

A LOVE THAT... ALWAYS SEES OTHERS WITH NEW EYES.

T E E N S ' B O O K M A R K

iCare becomes a bookmark it will accompany you this month and help you live this Word of Life.

FROM CONGO

Hello, I am Rosangela's mother. A little while ago she lost an eye after a young boy poked her with a stick and even continued making fun of her afterwards.

Neither parent of the boy ever came to me to say that they were sorry. There was only silence. I felt bitter toward this family.

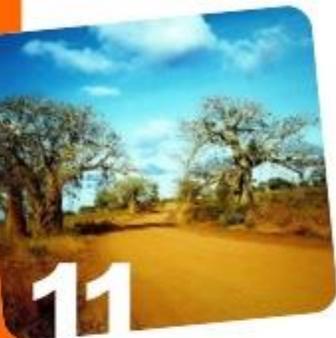
Rosangela, who had already forgiven the boy, told me "Be happy, Mom! I'm lucky I still have one good eye!"

One morning the boy's mother asked me to go and visit her because she was sick. My reaction was: "Why is she asking me for help? She has many other neighbors who live near her. After what her son did to us, how can she dare come to me for help?"

But then I remembered that love has no limits. I hurried over to her house. She came to open the door and then fainted in my arms. I took her to the hospital and waited there with her until the doctors could take care of her. A week later she was discharged from the hospital and she came to my house to thank me.

I welcomed her warmly. I had made it, finally, to forgive her. There was a relationship again, or better, a new friendship.

Did this ever happen to you? To give witness of the life of the Gospel, also as a family?



11

LOVE THAT FORGIVES AND FORGETS

«BE KIND TO ONE ANOTHER, TENDERHEARTED, FORGIVING ONE ANOTHER, AS GOD IN CHRIST HAS FORGIVEN YOU.» (Eph 4:32)

From a commentary by Chiara Lubich – Adapted by the Gen 3 Center

These words alone could create a different society, one richer in brotherly love and solidarity.

Kindness means to want what is good for others. It means "making ourselves one" with them, completely setting aside our own interests, our ideas, and the many preconceived notions that often cloud our vision, so that we can take on the other person's burdens, needs and sufferings, and also share in their joys.

A HEART CAPABLE OF WELCOMING EVERYONE

Merciful: to welcome others as they are, not as we would like them to be, with their different personalities, or political views that don't match ours, or religious convictions unlike our own, or all those defects and habits that irritate us. We need to expand our hearts so that we are capable of welcoming all people with all their differences, limitations and problems.

SEE THE OTHER WITH NEW EYES EVERY DAY

Forgiveness. Even in the most beautiful and peaceful environments, in the family, at school and at work, there are inevitably moments of conflict. We need to make a determined choice to try to see each person as if it were the first time we were meeting them, as if they were a completely new person, without remembering how they offended us, covering everything over with love, forgetting everything that happened, imitating God, who always forgives and forgets.

LOVE THAT BECOMES RECIPROCAL

TRUE PEACE AND UNITY CAN BE ATTAINED WHEN KINDNESS, MERCY, AND FORGIVENESS ARE LIVED, NOT ONLY BY PEOPLE INDIVIDUALLY, BUT BY PEOPLE TOGETHER, WITH ONE ANOTHER, RECIPROCALLY. Let's fill our days with concrete, humble, intelligent acts of service that express our love for others. And then brotherhood and peace will spread around us too.

11

