



Ministry Updates

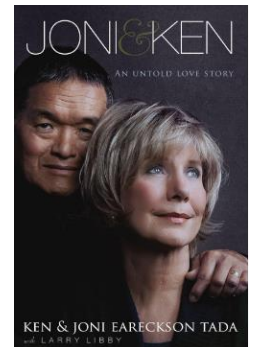
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Taste and See ([Psalm 34:8](#))

Last Sunday, millions of people tuned in to a well-matched Superbowl game. A few hours earlier, even more people watched [Cote d'Ivoire's team win](#) the African Cup of Nations 2-1 against Nigeria. The **unexpected**, exciting victory happened after the Elephants nearly exited early in the tournament! The tale parallels the "last pick in the draft" quarterback nicknamed [Mr. Irrelevant](#), who almost led the 49ers to a victory in the Superbowl. There is something very satisfying when an **unexpected** person or group of people exceeds the expectations of a watching world.

America's commercialized Valentine's Day experience in America could do with an **unexpected** shake-up. Although authentic expressions of love and appreciation for family, friends, and strangers replace the [day's original pagan purposes](#) with redeemed beauty, blessing, and testimony, too often, the holiday becomes fraught with stress (for men) or disappointment (for women) due to clashing expectations. Daily kindness, encouragement, and selfless labor remain much more beneficial than flowery cards or gifts.

Debbie saw this in evidence shopping on Tuesday. She was third in line behind a mumbling older woman who was not necessarily cogent and whose debit bank card did not work. The lady seemed oblivious to the others waiting or the fruitlessness of trash-talking her bank. As Debbie tried to think of a way to help, the person next after the woman whipped out her debit card and paid for the stranger's purchases. Rather than become irate or make a scene, she told the woman, "Here, this is my Valentine's gift to you." Though the kind gesture did not register with the recipient initially, surrounding people observed a generous act that expected little in return. We would do better, as well, in teaching others the adopted story of [Saint Valentine](#), along with sharing examples of **unexpected** love in unusual marriages like C.S. Lewis's [A Grief Observed](#), [Joni and Ken: an Untold Love Story](#), or the **unexpected** union of Martin and [Katharina Luther](#). These examples of life-enriching marital love have encouraged many couples, widows, and widowers through the years.



Come and See ([Psalm 66:5](#))

Since confirming his participation in the West African CHE Internship in March, Verlin began work to renew his Ghana visa. Though encountering some glitches, he still anticipates getting the documents and flight arrangements made in time after rescheduling his annual physical to wrap up all the medical visits since last November with his primary care provider. Debbie spent half the week with her parents in Franklin. Because of some physical setbacks, her parents need additional help these days that she enjoys helping provide. Her sister Laura maintains connections with their primary care doctors to inform their decision-making.

Prayer & Praise

- 🙏 Pray that Verlin's paperwork for a Ghana visa gets completed on time.
- 🙏 Ask the Lord to bless ongoing Community Health Evangelism (CHE) training in many areas of Cote d'Ivoire, where people learn to practically minister in Jesus' name.
- 🙏 Ask for wisdom as Debbie and her sister Laura assist their parents with health issues.

Your partners in the Gospel, Verlin & Debbie

Last Week: [Champion of Children-240203.PDF](#)
Prior videos: [Simple Servants - Reflect & Rejoice](#)
2023 Q2Report: [Pruning Priorities - 2023 Q2 Report 230722 PDF](#)

2022 Budget: [CHSC-0118 ANDERSON-Budget 2022](#)
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