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CHANGE YOUR LIFE. CHANGE YOUR WORLD.

LOVE BEYOND HUMAN LIMITS

How to get it, how to share it

GOD'S ONLY LAW

It's all about love

THE MARRIAGE SUPPER OF THE LAMB

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Personally speaking

Mahatma Gandhi once said to James McEldowney, a Christian who was visiting Gandhi at his home in Sevagram, “I have a great respect for Christianity. I often read the Sermon on the Mount and have gained much from it. I know of no one who has done more for humanity than Jesus. In fact, there is nothing wrong with Christianity, but the trouble is with you Christians. You do not begin to live up to your own teachings.” What he meant, of course, was that he couldn’t see many Christians living the way Jesus said His followers should. Much of the world would say amen to that.

So where does that leave Christians who take their Christianity seriously? In the face of such humbling criticism, do we quit even trying?—Or do we rise to the challenge?

Let’s give the world something to talk about! Let’s get down to business—the business of living the way Jesus said we should. Let’s show that it *can* be done.

It’s not as complicated as you may think. It all comes down to one simple rule, the “Law of Love,” which Jesus expressed a little differently on a couple of different occasions: Love God foremost, and love others as much as we love ourselves (Matthew 22:37–40), and treat others the way we want to be treated (Matthew 7:12). If we each truly tried to live that way, it wouldn’t change the whole world overnight, but before long it would change *our* worlds—our own lives and the lives we touch. When we think in terms of righting all the world’s wrongs, it’s overwhelming, impossible. But when we put Jesus’ teaching into simple everyday terms and take it one decision, one action, one conversation, one loving gesture at a time, it’s not so hard. In fact, it’s the most thrilling and fulfilling life there is, because sharing real love has rewards all its own. Let’s live by God’s Law of Love!

Keith Phillips

For the *Activated* family

HE EXPECTED IT OF ME

There is a story about two brothers who enlisted in the Army during World War I and asked to be assigned to the same unit. They were soon sent to the frontline, to the trenches. In the trench warfare of that period, each side dug a network of trenches along the frontline of their territory, then laid siege to the other side's trenches. From time to time, one side or the other would launch an offensive to try to break through the enemy's lines. During one such attack, the younger brother was mortally wounded in no man's land—that exposed, deadly area between the opposing forces.

The older brother, still safe in the trench, saw it happen and knew instinctively what he must do. He worked his way through the trench, around other soldiers, until he came to his lieutenant. "I've got to go get him!" the older brother called out over the din of battle.

"That's impossible!" his lieutenant fired back. "You'll be killed the minute you stick your head out of this trench!"



But the older brother tore himself loose from the officer's grip, scrambled out of the trench, and plunged into no man's land to find his brother, amid heavy fire from the enemy.

When he did, the younger brother could only manage a whisper. "I knew you'd come!"

By this time, the older brother had also been seriously wounded. He barely managed to drag his brother back to their lines, where they both fell into the trench, dying.

"Why did you do it?" asked the lieutenant, himself at the

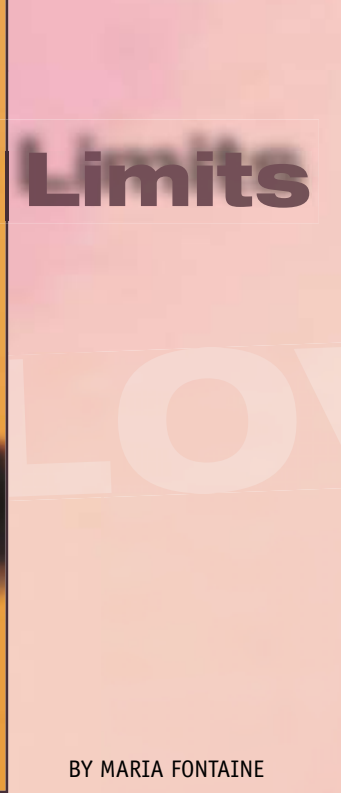
point of tears. "I told you you'd get yourself killed!"

"I *had* to do it!" the older brother replied with a final smile. "He expected it of me."

—AUTHOR UNKNOWN, RETOLD BY DAVID BRANDT BERG (D.B.B.)

"Hereby perceive we the love of God: Because He [Jesus] laid down His life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren" (1 John 3:16 KJV).

Love Beyond Human Limits



BY MARIA FONTAINE

Consistently thinking of others and trying to help meet their needs, especially when that involves personal sacrifice, is a tall order! It's so easy to be lazy, selfish, and self-centered. Most of us are that way naturally. Our first reactions are usually about ourselves—what we want and what will make *us* happy. But if we ask Jesus to help us and put forth a genuine effort, we can develop new habits and reactions, which, with time, will help us become more loving, caring, sacrificial individuals.

Jesus understands that we don't naturally have enough love to live in the loving manner He has said we should, but that's really no excuse. Just because *we* can't do it doesn't mean He doesn't expect it of us, because *He* will do it for us and through us if we want it badly enough and ask for His help. He is happy to give us all the outgoing, sacrificial love we need,

because that's what He wants for us too.

It's human nature to be self-preserving, self-seeking, self-satisfying. It's human nature to put our own needs and survival above others. But here's where those who have received God's love in Jesus have a great advantage, because the Bible promises, "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17). Jesus helps us break those natural circuits. He rewires our minds and hearts to do His bidding, which is to love others.

What a marvelous thing that is! Jesus told His original disciples, "By this all will know that you are My disciples"—followers of His teachings—"if you have love for one another" (John 13:35). In that day, the love Jesus' disciples had for each other, their friends, and even strangers drew

The world is dying for the kind of love Jesus talked about and lived

LOVE

much attention and was a powerful example to others of the Lord's love, and it spread.

How much more is this kind of love a miracle in this day and age, when most people are so caught up in meeting their own needs and fulfilling their own desires that the thought of sacrificially loving someone else hardly enters their minds. Today there is an even greater need to see love in action, because people are no longer sensitive to the reflection of the Lord's love in the many blessings He gives them, even when they don't deserve those blessings (Matthew 5:45).

The need is greater, but the testimony is also much greater. When people see love manifested in truly extraordinary ways—love that they know they aren't capable of themselves—they take notice. They cannot deny that such love is out of this world. "Where do you get such love?" they ask. "And where can *I* get it?"

The world is dying for the kind of love Jesus talked about and lived and now offers us. This is why He challenges us to manifest deep, sacrificial, impartial love for others, even though He knows such love is far beyond our human capabilities. It's *impossible* for us to show such love on our own, and if we try to do this ourselves, we'll be disappointed, frustrated, and wear ourselves out trying. But if we will simply ask Jesus for that love and then be willing to put it into action, He will give it to us. In fact, He will give us His love in such tremendous volume and power that we and everyone else will know it's a miracle!

To become the new creation He wants to make you, all it takes is a willing mind and heart, a believing spirit, prayer, and following through with many small deeds of unselfish love. As you begin to do your part,

you will find that you think more of others, feel their needs more readily, and have more genuine concern for their happiness and well-being. More wonderful still, you will find yourself gladly giving up some of your own plans or things you once held dear for the sake of others.

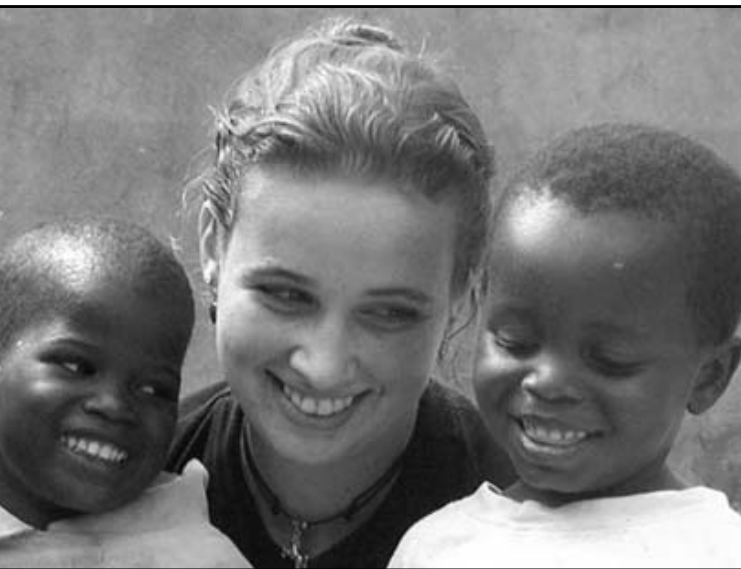
When you give of yourself, when you go out of your way to be a friend, when you take time to talk to some-



one who's lonely or comfort someone who's sick, when you sympathize and help someone with their problems, when you make someone feel needed, and when you point someone to the source of this extraordinary love you share—Jesus—you will find that it

When you give
of yourself,
you will find it
brings you a
special kind of
satisfaction

brings you a special kind of satisfaction and reward of spirit. Through performing these little acts of love and unselfishness you will be blessed personally with happiness that can't be gotten any other way—the happiness of knowing that you have been a blessing to someone in need.



In loving and giving unselfishly, you not only allow God to use you to help others, but you allow Him to pour His blessings upon you, for He blesses the unselfish and the sacrificial. He blesses those who are giving, and He withdraws some of His blessings from those who selfishly always think of themselves first and insist on having their own way (Proverbs 11:24–25; 13:7).

Human love can only go so far. To be all you can be and accomplish all you can, you need to be filled with the love of God, which you find in Jesus. He has more love to give you than you've ever dreamed possible! He is waiting with a flood of love to pour upon you, if you will only believe that such love is possible, ask, receive, and then be willing to put it into action.

So let's let Jesus' love for others shine through us. Let's love one another more. Let's do unto others as we would have them do unto us. Let's let the Lord's love be manifested in more forgiveness, understanding, communication, sharing, support, sympathy, and practical, loving, caring action. Let's give of our time, be a listening ear, and open our hearts and lives to others. Let's be swift to forgive and forget. Let's do our best to be our brother's keeper. Let's not hold back the simple affection that so wonderfully communicates the Lord's love. Let's be a strong shoulder to lean on or cry on. Let's not jump to conclusions or judge unfairly, but instead give others the benefit of the doubt. Let's try with all our hearts to set a good example of the Lord's unconditional love. Let's bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill God's supreme law: love.

Do you want such love for others? It's yours for the asking. God made that possible when He sent Jesus to give His life for you. "For God so loved the world [you and me], that He gave His only begotten Son [Jesus], that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). God will forgive all your sins and give you eternal life if you will receive Jesus by sincerely praying a prayer like the following:

Dear Jesus, I want to know You. Thank You for giving Your life for me. Please forgive me for all the things I have done wrong. I now open the door of my heart, and ask You to come in. Please give me Your gift of eternal life and fill me with Your love so I can love others as You do. Amen.

Making Things RIGHT

BY ANDREA CLAY

I was just a girl of 14 when I met Gabriel. He wasn't much older and was struggling with growing up, like me. We became friends and had lots of fun together.

What came between us, I can't remember. There were harsh words and tears. I wanted to make things right, but didn't know how. The situation seemed too complex to sort out. Gabriel and I grew further apart.

Years passed, and we lost touch. Then in April 1998, mutual friends let me know that Gabriel was in a coma. He had fallen 30 meters (about 100 feet) while mountain climbing. My heart stopped. I knew in that instant that I would never see him again in this life. The doctors did what they could, but Gabriel died a few weeks later.

For some time afterwards I would lie awake at night, wishing I had resolved our differences. I was sure that any chance for that was now past. I wondered if he had forgiven me for the hurt I had caused him. I wondered if, when he looked down from Heaven, he could see and understand the pain in my heart.

Then one night I got the answer to my question. It wasn't a long or elaborate answer, but it was everything I needed to wash away the regret I felt. I distinctly heard a voice

in my head—Gabriel's voice—say, *I always considered you a friend!* I knew all was forgiven. My heart was at peace.

I vowed then and there to never again end a day without making things right with those I may have hurt or offended, because I may never have another chance. Today may be my last opportunity in this life to show someone I care, to say "I love you" and make things right.

ANDREA CLAY IS A FULL-TIME VOLUNTEER WITH THE FAMILY.

"I [Jesus] say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift." (Matthew 5:22–24).

The difference between holding on
to a hurt
Or releasing it with forgiveness
Is like the difference between laying
your head down at night
On a pillow filled with thorns
Or a pillow filled with rose petals.

—LOREN FISCHER

...it was
everything
I needed
to wash
away the
regret I felt



GOD'S ONLY LAW—

*and how
to keep it*

*If we love
someone
we're not
going to do
things that
would hurt
them*

An expert in the Mosaic Law, God's law for His people in Old Testament times, tested Jesus by asking, "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"—to which Jesus answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the prophets" (Matthew 22:35–40).

Jesus summarized God's Law of Love in general terms in the above passage. He expressed it again in His now famous Golden Rule: "In everything, do to others what you would have them do to you" (Matthew 7:12

NIV), and, "A new command I give you: Love one another" (John 13:34 NIV).

Saint Paul echoed Jesus when he said, "All the Law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Galatians 5:14).

These biblical passages are the essence of *all* of God's laws and should govern everything we think or say or do.

If a person's actions are motivated by unselfish, sacrificial love—the love of God for our fellow man—and are not intentionally hurtful to others, such actions are in accordance with Scripture and are thus lawful in the eyes of God. "The fruit of the Spirit is love ... against such there is no law" (Galatians 5:22–23).

A prayerful study of the Scriptures illuminates the true intent of God's Law of Love: "You are not under the Law, but under grace."

Through the Lord's salvation and His Law of Love, Christians are released from the hundreds of rules under the Mosaic Law in the Old Testament. "The Law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ" (John 1:17).

Of course, it's common sense and part of love to practice some aspects of the Mosaic Law. For example, we shouldn't kill, steal, covet our neighbor's things, etc. If we love someone we're not going to do things that would hurt them. We may also refrain from eating unclean foods or engaging in other unhealthy habits that the Mosaic Law warns against.

Not surprisingly, this radical doctrine of the Law of Love caused a raging controversy between Jesus and His followers and the religious leaders of the day, who lived under the Law. This controversy spilled over into the new Christian movement itself. From its very inception, a struggle took place between those who believed that Christ's sacrifice on the cross was the fulfillment of the Law and released believers from the Old Testament laws, and the legalists, who believed that all the Old Testament laws and customs must still be observed.

As recorded in the book of Acts, the apostle Paul reached out to the Gentiles with the message of salvation in Jesus. Paul was of the firm opinion that the old Mosaic Law had been fulfilled by Christ's sacrifice on Calvary. He wrote: "Christ is the end of the Law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes" (Romans 10:4 NIV), "We have been released from the Law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code" (Romans 7:6 NIV), and, "Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the Law" (Galatians 3:13).

While some continue to this day to promote the Old Testament style of Christianity, a prayerful study of the Scriptures illuminates the true intent of God's Law of Love: "You are not under the Law, but under grace" (Romans 6:14).

In some ways, God's Law of Love is a stricter code of ethics than the old Mosaic Laws. The Ten Commandments told people how to act in order to avoid God's judgments. Under the Law of Love, much more is required—love and mercy.

You do not attain salvation by being good, but rather by asking Jesus Christ to forgive you for your sins. When you do, He comes into your life and loves others through you. "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us" (Titus 3:5). "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast" (Ephesians 2:8–9).

This godly love is actually a much higher ideal to aspire to. In the Mosaic Law, there was little forgiveness or mercy. It was "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth" (Exodus 21:24; Leviticus 24:20). But Jesus went so far as to say that we should love our enemies, pray for them, and forgive them! (Matthew 5:38–44.)

In fact, the Law of Love is so much more difficult to keep that it's humanly impossible. This kind of love is only possible through the supernatural love of God, which we find in Jesus.

Love should be the main motivation for every Christian's every action, with God's love being manifested in loving deeds to help meet others' physical and spiritual needs. "For the love of Christ compels us" (2 Corinthians 5:14).



The MARRIAGE SUPPER of the LAMB

This is one party you don't want to miss!

BY JOSEPH CANDEL

How would you like to attend the grandest, most glorious and thrilling wedding party that's ever been held? Believe it or not, you're already invited—*everybody* is invited—but you have to accept the invitation. Before explaining how to do that, here's when and where this great party will be held and what you can expect:

Jesus said that immediately after the second half of the Antichrist's seven-year reign—the terrible three-and-a-half-year period known as the Great Tribulation—He, Jesus, will return “on the clouds of Heaven with power and great glory” to rescue and resurrect all of those who have received Him as their Savior (Matthew 24:29–31).

When He does, all those who accepted Jesus as their Savior before they died will receive

new bodies and rise up out of their graves. All those who have accepted Him and are still alive will likewise be suddenly changed. Then, in the same instant, all of them will fly up to meet the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:51–52; 1 Thessalonians 4:16–17).

Then Jesus is going to take them all to a great big party—the biggest, happiest, most exciting party they've ever been to or even imagined! They'll see Jesus face to face and get to meet all of the great saints and apostles of the Bible, as well as all of the other wonderful folks who loved and received the Lord during their lifetime.

This wonderful party, the marriage supper of the Lamb, will be held in God's heavenly city—the greatest, most beautiful and wonderful place ever created—and is described in

Revelation 19:6–9:

And I [the apostle John, describing his vision] heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, “Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.” And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. Then he [the angel that showed John this vision] said to me, “Write: ‘Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!’” And he said to me, “These are the true sayings of God.”

There will be plenty of laughter and singing and music and dancing and love for everyone! And if that's not enough, the saved will really appreciate how blessed they are to be with the Lord in this great marriage supper when they consider what's happening on earth at this time!

Right after the Lord rescues His own out of the Great Tribulation, the horrific vials of the great "wrath of God" are going to be poured out upon the Antichrist and his people in the form of horrible plagues, such as the world has never known (Revelation chapter 16). While the saved are having a wild party and lots of fun upstairs—a heaven of a time in Heaven—it's going to be hell on earth downstairs!

Like an invitation from above, Jesus calls, "Come, My people, enter your chambers,

*... the biggest, happiest,
most exciting party you've
ever been to or even
imagined!*

and shut your doors behind you; hide yourself, as it were, for a little moment, until the indignation is past. For behold, the Lord comes out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity" (Isaiah 26:20–21). The Bridegroom comes for His Bride, takes her safely away into the bridal chamber, shuts the door, and we have the marriage

celebration with Him, while the wicked, Christ-rejecting forces and followers of the Antichrist partake of the wrath of God.

At this time the saved will not only meet the Lord and enjoy the wonderful marriage supper of the Lamb, but they will also face the "judgment seat of Christ," in which they will be judged and rewarded or chastised individually according to their deeds and faithfulness, and will enter into the particular places that Jesus has seen fit for them to occupy in His kingdom on earth (2 Corinthians 5:10; Romans 14:10,12).



Their first order of business will be to help Jesus to destroy the Antichrist and his forces at the great battle of Armageddon (Revelation 19:11–21; 17:14; 16:12–21). Then they will assist Him in His rule over the human survivors of Armageddon, who will remain here for the 1,000-

year period known as the Millennium (Revelation 20:6; 2:26; Daniel 7:18).

Jesus said, "Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work" (Revelation 22:12). Every saved Christian will be rewarded at the throne of Christ according to his works. Don't get this judgment and rewarding of the *saved* mixed up with the final judgment of the *unsaved*, which is an entirely different event and will take place 1,000 years later, after the Millennium, when the unsaved are all raised from the dead to meet God at the "great white throne judgment," as described in Revelation chapter 20.

Do you want to accept that invitation to the marriage supper of the Lamb?—Then simply ask Jesus into your heart, if you haven't already.

Do you want to also receive commendations and rewards?—Then "love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind ... [and] love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:37–39). It says in the Bible that God will not forget anything you do out of love (Hebrews 6:10). He has a big book and is writing it all down (Malachi 3:16–17). Even when nobody else seems to see or appreciate the good you do, God sees and will remember.

See you at the grandest, most glorious and thrilling wedding party that's ever been or ever will be!

My Parenting Safari

My five-year-old son Chris and I went on a trip to the village of Sintet, Gambia, where a group of us volunteers from The Family are helping to build a school.

Until this trip, I had enjoyed the thrilling tales told by coworkers who had returned from there. But now that my twin babies were old enough to eat solids and drink bottles, I could leave them in the care of others for a couple of days. When I heard that a team needed to make a one-and-a-half-day trip to the

village, I jumped at the chance to go.

The next day we were on the road, ready for adventure. Chris sat in a cozy spot in the jeep that his grandpa, who is also a member of our team, had prepared for the occasion. For most of the trip, all I could hear was his excited voice saying things like, "What's this? Oh, Mommy—look! Can you take a photo of me on the termite hill?"

The rainy season was just beginning to transform the dry West African bush into gorgeous green. The country around us was full of enchanting beauty—a mix of low rolling hills, rice paddies, coconut trees, and ponds. Farmers peacefully tilled the land.

Along the way, we enjoyed delicious local food, explored a thick swamp full of towering termite hills and giant baobab trees with trunks often thicker than our car.

As we drove up the dirt road lined with cashew trees that led to Sintet, we could see a large crowd gathered at the school site straight ahead. Two of our volunteers, Joe and Richard, had arrived ahead of us and were already at work directing the construction. Village children crowded around our jeep and flashed gorgeous, white-toothed smiles. As soon as Chris got down from his seat, the village kids surrounded him and helped him get acquainted with everything.

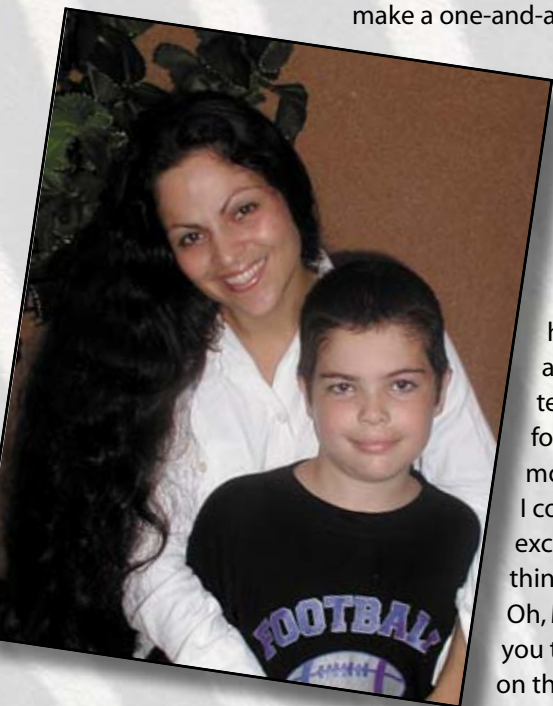
The other kids had been pushing around toy cars made of cut-up plastic bottles, the rubber soles of broken flip-flops, and sticks. With the children's help, Chris soon had his very own car and was pushing it over anthills and through puddles. A crowd of boys ran after him.

With no electricity in the village, most people go to bed when darkness falls, and so did we, in our small tent under the star-filled sky.

Day two at Sintet was just as much fun. I prepared my materials for the morning class I would be teaching the village children, and Dad helped me find a nice quiet spot in front of a baobab tree to give the class. We sang some action songs, and then I told the story of Creation, using movable flannel figures on a flannel-covered board. This was high-tech to these children. Finally I reviewed some basic scholastic themes: colors, common animals, following directions, flashcards of a few simple words, counting to ten, etc. Chris did a great job as my assistant teacher.

Then the children led us to fields where they showed us several large monkeys at play and a huge snake that hung from a tree branch high above us.

They also treated us to a yellow and



red moon-shaped fruit we had never seen before, which they called *tao*. To “pick” the fruit, the children climbed the large tao tree and swung from its highest branches. As they were about to begin, I felt a tug on my sleeve and turned to see who it was. One of the boys who had stayed earthbound said, “We must go! The fruit will hit us!” And he was so right! Fruit began raining down all around us.

Soon there were piles of fruit everywhere. How would we carry it all back to the village? The children knew how to do that too, of course. They pulled up their shirts to make pouches, which they filled with fruit, and headed back to the school site to store what we hadn’t already eaten.

A few of the kids stuck with Chris and me until the very end of our visit. Many of these dear children had at first seemed quite tough because of the hardships they face every day. (They sometimes bear incredible pain without shedding a tear, or if they do cry, it’s only for an instant.) As we got to know them, we saw that inside their tough exteriors were tender hearts, like sponges just waiting to soak up love. Chris and I gave them as much attention as we could. Some even began to call me “Mom,” which said in their own special way how much they appreciated the love and attention we were giving them. To me, this was just as fulfilling as seeing the progress that was being made on the school construction.

All too soon, it seemed, we were home again. My visit to Sintet with Chris had been an extraordinary cultural experience, like no other I’ve had (and I’ve traveled all but four of the countries of South America and extensively in North America). What made this



trip so special is that I shared the experience with my son. We learned a lot together and lived what many people only read about in schoolbooks or see on TV.

But actually, you don’t have to visit a village in the African bush to have a bona fide cultural experience or to reach out to those in need. Today they’re everywhere! Most modern cities are melting pots of various races, each with something special to offer. All it takes to make new friends is a little initiative. Add a little love and concern, and you truly bring your worlds together.

LAILA ENARSON IS A FULL-TIME VOLUNTEER WITH THE FAMILY IN GAMBIA, WEST AFRICA.

Some even began to call me “Mom,” which said in their own special way how much they appreciated the love and attention we were giving them.

Q: Why did God give the Ten Commandments and the rest of the Law of Moses in the first place?

A: God gave us the Law to show us that we're sinners, for "by the Law is the knowledge of sin" (Romans 3:20). The Bible says the strict Mosaic Law was our "tutor" to teach us right and wrong, and show us that we need to come to God for mercy and forgiveness (Galatians 3:24).

The Law is also God's means of regulating the ungodly and those who do not choose to live by His Law of Love. "The law is not made for a righteous person, but for the lawless and insubordinate, for the ungodly and for sinners" (1 Timothy 1:9).

But once we are "born again" by the Spirit of God's love (John 3:3) and have become "new creatures in Christ Jesus" (2 Corinthians 5:17 KJV), we are free from the old Mosaic Law. "After faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor" (Galatians 3:25). "If the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed" (John 8:36).

Q: Does this mean there are no more laws of God that Christians have to keep?

A: Christians are no longer under the Law of Moses, but now, having received Jesus and become His born-again children, we are under a *new* and actually much stricter law—God's Law of Love as described by Jesus in Matthew 22:37–40.

Q: Does that mean Christians are free to do whatever they want, whenever they want?

A: No, God's Law of Love does not allow selfish, reckless freedom to the detriment of others. To the contrary, we are now obligated to *love* others. If we truly do that, all of our actions will be ruled by love. "Love does no harm to a neighbor" (Romans 13:10). We're not going to do anything to them that we wouldn't want them to do to us.

In the Mosaic Law it was simply "eye for eye, tooth for tooth" (Exodus 21:24; Leviticus 24:20). But Jesus went much further when He said, "Whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them" (Matthew 7:12). This is God's Law of Love!



Q: If "God's only law is love," does this mean that we are free to disregard all the laws of man?

A: Of course not! God's Law of Love does not free us from respecting society's laws. Again to the contrary, the Bible instructs us to obey the governments under which we live (Romans chapter 13; Titus 3:1) and to "live peaceably with all men" (Romans 12:18).

Once we are "born again" by the Spirit of God's love and have become "new creatures in Christ Jesus," we are free from the old Mosaic Law.

Wouldn't it be wonderful...

...if people would simply do what Jesus said to do? Jesus said, "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:39), but when people don't treat others with much love, they're going to have problems.—And they have.

It has been said that all of the evils in the world today have their root cause in people's lack of love for God and each other. Nevertheless, the simple love of God and each other is still God's solution, even in such a complex, confused, and highly complicated society as that of the world today. If we love God, we can love each other and even respect each other as creations of God. We can then follow His rules of life, liberty, and the possession of happiness, and all will be well and happy in Him.

So ask God to help you love your neighbors with His love. And remember, "neighbor" doesn't only mean the one who lives next door. It is anyone we meet who needs our help, regardless of their race, creed, color, or nationality.

—D.B.B.

FEEDING READING

The Law of Christ

Salvation is purely by grace, not works.

Romans 3:28

Ephesians 2:8–9

Titus 3:5a

Jesus' Spirit and truth gives us freedom.

John 8:36

Galatians 5:1

The Mosaic Law was a strict code of justice and retribution.

Exodus 20:2–17

Exodus 21:23–25

Deuteronomy 27:26

Hebrews 10:28

James 2:10

Now the commandment is to love God and our neighbor.

Matthew 7:12

Matthew 22:36–40

Romans 13:8

Romans 13:10

Galatians 5:14

James 2:8

The Mosaic Law served a purpose.

Romans 3:20b

Galatians 3:24

Deeds done in pure, unselfish love are lawful.

Galatians 5:22–23

1 Corinthians 6:12

Titus 1:15a

The Mosaic Law was only for a time.

Galatians 3:19,25

Hebrews 7:18

Hebrews 9:10

Hebrews 10:1

1 John 2:8

Only Jesus can give you the power to live God's Law of Love.

John 15:5b

Philippians 4:13

2 Corinthians 5:14a

2 Corinthians 12:9

The law was impossible to keep.

John 7:19

Acts 15:10

The Law of Love, also known as the Law of Christ, replaces the Mosaic Law for Christians.

Jeremiah 31:31–33

Romans 8:1–2

Romans 10:4

Colossians 2:14



My love

My love is patient and understanding in a world of intolerance. My love is tender and kind when people are callous or indifferent. My love comforts in times of sorrow. My love consoles the lonely. My love brings clarity of mind to those who are confused, rest to the weary, help to the helpless, and renewed strength to those who feel they can't go on. My love brings peace in the midst of life's storms.

My love can heal broken bodies. It can even soothe and mend broken hearts. My love melts away tension, worry, and strain. My love gives faith and courage in place of fear, hope in place of despair. My love is light and drives away the darkness. My love will descend to any depth to save, go to any length to rescue. My love knows no stopping place. There is no problem that My love can't overcome.

My love is My special gift to you. It has always been there for you, and always will be. Won't you take it now?