

DRU'S VIEWS  
**Fourteenth Edition – March 2009**

## **What is Love?**

*Jesus said, “The first [commandment] in importance is, ‘Listen, Israel: The Lord your God is one; so love the Lord God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence and energy.’ And here is the second: ‘Love others as well as you love yourself.’ There is no other commandment that ranks with these.” Mark 12:29 – 31 (The Message)*

*We have sinned in not fulfilling the second commandment, which tells us to love our neighbor as ourselves. We haven't loved ourselves and, thus, we haven't been capable of loving our neighbor. We present-day Christians have sinned by not showing the face of Christ to the world at large. The early Christians showed his face to such an extent that the pagans said of them, “See how they love one another.” – Soul of My Soul, Catherine de Hueck Doherty*

### **Twikatane (We Are United)**

*What is love?* This question was asked at a meeting of the Twikatane women's group in Fisenge just after Valentine's Day. I thought they would talk about “romantic” love between a man and woman or the love between a mother and child. They surprised me by talking about love among themselves as a group of believers in Christ. They said you should take a complaint directly to a friend rather than talking behind her back. You should forgive someone who hurts you. *(Love is forgiveness and being considerate of others.)* Then we talked about sacrificial love, such as when a mother goes hungry so her child will have food. And the sacrificial love of Jesus who died on the cross for our sins.

There are now 30 members of the group with almost perfect attendance at their twice-a-week meetings. The level of commitment is impressive. They have sold some of their needlework and are learning new, more complicated stitches. They received a gift of a foot pedal sewing machine (no electricity in the village) and also a grant of \$300 from the Conference, which they have used to buy a second machine and materials. (A machine costs only \$85!) They also plan to start selling fish and charcoal. Since “Auntie Dru” has started coming, the number of children has also increased, and I'm looking for ways to entertain them. As we approached the church the other day, one of the children told his mother, “Look! Your teacher has come, and our teacher, too!”



*Dennis, one of the Twikatane kids.*

### **Lifesong School**

We are nearing the end of our first term with a total of 174 children. We have already lost a few. Two were sent to other relatives after their grandfather, who was taking care of them, died. One of the fathers got a new job and was transferred. It is always hard to see the children go and wonder if they will be able to continue their education. We have been plagued this month with far too many cases of malaria among the children (one day we had 8 cases!) and now the chicken pox! We hope the rains will end soon, and the mosquitoes will be less active. One day I heard my name being called from the sick bay. I went in and found 5-year-old Marita in bed with her best friend, Rebecca, who was sick. They peeked out from under the blanket and giggled at me! *(Love is sharing another's pain and joy.)*

We hired Josephine, the guardian for orphans Mwila, Mwape and Geoffrey, to help in the kitchen. Also, the father of one of our children was hired to make desks and cabinets for our new classrooms. One of our long-term goals is to help our children's families find means of generating income. This is a first step.

Our school manager, John Mumba, was startled one day when he saw two uniformed police officers approaching his office. He was relieved when they told him they were studying social work in training for possible future assignment in the victim support unit. They were advised to visit Lifesong School as a part of their research. Comments of one were, “I have really enjoyed visiting Lifesong. I am very impressed on the care given to the children. The members of staff are wonderful and accommodative. I enjoyed my short stay. God will reward you for your wonderful work.” The other said, “I have never before seen an NGO which has put more emphasis on the children and devoting themselves rather than thinking of their own personal gain.” *(Love is putting others' needs before our own.)*

### **“My Children”**

We are still waiting for the grade 12 examination results; results were finally released for those who wrote grade 9 last year. Daudi passed well and is now in Lusaka in grade 10 at the only high school in the country that offers classes for the visually impaired. He seems quite happy there but is not allowed to use his phone—he had to hide under the

blankets one night just to send me a text message that he'd arrived safely! Daudi's father is a Muslim; his deceased mother was a Christian. I asked him one day how he happened to be a Christian with a Muslim father. He said his father taught him the Koran but also permitted him to study the Bible; he then allowed him to make his own decision of what was the truth. Daudi decided that the Christian faith must be the true religion, since Muhammad is dead and Jesus lives! He practices his faith with no interference from his father, unusual in a Muslim family. I pray that one day his father will learn from Daudi's example to also follow Christ.

Jonathan, for the second time, did not pass his exams. He is determined to continue in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade and study extra in the afternoons to rewrite them. I will not discourage him, but we are trying to persuade him that it might be better at this time to pursue some sort of vocational training program. But it will be up to him to decide. (*Love is offering encouragement and support. It is guiding your children to make good decisions without forcing them.*)

### ***Sneak Peaks:***

- In Zambia, the black and white striped crosswalks are called, naturally, "zebras."
- One night, I stepped out of my car and walked up to the house. A few seconds later, my toe started to burn. Then I felt like I had "ants in my pants." Well, I did—the big biting kind. I had to run to the bathroom and strip off my clothes to get them out. I was still finding them here and there two hours later. Next time, I'll look closely!
- I asked Morgan what was wrong with his bicycle when he told me it was broken. He said it needed a new "clanker." I couldn't imagine what that was. Finally I realized he was trying to say "cranker," referring to the gear that holds the chain. (There is no "r" sound in the local language, Bemba.)
- I was working on entering the student information sheets in my computer and discovered that we have a set of twins who were born 8 days apart! I pity that poor mother. (Legal records of births are rarely found, and parents often forget their child's birthdate. We chose one date and assigned it to both of the twins.)

### ***Prayer Requests:***

- For the Twikatane Women's Group, that they may continue in love for one another and to grow in their faith and skills so they can help their families and each other, both spiritually and materially.
- For Lifesong School, that we will continue to be able to provide ministry to our children and their families so that they may experience the Kingdom of God through our love.
- For my former street boys, that they might be given all of the opportunities they so richly deserve to pursue their education and live up to their potential, and that someday they will be able to share the love of Christ with the people of Zambia through their gifts and talents.
- For the people of Zambia, that they might know the meaning of "love" as expressed by the life of Jesus, and that they will learn to follow in His footsteps, not only in word but in deed.



**What is love?** It is a little girl, who runs to greet you, climbs in your lap when you sit down, smiles up at you, and looks into your eyes with total and unconditional adoration, not because of any material gift you've given her or anything in particular you've done for her—but just because you are there!

It's a little boy who trusts you enough to let you wash and bandage his wound, even though it hurts.

It's a friend who is there for you, even when you are totally stressed out and not much fun to be with.

*Mary Mangala, one of our Lifesong children.*

It is God, sacrificing his only son, that we might have life! I pray that we all will show the face of Christ to the extent that non-believers will say of us, "See how they love one another."

In His service,

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