volunteers from FUMC? These intake workers listen intently to the needs and listen to the clients' stories and then have the opportunity after each intake to offer prayer for the client.
- Did you know that until this month the furniture coordinator and his assistant were from FUMC? (By the way, due to other commitments they have moved on and we are looking for new coordinators.)
- Did you know that the youth work with Love INC by supplying Bags of Hope which are distributed to the churches? Did you know they also prepare personal care bags with products that many of you have donated to Love INC?
- Did you know that a member of our congregation gives Bibles and literature to be given to Love INC clients?
- Did you know that last year members of our congregation helped fund and build ramps for those who would otherwise be imprisoned in their homes?
- Did you know that our church opened its doors and assisted in a meal for the community at Thanksgiving and Christmas?

- Did you know members of our congregation have helped to transport clients to appointments in Las Cruces?

So, let's celebrate what God is doing in our midst. I am sure that all those who have assisted would agree with me that our lives have been transformed as we have allowed God to minister through us to others. We believe the clients lives have also been touched by the love of Christ.

Sue Holdridge

Church Youth *posted June 29*

One of the challenges of being youth leaders is saying goodbye to young people that you have seen grow from middle schoolers to young adults. This year was especially difficult as we say goodbye to six incredible young men and women.

We have been blessed that a number of them continue to meet with us this summer and take an active part in planning youth group meetings. We will be meeting on Fridays for movie night. Last week we were challenged to believe God to empower us to face the giants: in our lives as we watched the movie *Facing the Giants*. We will continue to have movie nights throughout the month of July. We continue to meet on Sunday night at 5:00. Those nights are known to end as late as 10:30. We will be meeting July 4th and have invited the parents of the youth to a potluck/cookout at our home at 5:30 pm. If you know someone who might want to explore the possibility of youth (we have a number that are unchurched or are attending other churches), please let them know about this opportunity or the Friday night at the movies.

The youth group continues to be active in service opportunities. They still are involved with the Bags of Hope which are bags filled with tuna fish packets, water, fruit cup and other food items as well as Christian literature or the wonderful crosses Mrs. Dye has made. In addition, they participated in the Cancer Walk and recently are involved in helping to move the pastor and another member of our congregation.

We had anticipated a trip to Houma to help rebuild homes, but as the time approached many of the youth discovered that there were unexpected scheduling conflicts. Instead, we will focus on home missions such as preparing boxes of dishes, pots and pans, and utensils to be ready to distribute to those who Love INC has identified as needing these items. The boxes will be stored at the Love INC storage and will be given out as the need arises. Often, women from abusive situations have to leave everything behind and begin again. If you are ready to replace your kitchen items or just downsize, please let us know and we will pick up the items.

We are grateful for the time that God has allowed us to spend with the youth. We pray that as the graduating seniors enter college that they will find godly friends and find college groups and churches that will help them in their faith journey. We pray that they will trust God with all their hearts, lean not unto their own understanding, in all their ways acknowledge Him and allow Him to direct their path. (Proverbs 3: 5-6) Hopefully they have gained from their time with us, we know that they have enriched our lives and helped us to grow in our relationship with Christ.

Performing Arts Camp *posted June 28*

The 4th Annual Performing Arts Camp had its performance of *Schoolhouse Rock Jr.* the weekend of June 25 and 26th. The music ministry would like to say thank you to all the students and parents who were involved in our camp and shows, as well as the wonderful staff at FUMC. Thank you also to Eldin Jontra, Jack Galbraith, and Mary Adams who stepped in and made sound and sets possible. We believe our goal was accomplished: to provide students with the opportunity to experience the wonders of musical theatre in an environment that promotes self-exploration and creative expression. The kids had fun and we enjoyed working with them.

Thank you for giving us this opportunity.

Sarah Williams & Algernon D'Ammassa

Know You Know *posted June 28*

Almost every village and town in New Mexico, in the post-Civil War era, fell into a distinct category. Deming began as an end-of-track town. The early village, called "New Chicago," was as tough in its own way as the already notorious cow town, Dodge City.

The area was not unknown to the earliest settlers of the southwest. Gold seekers on their way to California camped on what is now Deming's city streets. Sheep herders passed through the town seeking greener pastures. Carleton's *California Column*, bent on pushing the Confederates back across the Rio Grande, camped on the site.

Soldiers from Fort Cummings, passed through in search of Apaches and Texans cut the area into pieces to make it part of the Confederate State of Arizona.

With the coming of the railroad, a motley crowd made preparations for emigrating to what they were pleased to consider the coming hurrah town. Some of the worst characters in southwestern New Mexico and southeastern Arizona banded together, and taking up a tract of land adjacent to the section house and water tank of the Southern Pacific, announced their intention of holding it and laying it off in town lots. Notices of warning were posted in all quarters and marked by the significant symbols of skull and cross bones, ordering all persons to keep off. A saloon town sprang up in a night almost, tents and rough buildings rolling up like mushrooms.

“Six Shooter” Smith, one of the gang of San Simon valley cowboys, who had terrorized that region, circulated a petition to get himself elected as deputy sheriff. Smith was boss of the settlement partly because of his fondness for shooting people to see how close he could come to killing them without actually doing so. Fortunately, the junction of the railroads was not made in the immediate vicinity of Smith’s realm as was first thought.

The GAZETTE of April 16, 1881 reported the United States troops had been sent from Fort Cummings to Deming to evict Smith and his land jumpers.

Owen Wister, author of THE VIRGINIAN, visited Deming during the “Six-Shooter” Smith era. Gathering material for his composite picture of the Virginian, he visited dozens of saloons and gambling houses in the raw town. It provided every vice an author could require in writing of the Wild West. The disposal of Billy the Kid by Pat Garrett sounded a warning knell to the bandits and outlaws in the region. There was every indication that economic conditions would be beneficial as a result of the completion of the railroad. Thus, Deming was born.

From the HEADLIGHT, April 18, 1963

Thank You *posted June 26*

In May, the UM Men were able to give out eight Scholarships totaling \$3,500.00 because of your help at the 2009 Duck Race Barbeque. In the last year the UM Men spent well over \$4,000.00 helping children and needy families in Deming.

Now it is time to start getting ready for the 2010 Barbeque which is on Saturday, August 28. If you can HELP in any way, please contact Dick Huffman at 494-1846. There are many jobs that need to be filled. Thank you.



UM Women News *posted May 23*

Many thanks to all who ordered fruit from Bithell Farms. Delivery should be sometime early July. The Conference School of Christian Mission is July 16-19.

Mark your calendars for our August Rummage Sale. Items may be brought to the Church beginning July 26 and placed on the North wall of the Gym. Sorting will be Friday August 6th from 8:30 am until whenever finished. SALE will be Saturday, August 7th 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Help from the Congregation on either day will be greatly appreciated.

Our Potluck-Picnic will be on Saturday, August 21st at El Rancho Lobo. All ladies are welcome. More details in August newsletter.

Congo Seminary in Need *posted May 23*

Our sister Conference in the Congo is struggling to keep and secure for the future the title to the land for the Seminary and School at Mulungwishi. Help is needed to secure the future of the Seminary. Get details in a story by UM News Service, and via a letter of explanation by David and Lori Pearsons, at <http://www.nmconfum.com> (upper right corner of the first page).

The Sounds of Heaven are flooding Sacramento! *posted June 21*

Woodwinds Clinic, Brass Clinic, Strings Clinic, Vocals Clinic, all working on “Amazing Grace”! Music Camp is in full Swing at Sacramento Methodist Assembly. First one in many, many years. Twenty campers and 14 adults are lifting voice and sound on High! Go God!

Young Children’s Camp was a wonderful success last weekend with 83 campers and 30 adults being blessed at this Special Place!

Adventure Camp left 13 youth and 4 adults very tired yet very fulfilled!

Mid-High and Sr. High camps begin next week. Don’t let a youth miss out on a life changing opportunity! Sign them up now!

Some of My Thoughts *posted June 21*

Many different articles come across my desk each day. One of these raised some important questions and issues. It was written by Eddie Hammett, who is associated with Columbia Partnership. He identified nine lies and deceptions “that provide deep roots for dysfunctions and ineffectiveness of many leaders and their churches.” Those nine lies are:



1. Returning to the good old days is the way forward for our church.
2. Ministry is the primary responsibility of the pastor and staff.
3. Ministry is for the church members to support and pray for, but not something they are to do.
4. Care-giving for the membership is the primary mission of the church.
5. The budget of the church is for those who give, not for those who do not give or come to church.
6. Church meetings, ministries and programs are primarily to accommodate the needs and preferences of church members rather than those inactive or beyond the membership.
7. Those who are not like us should not be invited or encouraged to be among us or part of us.
8. Judging others is essential if the church is to stay pure and faithful.
9. Funding for ministry for our church comes only from the tithes and offering of membership and guests.

This list points to some common attitudes that indicates congregations are concerned about themselves and their members instead of seeking to make disciples of those outside their regular worshipping communities. Inward focused churches plateau and slowly decline. They communicate in numerous ways they are uninterested in making new disciples, reaching those who have dropped out or who are younger or different from the rest of the congregations.

Several years ago, a congregation I was serving indicated they were very interested in reaching others in the community. The issue arose during an Administrative Board meeting when one of the men spoke passionately about taking deliberate action in reaching out into the community and inviting their neighbors and co-workers to come with them to worship and Sunday School. Pride arose within me almost immediately. They had finally understood the Great Commission and their responsibility to fulfill Jesus’ mission to make disciples. Then he ended his plea by saying, “We must have more people in order to pay the bills.” Dejection encompassed me. He wanted more members and showed little or no interest in making disciples. He was concerned about helping the

congregation to survive rather than fulfilling the mission of the Church. The focus was entirely on those who were already members. They expressed little or no concern for helping others to come into a relationship with Jesus Christ.

A few years later, I served a congregation that designed their ministries around reaching and ministering to those beyond the membership. The majority of the membership, and certainly the leadership, rejected the lies discovered by Hammett as he works with congregations. This congregation grew year after year with many persons joining by profession of faith or reaffirmation of their faith. The Great Commission directed the congregation.

Does your congregation affirm or deny the lies listed by Hammett? Is your congregation growing or declining? How important is the Great Commission in focusing all of the congregation's ministries? Is it time for some changes?

Grace & Peace, Max

Habitat For Humanity *posted June 7*

Habitat For Humanity is currently building a house at the corner of Debaca and Dahlia. Progress is slow because they don't have many helping. The only day that work is being done is Saturday because Richard Hayes, President, Construction Supervisor, and Treasurer can only work on that day -- he has a full time job on weekdays. Richard is going to resign when this house is completed so this will be the last house that will be built in Deming unless more people get involved. Many think Habitat is needed in Deming, but to few are willing to get involved.

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