

A LOVE THAT... BRINGS PEACE.

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

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

WILLIAM
COLOMBIA

One day my mother asked me to help her right when I was about to go out to play. I made it to say my "yes" immediately and I felt within me the strength to love.

I felt that I had to start in the small things, in concrete ways, with my friends, in my family...

Loving everyone, every moment, makes me really happy.

IF I LOVE, I AM TRULY HAPPY – THAT'S HOW I WANT TO LIVE!

It's not always easy, sometimes I get discouraged and I don't make it, I can't go on, but I know that this way of life gives me the strength to get up and begin again to love.

Once, I was very discouraged. **The friendship with a classmate, because of a misunderstanding, was falling apart, and I didn't know how to save it. I tried to understand her, to get interested in the things that she liked. Not long after, our relationship was restored.**

With so many little, everyday experiences, I realized that sometimes you just need a smile, a phone call or a few words to make love spread to others.

Lately I found that the true power of love lies in putting God, who is Love, in the first place in my life. Now my relationship with God has grown and this makes me much more confident and happier.

William talked about his relationship with God. How is your relationship with Him?

«... ON BEHALF OF CHRIST, BE RECONCILED TO GOD» (2 Cor 5:20)

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

On the cross, with the death of his Son, God gave us the greatest proof of his love. Through the cross of Christ, he reconciled us to himself, making us his friends.

This fundamental truth of our faith has much to say to our times. It's the revelation that all humanity is waiting for. Yes, **God is near to everyone with his love and he loves each person passionately.**

A LOVE THAT
CANNOT REMAIN
CLOSED UP
WITHIN US

God has given us the task of bringing other people, too, to be reconciled with him, by entrusting to each Christian the great responsibility of giving witness to His love for each and every person.

Our way of behaving should make this truth credible.

BE OPEN
HIGHLIGHT
POSITIVE
VALUES

“On behalf of Christ” means “in his name, in his place.” How? By living with him and like him. Let's love one another as he has loved us, without being closed in on ourselves or being prejudiced in any way, **but always open to accept and appreciate the positive values of our neighbors, even ready to give our lives for them.** This is Jesus' greatest commandment, the mark of a Christian, which is as valid today as it was at the time of the first followers of Christ.

EACH ONE
OF US
A BEARER
OF JOY

Living these words means that we try to bring people to unity with God.

If everything we do, every gesture, every word, every attitude is filled with love, we will be living like Jesus. Like him, we will be **bearers of joy and hope**, bringing peace and harmony, which is **what all creation is waiting for: a world reconciled to God.**