

Impact Beyond the Grave

People cannot know how their actions may affect the lives of others – for good or for bad – even beyond their lives.

Judy Anderson grew up as the daughter of missionaries in Zaire. As a little girl, she went to a daylong rally celebrating the 100th anniversary of Christian missionaries coming to that part of Zaire.

After a full day of long speeches and music, an old man came before the crowd and insisted that he be allowed to speak. He said he would soon die, and that he alone had some important information. If he did not speak, that information would go with him to his grave.

He explained that when Christian missionaries came 100 years before, his people thought the missionaries were strange and their message unusual. The tribal leaders decided to test the missionaries by slowly poisoning them to death. Over a period of months and years, missionary children died one by one.

Then the old man said, “It was as we watched how they died that we decided we wanted to live as Christians.”

That story had gone untold for 100 years. Those who died painful, strange deaths never knew why they were dying or what the impact of their lives and deaths would be.

They stayed because they trusted Jesus Christ.

As you go about your responsibilities today, you have the power and the opportunity to change people’s lives – even if with a smile, a hug, a cheerful word or a kind act. People do watch how we live and even how we react to the death of loved ones, with grace, faith and hope for the future.

It is possible because of trust in Christ.

– Beecher Hunter