

Love for Jesus

A visitor left us early one morning. Before he left he asked if he could go into the chapel for a short time. Later at 8 a.m. we went into the chapel for our morning prayers. On each of the chairs where we usually sit was an envelope with a name on it and beside this there was a beautiful red rose, one for each of us.

Red roses in our community life have always stood for our love for Jesus. When we built Bethany our motherhouse we carefully planted a red climbing rose to spread over the wall and peep through the windows. We were saying Lord Jesus may those who live here always love you.

Again when we were building we celebrated communion one evening in our half completed chapel. Without roof or windows the birds joined our praises, their notes clear in the still night air. On the pure white linen cloth we placed red roses. In this chapel, too we were saying Lord Jesus may you be loved. Every Good Friday we each place a red rose at the foot of the cross.

So the gift of a red rose so unexpectedly early one morning brought many associations with it. A rose needs nourishing whether that is a vase of water or good soil and so does our love for Jesus. We all know those things that quench our love for him, busyness, worrying, materialism, too much TV, our own pursuits. The Lord Jesus is waiting for our love.

These beautiful words moved us greatly when we encountered them many years ago, "May we love you God until our hearts break with love".



Lord Jesus, we love You.