

God's Love Is Forever

By Mark Littleton

*The LORD appeared to him from afar, saying,
"I have loved you with an everlasting love;
therefore I have drawn you with lovingkindness." (Jeremiah 31:3)*

Mike F. was a guy I wanted to reach for Christ. He had been in prison, a street tough, a drug-user, a drunk. I often wondered why God linked me up with him.

We talked about Jesus for over a year. Mike would listen, argue, stonewall. I didn't think he'd ever become a Christian.

Then one day he told me, "I did it. I accepted Jesus."

I was amazed. He'd finally seen the light, and we became fast friends. He worried, though, that God was still angry with him for all those past years of sin. I told him all was forgiven. God loved him as he was. We talked about it many times, but he just couldn't believe it was true.

One day while playing with his two-year old son, Jason, Mike was suddenly filled with that warm fatherly affection and pride that all fathers have toward their children. He whisked Jason up, kissed him and told him how much he loved him.

Then it happened. Mike told me, "It was like God spoke right there in my heart. He said, 'You know how you feel about Jason, Mike? That's how I feel about you.'"

Mike stared at me, his cheek trembling. "I broke up right there," he said, his voice tender. "God really does love me--in spite of everything! And now it'll never end."

Some might ask, "How has God loved us?" He gave us the Bible to encourage us and fill us with hope. He gave us Jesus to live, die, and rise again, offering us forgiveness of sins and a heavenly destination. He gave us the Spirit to speak in our hearts, teach us, comfort us, convict us of sin and lead us out of it. And he gave you as a writer your gifts for articulation, for putting words together, for inspiring and challenging and encouraging others. All those things should convince you: You are loved by a great God with a great heart.