



## Cross Currents International Ministries

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Love:

*Incomprehensible*

*"love . . . which passeth knowledge,"*

Ephesians 3:19

by Richard A. Bennett

Dear Prayer Supporter,

*"Incomprehensible Love"* is the opening chapter of a series in progress - *"The Love of God."* Only through His 'Finished Work' at the Cross is it possible to understand His amazing love! Such love, writes within our hearts the high privilege of being able to broadcast and distribute free literature in such places as Garissa, Kenya. You are a vital part in this ministry by your prayers and gifts.

Please pray also with us for those who faithfully minister at the TWR radio stations in such turbulent communities. With the CCIM purchased land for a TWR radio mast in Lamu, to reach the Coastal Region, the death of His precious saints will bring forth fruit in the lives of many!

In His Love,

### CCIM ministering God's love through broadcasts, Bibles and literature in areas of extreme hate!

**Garissa, Kenya!** A couple of months ago the world briefly focused its eyes on an East African town some 90 miles from the border of Somalia as reports poured in of 150 selective University students killed.

However, prior to this horrible happening, as reported in our Prayer Letter of August 2013, (see church photo) many other Christians were massacred while peacefully assembled in Church one Sunday morning. It has been repeatedly reported that on an average, a Christian is being killed for their faith every five minutes. These are our brothers and sisters in Christ. What do we do? Do we retreat and hope this never affects us? No, the only answer for fear and mistrust, hopelessness and despair, is the gospel of our risen Lord Jesus Christ!



# Love:

## Incomprehensible

*“love . . . which passeth knowledge,”*

*Ephesians 3:19*

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## *The Love of God*

**1. Incomprehensible Love**

**2. Inclusive Love Part I**

**3. Inclusive Love Part II**

**4. Insightful Love**

**5. Incomparable Love**

**6. Incontestable Love**

**7. Inductive Love**

**8. Influential Love**

*Dear friend,*

*It was my hope to produce another little book titled: **The Love of God**. However, neither the resources nor the logistics were in place to make this possible. Therefore, I decided to change the development of the theme to fit bite-sized portions for the next eight months! Most of the scriptures will be found in 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 & 4:1 and Ephesians 3:16-19. Please pray! Perhaps, one day, it will yet end up as a small book! My prayer is that these reflections on God's love will be as much a blessing to you as they have been to me. In His love, Richard.*

### **Incomprehensible Love**

*“To know the love of Christ which passes knowledge” Ephesians 3:19. At first glance, this verse appears a paradox of the first order. How is it possible for us to know something that passes knowledge? The renowned Bible expositor, Dr. Martin Lloyd Jones, said that this verse was the most difficult verse in the Bible to explain. Although it might appear audacious for me to attempt to write what this verse means to me, the Holy Spirit can graciously make it living to each of our hearts.*

We are always blessed to read about the love of God in the Bible. This could well be described as *cognitive* knowledge, which is head knowledge but not heart knowledge. The aspect of the love of Christ

that ‘passeth knowledge’ can be described as *experiential* love, which is not indoctrination but is a practical outworking of His love. Though head knowledge is fundamental and foundational, it is not exhaustive.

May you experience such heavenly love with an ever deepening personal experience. Such love cannot be documented. It cannot be explained, but praise the Lord, it can be experienced; it cannot be described, but it can be displayed! So, as together we consider this theme, we will give one illustration and three demonstrations of such amazing love.

**“Love beareth all things”** 1 Corinthians 13:7: Some time ago, Dorothy and I journeyed on a small ferry boat from Dover to Antwerp. While waiting in pouring rain for friends to pick us up at the quayside, we sheltered in the entrance of a small Belgian shop from which we observed an expensively dressed lady who had an immaculate hairstyle. She had a pretty umbrella but did not hold this over her head but, upon a sudden downpour, held it over her little son who was gleefully riding his tricycle along the water edge. The young child was oblivious to the rain and his mother seemed oblivious to her aching arm in the downpour. Instead, the mother joyfully smiled at her son, even though her hair and clothes became drenched by the rain. Her reward was that of her appreciative, smiling child.

Yes! True love bears all things. When the love of God flows through the heart of a believer, personal pain and discomfort are of little consequence.

**“Love envieth not”** 1 Corinthians 13:4: Years ago as I was a minister at a London church, a wealthy lady was part of the congregation. This lady was a very devoted Christian but had suffered much heartache and shock. Her husband had left her and filed for a divorce. The divorce attorney suggested that to finalize the financial agreements, which involved large sums of money, all legal signatories should meet for lunch. In anticipation of that luncheon, the Christian lady purchased a beautiful red rose. When arriving before the other guests, she placed the rose on the table setting of her husband’s new wife. Beside it she put a note of well-wishes for her and her husband’s future happiness.

Impossible, you might think! If it were just a matter of human emotion, surely resentment would be the natural reaction. In this case, the love of God prevailed, which *“envieth not”* vs 4.

**“Love suffereth long and is kind”** 1 Corinthians 13:4: Years later, when ministering at a church on the East Coast of America, a lady shared: “This has been a very difficult week for me. All week I sat in a courtroom and witnessed my son convicted and sentenced to prison for the next 20 years.” She continued to share that he had been a police officer employed by the State but had also cooperated in illegal activities with a criminal gang. It was with obvious grief, that this mother explained how, that before the trial commenced, an insider in the legal system approached her to suggest that if she would place a large sum of money in a designated place, it could be arranged that her son need never go to trial. “I could never join my son’s illegal activities, and comply with this request. But, I want you to know that my mother’s heart of love will be with my son in the prison cell every day for the next 20 years.”

How is it possible for the *devotion* of love, the *discipline* of love and the *denial* of love to coexist in

a mother’s heart? Both she and her son’s reputation were in jeopardy as was his future job security. However, this dear Christian lady lived on a much higher plane. She experienced the enabling grace of the Lord Jesus Christ as incomprehensible love prevailed: *“Love suffereth long and is kind.”*

**“Love never faileth”** 1 Corinthians 13:8. A pastor, who I knew very well, was introduced to an opera singer in the terminal stages of cancer. She was a beautiful, 29-year-old lady approaching the height of fame in the operatic world. Shockingly, the doctor had just informed her that her cancer was irreversible and that her time on earth would now be very short. The pastor met in the hospital with the unsaved husband and the cancer patient. After counsel, the husband knelt by his wife’s bed. She prayed: “Lord, I thank You that You love me so much that You allowed this cancer. If this had not been, I would still be caught up in the whirl of the operatic world. Thank You that now I have found new life in Christ!” With tears streaming down both their faces, the husband also gladly received the Lord Jesus.

Together in life; together in Christ; together in hope and one day together in heaven with Him! What is more glorious than that? *Love never faileth!*”

Some through the waters, some through the flood,  
Some through the fire, but all through the blood;  
Some through great sorrow, but God gives a song,  
In the night season and all the day long.

~ George Young

## *Spiritual Check-up*

\* When I face pain, disappointment or betrayal, do I react with hasty emotion and a ‘pity me’ complex, or does the love of God prevail *“that passes all understanding”*?

\* Is my love for my children built on sentiment, ambition and pride, or do I reflect the devotion of God’s love; the discipline of God’s love and the denial of God’s love?