

"LIFE THROUGH THE LENS"



JUST ADD LOVE

"But that's mostly rocks!" I exclaimed as I was shown the building material a new friend was using to construct his family's new clay brick home, with pride and enthusiasm and love. With a knowing smile, he handed me a "rock". As it lay in my hand, I thought, "It feels like a rock; it looks like a rock"....you know the rest. He then instructed, "Add some water from that bucket and work it with your fingers." With a feeling of being "set up", I did as instructed. To my amazement, the "rock" became soft and malleable. Using just my fingers, I could shape and form what had once been hard and unyielding.

Aaah? If only the flintiness, the sharp edges of society could be so easily softened, remoulded into more gentleness, more care, forgiveness, concern? Remoulded, reshaped to build stronger, more lasting relationships that would withstand the disagreement's buffeting winds. Relationships could be gently but firmly fashioned into forms that shielded from the torrents of ridicule and scorn which wear away the features of who we are meant to be. What if I, who can be judgemental, critical, unloving, could be changed? What would it take? Probably a bulldozer and a trench digger.

Then from somewhere in my mind came, "Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh." Words thousands of years ago, placed into the heart and mind of a man of God, from a God of love. (Ezekial 16:26)

This God of big love sees small acts which demonstrate a new, a remoulded attitude of love in action. A smile for the harassed parent of a toddler in a supermarket aisle. The pause, allowing a bent, older person to cross the road without feeling rushed. Your hand on the shoulder of someone feeling "down". A word that makes someone feel "special".

How do I get this "New Heart"? Look again at what God said. "I will **GIVE** you a new heart". It cannot be bought. It can not be earned. Just as the rock in my hand had to receive the water to be changed; It is only God's great love that can change You and me. It is only His love for us and our acceptance of His love that can mould us into someone whom God can use to bring more love, peace and joy to our friend, to our neighbour, to someone I may not like and who may not like me, and into our community. He also said through His Son Jesus, "*My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.*" (John 15:12-13) Still not sure? Talk to Him about your questions.

God bless and look at rocks differently,

Kevin.