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Much Love

When John and I were "just friends", he was working in Nigeria and I was in UK, so we corresponded regularly using 6d air-letter forms. On one occasion, John was posting a letter to his parents and also one to me. In his haste, he got them muddled up and signed the one to his parents, "Yours sincerely" and the one to me "Much Love". On receipt of these letters John's father commented, "John's getting a bit formal, isn't he?" and when I received the letter ending with "Much Love" I was over the moon! This gave me the temerity to end my next letter with those same words, whereupon John, on reading them, was likewise thrilled! So, the romance blossomed.... and the rest is history!

This story reminds me of a sentence in the Bible (1 John 4:19) which says, "We love (God) because he first loved us". God was the one who first said, "Much love"! In John's gospel, 3:16, we read further assurance of the Lord's love for us all. "God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son; that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

Our love for God stems from this immeasurable love which he offered us when he sent Jesus to die and pay the penalty for our sin, thereby giving us the gift of eternal life. We have recently celebrated Easter which underlines the importance of this core belief - that Jesus overcame death and rose again, thus expressing his amazing love. "Much Love" indeed!