



March 2009

I've been reading a biography of Mother Teresa in the last few weeks, and mostly it makes me feel like what I do is of insignificant importance in comparison to caring for the suffering and dying in the streets of Calcutta. However, I was encouraged after reading this excerpt from a letter she wrote to the nuns she was training, which may be familiar to many of you.

"To the good God nothing is little because He is so great and we so small – that is why He stoops down and takes the trouble to make those little things for us – to give us a chance to prove our love for Him. Because He makes them, they are very great. He cannot make anything small; they are infinite ...Be faithful in little practices of love, of little sacrifices ...which will build in you the life of holiness, make you Christ-like..."

Don't look for big things, just do small things with great love...The smaller the thing, the greater must be our love."

Acorn is a small organization. Sometimes it feels like we are not making a big difference in the world. So it's even more important to me that the little things we do be done with great love. We want to be a place where people experience love and acceptance, and friendships can grow and flourish.

I want to tell you about some little things that have been happening recently.

One of our volunteers, Sandra, heard about an Acorn neighbor, Luisa, who doesn't read or write in her native language, Spanish. So Sandra asked if they could meet weekly at Acorn. Because Sandra is a native Spanish speaker, she was uniquely qualified to help our neighbor achieve literacy. They began with simple materials that Sandra borrowed from the Corvallis Multi-Cultural Center (one of our partners), and recently Luisa has been reading the Bible.

Another volunteer, Chris, has been helping several people learn more about computers. It's not a class he is teaching, but rather individual help with what each person needs. Chris has made friends with Luis, and when Luis' parents were here visiting from El Salvador, Chris invited them to his home.

Laura continues to give time, practical advice, and emotional support to one of our students, Blanca, who has chronic back pain due to a car accident.

We have a student who used to come to our English classes before the birth of her two children, and one of our teachers, Karen, has kept in contact with her for over four years, and visits her faithfully even though she isn't attending class right now.

I know there will be many more stories and examples of this great love, and I will continue to share them in the future. Thanks for your interest and support.

Ellen