

## PERSONAL ACTS OF LOVE:

1. I went to the center of Lima with my mother-in-law to do some shopping. While walking around, I saw a mother with her son on a corner selling candies. The boy had a very sad face. When we got closer, I heard the child telling his mother that his stomach hurt from hunger. His mother told him that they were just missing one sol (33 cents) to be able to buy lunch, and that they just have to wait. I approached her and took out my last 10 soles (\$3) and gave it to her. I told her that God knows how much you suffer and he sent you this money because he loves you. The mother looked at me and said, “Thank you. God really does exist and love me.” -- *Lili Yanet Saucedo*
2. On Sunday, I went to the grocery store and as I was leaving, I saw some money on the floor. I picked it up without anyone noticing and then realized that it was 200 soles (\$70). In that moment it occurred to me that it could belong to someone who didn't have much money, so I stood close to where I had found it and started to look around to see if I could find out who's it was. After 10 minutes I saw a mother and her daughter who looked very worried, were searching the floor, and were wondering aloud what they were going to do, that that was all they had for food and what were they going to tell the other kids. I went up to them and asked them what they were looking for and they told me they'd lost all their money. When I asked them how much, they told me the same amount that I had found, so I told them I had found it and I gave it back to them. The mother was very happy and thanked me. And I told her to be strong, that God is taking care of her every day, to not be discouraged and to put her confidence in Him. I told her that God is waiting for her to receive him as her Lord, and that she should attend a Christian church close to her. -- *Lili Yanet Saucedo*
3. To get to my church I always walk 2 blocks. Every Sunday, in the final block before getting to my church, I would see an older couple sitting in the same place. Until finally I went and asked them why they always sat in the same place every Sunday. They told me that they had a son who they hadn't heard from in years and that every Sunday they came out to look for him in case he came home. So I told them that instead of waiting here, they could come to my church to pray for their son and ask God to bring him home. Since we were close to the church, they came with me. They faithfully kept coming to church the next four Sundays. Until all of a sudden one Sunday

they didn't show up. I was worried, so I stopped by their house to see if they were okay. I was surprised to find that they had missed church because their son, who they asked God to bring back, was there with them. They were so happy to have their son with them and they told me, "Thank you for introducing us to God, we will be at church next Sunday to thank God." -- *Lili Yanet Saucedo*

4. Cooking for God: This week I helped cook for a friend who was moving and didn't have time to cook for the people who were helping her move or for her family. Thanks to God I had the courage to tell her that I could be in charge of preparing the food, even though I don't have a lot of time, because it's far away from where I live – almost an hour by bus. But I felt that I needed to help her and show her the love of Christ. -- *Alejandrina Palomino*.
5. Due to a drop in demand at work, my coworker lost his job and he has a family to maintain. I, on the other hand, had lots of work. My friend's situation moved me and I had an internal struggle because I needed the money too to pay for my monthly bills, but then I thought that it was a good opportunity to put the discipline of love into practice. So I gave him work. At first he turned me down, but after insisting, he accepted with excitement. This experience brought me contentment and now I don't want to do these Acts of Love just to complete the requirements of the course, but for the joy of expressing my love to God and to my neighbor. -- *César Villanueva*.

Translated by: Mesha Smith