

**Robert and Linda Stevenson**

**WORLD IMPACT - WICHITA**

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Dear Family and Friends,

I was listening to a conversation regarding counseling those in trouble--with marriage, life, expectations--and someone said, "I advise people to look deep inside themselves, and they will find all the answers they need--right there."

I thought about this into the night and woke up thinking about it the next morning. I had been silent throughout the conversation, but as I replayed each sentence I asked the Lord what He wanted me to see in this.

And then the thought turned, reflecting a pinpoint of light onto the bit I had been grasping at in vain. How futile to see oneself as the only place for answers, when the God of the universe was ready and willing to dwell within. It was Immanuel, God with us, who made the answers able to be found at all. It was the difference between reading a paper-bound copy of the dictionary and going into the Library of Congress for reference material. Yet the dog-eared copy gets tucked in the back pocket where God can be referenced if we keep Him small enough to meet our expectations.

All the answers are inside?

No, they are not. But they are brought inside by love.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whosoever believes in Him should...have eternal life" (John 3:16).

Fifteen years ago this month, we joined World Impact, and a friend was heard to say that we would probably last a year at most, maybe two. Five years later, when I got sick with multiple sclerosis, someone else thought we would leave within a few months. Recently I was asked if we still had to do that "support-raising thing," and I answered that we did. "How long will you stay in this ministry?" they asked. I told them that we will be here as long as God called.

Love holds us. No contract or commitment other than the Lord's voice in our hearts; it is so much bigger than our own voices and most assuredly outside of ourselves, yet held within by the Holy Spirit.

You, friends, have faithfully prayed for us, supported us, and loved us through thick and thin. We thank you for it! You are a gift from God, and it is a privilege to serve Him with you.

We love Him--because He first loved us,

**Bob and Linda Stevenson**