

# The Best Medicine

“Love, true love,” wrote psychiatrist Karl Menninger, “is the medicine for our sick old world. If people can learn to give and receive love, they will usually recover from their physical and mental illnesses.”

Menninger is right, says Dr. David Jeremiah, senior pastor of Shadow Mountain Community Church in El Cajon, California, and chancellor of Christian Heritage College. Writing in the book *Turning Points*, he adds: “But when the Bible talks about love, it isn’t talking about the glossy, romantic, starry-eyed passion portrayed in songs or movies. It’s talking about a reasoning, redeeming, choosing type of sacrificial love. It is the power that moves us to respond to someone’s needs with no expectation of reward. That kind of love is preeminent; it never fails.”

An evangelist wrote about a wise physician who told a young doctor, “I’ve been practicing medicine for a long time. I’ve prescribed many things. But in the long run, I’ve learned that the best medicine is love.”

“What if it doesn’t work?” asked the young man.

“Double the dose,” replied the doctor.

It is truly amazing and inspirational what love – particularly agape – can accomplish. *Agape* is a Greco-Christian term referring to love – the highest form of love, charity and the love of God for man and of man for God.

It’s the kind of love that motivated Ron and Bevoline Willis to volunteer for 24 years at The Heritage Center in Morristown, Tennessee. The couple was honored at the resident Christmas party last year for helping with church services on Sundays and visiting and praying with residents two or three times a week.

Or Denise Pare, physical therapy assistant at Valley View Villa in Fort Morgan, Colorado, who heard that a rehab patient was without shoes. She took her own shoes off her feet, gave them to the resident and went home in socks that day. The next day, she brought in another pair of shoes for the patient to keep.

Those instances demonstrate remarkable love, “medicine for our sick old world,” as Dr. Menninger put it.

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So if you encounter situations today in the people you will meet, who need a dose of your love, or if things are tense at home, or if you're having trouble with a loved one, or if someone has insulted or hurt you, love that person anyway.

“And if that doesn't work, double the dose.”

Take it from the doctor.

*Love never fails* (1 Corinthians 13:8 NIV).

– Beecher Hunter

