

A blog post from one of our children

I've had the privilege recently of volunteering to work with a team that runs a program helping severely underprivileged kids in a poor area, here in Mauritius. I try to get there at least once a week. Unlike the African kids I've worked with before back home, these Mauritian children **don't seem to show much gratitude**. A well-prepared lesson will often turn into a screaming session, with cursing and even fighting amongst the children. To take care of these kids and love is impossible... without the Lord's heart! Yet, mirrored in their attitude towards us as their teachers, I'm getting a glimpse of my own rebellious attitude and state of heart against the Lord. When I think, "If only they could see what wonderful things we had planned for them, they would be so grateful, and have such joy and peace. They would willingly line up with the program and follow our plans." But, what happens is that we have to work very hard indeed, with great patience, to gain their trust and win their hearts.

Today, I realise that all those CTMI elders who visited us in Durban, at Grace Gospel Church; in Zimbabwe, and also in Mauritius have had the same heart in their dealings with me.

What a heart the Lord must have for me, what grace, what mercy, what longsuffering patience!

CPG response

It's amazing the heart the Lord has given us.

We invest our lives and hard-earned resources in our children, teach them the things of God and love them with all our hearts - not perfect but with a love only a parent can understand. They enjoy good education, trips around the world, many wonderful holidays. Many hugs when there were tears of sadness. Many shared joys. Good discipline and wise advice. Our families were close - not perfect but blessed by God. Our children show appreciation - not perfect but real.

Then they encounter leaders who do not care about these families - do not honour parents as instructed by God. These leaders weave a web of deceit - children now think that pleasing and following them is pleasing and following God. Rather than honour parents each blog glows with awe and wonder about these leaders. Facts and realities about repeated lies, false doctrine and abusive patterns are denied or ignored.

A well-prepared life by these parents is now blessed with "not showing much gratitude." In fact there is "screaming and fighting" - these parents are called "pagans", "liars", "pathetic pharisees", "persecutors", "enemies of the cross", "lukewarm with a gospel that has no power to change", "on the broad road". Or else there is just silence. No response to any communication.

But isn't grace amazing! In spite of this rejection, these parents still love and adore their children and pray daily for them. This is only because the true gospel has seized them by grace. The true gospel that Christ died in history for sinners. (Oh - not the other false gospel about ME taking up MY cross daily!) And because God loved us while we were sinners and forgave us because of His finished work - we can forgive and love and persevere in trust and hope.