

Augustana College
Chapel of Reconciliation

Lavishing Love

Kari Kintner

28 Sept 2007

So many times we turn on the news and see murders, bombings, war, terror. We see crying and sadness ..and then feel bad about our world ..at least I do. And so many times we hear about the stereotypical news reporter, you know...the one who' ll plow anyone and everyone over to get their precious story done for the deadline.

Well, even though these stereotypes about news and reporters can be proven true, I still want to be a reporter. This summer I interned at KELO TV and learned many new things as I was out interviewing people. I learned a lot about love. There was one lady in particular who really touched me. I was doing a story about her brother who died in World War 2 at a young age and was finally getting his Purple Heart. The lady was old and frail, and her eyes kept filling with tears. I hardly knew what to say to her. I was filled with compassion for her ...and soon, my own eyes were blurring over too. I wanted to hug her and tell her how sorry I was that she had to go through that. And then I felt compelled, like I absolutely had to write a good story for her.

Although I couldn' t really hug her and tell her exactly how I felt, I believe she could sense my empathy and that I really cared. She knew she was loved.

As Jenna read earlier in 1 John 3:1, it says, "How great is the love the Father has lavished on us ...". Now, I looked the word "lavish"

up in the dictionary and found that it means “generous or extravagant in giving.” Lavish is going above and beyond the call of duty. Lavishing with love is intense, unstoppable, completely whole. It’s all-inclusive, completely covering with love.

It says later in 1 John chapter 3 that “this is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us.” And that is the ultimate sacrifice, the ultimate thing anyone could do to show their love and devotion to someone.

It also says in 1 John that “this is the message we have heard from the beginning: we should love one another.” And as followers of Christ, we are called to try our best to be like Him and model his love.

Paul’s letter to Philippians is one of my favorite books in the Bible. Paul writes, “your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.” It goes on to say that Jesus made himself nothing, took the nature of a servant, and humbled himself so much that He was willing to die for us on the cross.

When I read that, I just think ..whoa..He did so much for us. How can I possibly do what He wants me to do? I don’t know if I would be willing to die for a random stranger. I don’t know if I could ever even get close to loving as much as Jesus did.

But there are little steps we can take to get closer to what God wants from us. He isn’t expecting overwhelming things from us, and He never gives us more than we can handle. He’s simply asking us to love.

And I believe if our world had a little more love in it, we wouldn’t see as much violence on the news ..or as many crazy reporters “barging into people’s personal business.”

The world would be a better place. And I don't think it would take too much from us. We could start small ..by loving those closest to us. We could forgive more easily, be more willing to accept differences. We could be more respectful of our roommates, our spouses, our children. We could listen more, hug more, offer up encouragement more.

And I believe God can and will help us through the process of loving others ..because He wants us to love others. It won't always be easy, but we're not alone.

Everyone close your eyes for a moment. Think about what you could do this week to be more loving toward the people around you. Is there anything you've been doing wrong or that doesn't feel right that you might want to change? Think about someone you could impact this week.

You can open your eyes.

My challenge for you is to follow through with what you were thinking about. Try making those little steps. You'll never know who it'll affect or how much it will mean to someone else that you showed love to.

MORNING WORSHIP
Friday, September 28, 2007

Prelude

Opening Song

“Here I am to Worship”

Verse 1:

Light of the world, you stepped down into darkness
Opened my eyes, let me see,
Beauty that made this heart adore you
Hope of a life spent with you

Chorus:

*So, here I am to worship, here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that you're my God
And you're altogether lovely, altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me*

Verse 2:

King of all days, oh so highly exalted
Glorious in heaven above
Humbly you came to the Earth you created
All for love's sake became poor *(Repeat Chorus)*

And I'll never know how much it cost to see my sin upon that cross
And I'll never know how much it cost to see my sin upon that cross
(Repeat Chorus)

Light of the world, you stepped down into darkness
Opened my eyes, let me see

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Announcements

Invocation

Prayer

Scripture

1 John 3:1
1 John 3:11
1 John 3:16
Philippians 2:5-8

Sermon

“Lavishing Love”

Kari Kintner

Hometown: Cedar Rapids, IA

Major: Journalism

Prayer, Lord’s Prayer

Benediction

Closing Song

“Hallelujah, Your Love Is Amazing”

Chorus:

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Your love makes me sing (repeat)

Verse 1:

Your love is amazing, steady and unchanging
Your love is a mountain firm beneath my feet
Your love is a mystery, how you gently lift me
When I am surrounded, your love carries me (*chorus*)

Verse 2:

Your love is surprising, I can feel it rising
All the joy that’s growing, deep inside of me
Every time I see you, all your goodness shines through
I can feel this God song rising up in me (*chorus*)

instrumental break - *chorus*

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CAMPUS MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMUNITY SERVICE DAY - Saturday, September 29th. You are welcome to sign up to be on the Campus Ministry team. The sheet is on the Narthex table.

Augie GREEN is initiating the green bike project again this year. This year we would like to start the project with a slightly higher caliber of bikes, and to do that we need your help. Donate your unused bikes to Augie GREEN. If they are broken that’s ok. Spoke ’N Sport is teaching us how to repair them. Help students arrive to your class on time! Please, e-mail Tom Lynch (tjlynch@ole.augie.edu) or Jeff Johnson (jmjohnson4@ole.augie.edu).

SERVICE LEARNING - Sign-ups have begun for the Service Learning trip to Pine Ridge, which will travel the over Fall Break. **Please sign up in the chapel office.** The cost is \$150 and includes transportation, lodging and most meals.

SERVE THE BANQUET - Campus Ministry has the opportunity to serve at the local soup kitchen, The Banquet, on Monday, Oct. 15th. If you would like to participate by either preparing the food on the afternoon shift, or serving the food at supper time, please sign up on the Narthex table.

CHAPEL CALENDAR

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|--------------------------|---|
| Sun. (30 th) | Worship, 11 am - Meg Eide, '08; Ann Pederson, president |
| Mon. (1 st) | Worship, 10 am - Jesson Vogt, ASA Pres.
- ASA Inauguration |
| Tues. (2 nd) | Catholic Mass, 10 am - Msgr. McPhee |
| Wed. (3 rd) | Holy Communion, 10 am - Pr. Paul |
| Fri. (5 th) | Green Bike Dedication, 10 am |
| Sun. (7 th) | Homecoming Worship, 10:30 am - ELMEN CTR. |