

Love in Action

A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. –John 13: 34

February being the month of Valentine's Day, we hear a lot about love. At the university where I teach, on the exterior of one of the classroom buildings you will see the 3 story tall letters L-O-V-E.

We can talk about love, but people who put love in action understand a meaning beyond words. I am reminded of a young single mother who hearing of a family in need of food went to her freezer and took out her only meat and gave it to them. She didn't give them a jar of peanut butter or a can of spaghetti sauce. She gave them her best.

A teenage boy heard of an elderly woman who had no transportation to a doctor's appointment. He gave up the opportunity to go to a basketball game with his friends in order to provide the much needed ride.

I read of one of the greatest English generals who gave every penny he had to help those less fortunate. In fact he even sold his metals to provide for others. General Gordon had a class for boys in "the ragged school, and used to invite his boys to his house for instruction. . . . When three or four of them had scarlet fever, he nursed them in his own house, and would sit up at night talking to them, till he could get them to drop off to sleep. He used to call these boys 'kings,' a name suggest to him when reading Rev. 1:6" (Churchill, 1907).

Likewise, let us put our love into action!