

ESA Love INC

Love In the Name of Christ

Helping Churches Help People

"The mission of ESA/Love INC is to mobilize Christian churches and individuals to transform lives and communities in the name of Christ."

From the desk of Alan Doswald, Executive Director...

Love INC and Loving Our Neighbors Working Together

The two primary ministries of ESA at this time are Love INC and Loving Our Neighbors. They work together to help us accomplish the mission of ESA which is to "mobilize Christian churches and individuals to transform lives and communities in the name of Christ."

This is how they work together. Love INC (LI) became a ministry of ESA in 1986. LI is a network of caring churches that serves those in need using a clearinghouse strategy. We ask churches to name a Contact Person. Then we train them to do a Sunday morning survey of what their members are willing and able to do to help others (mechanics, carpenters, rides to doctors, etc). LI gets the results for our clearinghouse where trained volunteers take requests for help over the phone, identifies the real needs, then connects them to a church or ministry for assistance. (We need more clearinghouse telephone volunteers, 3 hours per week.) We also survey churches to find their helping ministries (food, clothing, gas, etc) and their support groups (Celebrate Recovery, grief recovery, divorce recovery, etc). When the churches are organized to serve, LI makes referrals to them.

We get many calls into LI for help. Those with chronic needs are referred to our HOPE Network for more assistance to overcome their deeper problems. We have discovered that the resources of the church are far greater than the requests we receive.

This is where Loving Our Neighbors (LON) fits into LI. LON was developed in 2008. It organizes Christians to love their neighbors (we have an army of 90,000 Christians in Fresno/Clovis). We ask Christians to pray, care and share the gospel (as the Lord leads) with their neighbors ("near ones") where they live, work or attend school. The potential of God's light shining into the darkness is HUGE in our community. As people love their neighbors they discover needs which they can't meet, so they can refer them to Love INC. For example I discovered that one of my neighbors had a terrible toothache and no money to see a dentist. I referred him to LI and his tooth was pulled that afternoon by one of our dentist volunteers.

There are so many people with all kinds of needs, including spiritual needs, with nowhere to turn. The church is the largest company in our city (500 churches) and we mobilize it to serve those people who need help. Will you help us by getting your church involved? Will you help support the ministry with your finances? If we work together, we can help transform our community.





Love INC

Love INC is a network of caring churches and ministries that uses a clearinghouse strategy to assist people in need.

would be sold on the 1st of July. They were to receive relief help on the second.

We could not help with the money but told them to call the storage and tell them they could pay on the 2nd. Judy, a Love INC volunteer prayed with them. They called back saying the storage people would accept payment late with extra fees and give them July free. They believed God had helped them through prayer.

Love INC Partners with Others Touching a Life

On June 19, 2013, Love INC received a call from a couple asking for help with their storage fees. They had lost their home and put all of their belongings in storage. They were 3 months behind and were told that their things



Jumping For Joy

On June 12, 2013, Love INC helped a woman with children, who called needing beds, to receive a bed from the Fresno Rescue Mission Thrift Store. The children had been sleeping on a blow-up air mattress. When we called the client to let them know there was a bed available and where she could pick it up, her kids were jumping up and down shouting, "Yippee! We get a real bed!" The things most of us take for granted!

Feeding the Hungry

On June 21, 2013, late Friday afternoon, a disabled woman who is deaf called us through the special hearing-impaired typing attachment to her phone asking for food. She said that she had been out of food for 3 days and was hungry. She wanted some food and her church didn't have that service available. Although it was quite difficult to understand her, because of the process involved, we were able to call a church and get her 3 bags of food. She had no way to pick it up, so we found a volunteer to deliver the food to her. She was so grateful and thankful for the help. No one should go without food in our city. More than 60 local churches give it out free.

AN OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE THE LORD

ESA/Love INC needs church volunteers willing to answer phone calls from people in need in the Love INC Clearinghouse, or to serve as an ESA receptionist, 3 hours each week. Shifts are 9:00 a.m. to noon or 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Training and supervision are provided. Volunteers are also needed to do computer data entry. Contact Laurie at ESA 244-0105



Disability Ministries

Joni and Friends is an international organization that partners with churches to help them develop ministries to reach people with disabilities and their families. They have a field ministry here in the Central Valley that ESA partners with.

disabilities and today very few of those with disabilities attend church. Let's follow Jesus' example by serving them.

Rick is available to speak at your church or group and would love to have the opportunity to let you know some of the things that God has put on his heart.

Recently Rick has been talking with pastors and looking for dates to speak at their churches. He is also discussing the ministry of churches setting up a time of Respite Care for families of those with disabilities.

Perhaps your church would like to provide a **Respite Care**. If you and your church would like to learn more about ministry to those with disabilities and **Respite Care**, please contact Rick at 375-2281.

Partnering with Joni and Friends

ESA staff member, Rick Eastin, has been with ESA for the past 25 years. God has used him to speak to many people's hearts about His love for everyone, especially the disabled. With Rick having the challenge of Cerebral Palsy, he has been able to help people understand not only the importance of ministering to the disabled and their families, but also to including them in ministry.

Jesus spent a lot of His time ministering to those with

Walking Down the Block

Paul Haroutunian

Loving our Neighbors Project Coordinator

Loving Our Neighbors

A movement of churches and Christians in Fresno and Clovis to mobilize and equip their people to intentionally love their neighbors, where they live, work and go to school, by praying, caring and sharing.

My wife and I like to take walks at night. It gives us a chance to connect and process our days together while we get a little bit of exercise at the same time. We have noticed another unintended benefit—we are starting to get to know our neighbors. One little boy yells out, I remember you...and we smile back. Recently as we were passing by a house a man and his wife were

standing outside, and he yelled to us, look up, that's the international space station. At the particular moment we were walking you could see the space station with the naked eye. It was one of the brightest objects in the sky. Wow. I had no idea. And that started a conversation. We met his wife and child, and after a nice conversation we walked on. I commented to my wife, isn't that cool the way God sets things up so that we are walking by his house at just the right moment to see the space station?

A couple of weeks later as we were just minding our own business and walking by, he just happened to be outside again. He said hi, and we had a very lengthy conversation, and spiritual things came up. He mentioned God first.

My wife and I are so excited about this. Currently we are giving ourselves to 20 minutes of prayer each evening, starting with some scripture reading. We have been praying for a long time to connect with our neighbors. We think this is a start of an answer to prayer. Will you join us in living an intentional prayer, care, and share lifestyle? We think this chance meeting is more than a coincidence. To be continued...



This is what we use to help people love their neighbors:

Loving Our Neighbors

These principles apply to loving our neighbors where we live, work and go to school.

Prayer → Care → Share

- Prayer:**
- Walk down your street and pray for your neighbors
 - Ask the Lord to open doors for relationships with your neighbors
 - If you meet a neighbor that's having a problem, ask if you can pray for them right there

- Care:**
- Help meet their need if you are able
 - If the need is more than you can meet you can refer them to call Love INC at 224-9599
 - Perhaps someone in your church or a church support group could help your neighbor

- Share:**
- Look for opportunities to share what God has done for you
 - Give them a Bible and suggest where they might start reading
 - Have some simple Gospel tracts to share the Gospel as the Lord leads (such as "Steps to Peace with God" or others that are available at Majesty)
 - Invite to church or a Christian event as the Lord leads

Please let us know if you are loving your neighbors and please share your "neighbor stories" with your pastor.
(Contact Jan at 244-0105 or jan@esali.org)

Connections

Citybuilders' Roundtable

The first Wednesday of every month the **leaders of Christian agencies** come together for a time of networking, encouragement and training. We meet from noon – 1:30. If you would like to join us, please contact Jan at 244-0105 or jan@esali.org

Missions Network

The second Wednesday of every month **leaders of church mission activities and those interested in missions, here, there and everywhere**, gather to network and learn strategies and upcoming mission possibilities. We meet from noon – 1:30. If you have any questions, you may contact Jan at 244-0105 or jan@esali.org





Evangelicals for Social Action/Fresno, Inc.
1300 East Shaw #136
Fresno, CA 93710-7903

Notice: Everyone who would like to receive this newsletter may do so, but if you choose not to, please notify ESA.

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MINISTRIES AND NETWORKS OF ESA INCLUDE:

Love INC Citybuilders Roundtable
Missions Network Loving Our Neighbors

BOARD

Rick Arii Dina Gonzalez-Piña
Shirley Barber Rod Lowery
Paul Binion Bruce McAlister
Nora Christensen Mitt Moua
Matt Cook Jim Tienken
Alan Doswald Bob Willis

Fresno/Clovis Prayer and Events

For more information contact paul.haroutunian@esali.org or 244-0105

August 8,9	Willow Creek Leadership Summit @ New Harvest Church (797-7000)	8am-5pm
August 11	Mayor's Call to Prayer @ Westside Church of God (237-1444)	5pm
Sept. 23, 24	Pastors & Ministry Leaders Prayer Summit @ ECCO Oakhurst	9am Monday to 5pm Tuesday
Sept. 25	See You at the Pole, for students at your school flagpole (237-4741)	7am
October 18-19	Engage Missional Life Conference: engageforgod.com	
October 27	Mayor's Call to Prayer, TBA	5pm
November	My Hope with Billy Graham on Television	
November 10	International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted church	
November 23	Convoy of Hope Outreach @ The Fairgrounds	

Thanks Alan Reutter

After pastoring for several years, Alan Reutter joined the staff of ESA six years ago as our Missions Network Coordinator. Alan has been such a blessing to ESA and to our community. He recently left ESA to become the interim shepherding pastor at Fowler Presbyterian Church, where he once served as lead pastor. Thanks for serving with us and God bless you in your new area of ministry.

DONATIONS

ESA /Love INC can receive donations through Direct Deposit, PayPal or through the following Credit Cards: Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express. To give to ESA in this way, please contact Laurie at 244-0105 for further instructions. Checks can be made out to ESA and mailed to 1300 E Shaw #136 Fresno, CA 93710

Contact us at www.esali.org



Evangelical Council for
Financial Accountability



United Way of Fresno County