

One World Talk

UBUNTU: I am who I am because you are who you are. We need each other to be fully alive. I need you for what you can give me but I also need to listen to you and to put you first because that is good for me too! It means that I don't just do things that are good for me, I do things that are good for everyone.

Look at each other and tell each other, and try to keep a straight face and eye contact 'I CANNOT LIVE WITHOUT YOU.'

Ubuntu is good for us in our families, in our schools, in our parishes – it reminds us to think of others, but it is something we can remember for people all over the world.

Hold up Map and hold up Pizza Slice.

Hawaiian Pizza Slice:

Ham: Ireland; Netherlands; Denmark; Chile; Brazil; New Zealand; Japan

Cheese: UK; Ireland; Germany; France; USA; Canada; Australia

Pineapples: Spain; Netherlands (processed); Guatemala; Costa Rica; South Africa; Panama

Processed Tomatoes: UK; Belgium; France; China; Greece; Italy; Spain, Portugal; Argentina; Thailand; Morocco

Wheat: Belgium; Sweden; India

So even for a slice of Pizza we can see how connected we are in Trade of Food.

But sometimes we don't live like we are connected. We don't live like we need each other. We don't live out UBUNTU. We live like nobody matters but me. Nobody is more important than me.

In our own families and our own communities what does that look like? People being selfish, people not sharing, people always putting themselves first, people gossiping and putting others down, people leaving others out because they're 'different', people not listening to each other, not taking time for others, even just being so busy that we are focused on our lists, our goals and not on other people.

The Bible tells us the most important thing is our love of God and our love of each other. Everything else is less important than this. Do you know how many times the Bible reminds us to take care of each other, especially the lonely, the poor and people who feel left out? More than 300 times. It's not something we can pretend doesn't matter.

And then on a WORLD scale when we forget about others, we treat them badly, even though need them. We see this in how big companies from Ireland and other countries force poorer countries to sell us our food for so little money, or make us our clothes for so little money or they mine all their precious stones so we can make our jewellery and our phones and they are bullied into getting so little money that they can't live on it.

Did you know that in wealthy countries/ industrialised countries, we waste the same amount of food every year as the entire continent of Africa produces every year – around 230 million tonnes. (and we actually grow a lot of our food in Africa)

Did you know that if every country on earth lived the same way that Ireland lives in terms of how much energy we use, how much electricity, water, petrol, oil, gas, food, clothes, phones we use, we would need 4 planets to sustain us.

And we see Irish farmers being treated the same way by supermarkets, who can say we're getting food really cheap from poorer countries so you HAVE to bring your prices down. So when we don't look out for others, we eventually hurt ourselves. We are seeing the pain of the big gap between rich and poor in our own country and it stinks. We need to relearn UBUNTU, all of us, especially the really wealthy and the really powerful.

So what do we learn from all of this?

- We need to Reach Out to others
- We need to Shout Out about big companies and Governments that are being unfair and keeping people poor
- And we need to Live Right in terms of what we waste and how much we think we need so that everyone can have enough.

These are the 3 aspects of Ubuntu. These are the things needed for One World where everyone has enough.

I have seen Ubuntu in action when I visited a small village in Rwanda.

13 farmers had joined together and got training and seeds to grow pineapples.

When I visited they were harvesting 20,000 pineapples and selling lots in local markets and lots more to the Church to make jam and juice to sell outside Rwanda. And once those families had enough and had fixed their roofs and bought medicine for their loved ones who were sick and bought shoes and copy books for their children and sent them to school, they had looked up and looked out and said who else needs help? And instead of using all their money to get more and more money for themselves they had started helping others in their community to have enough. They rebuilt 7 dilapidated houses and were helping households whose oldest person was a child with school fees and with vocational training. That is UBUNTU in action – knowing that if the poorest among them flourish, they will all flourish. Big wealth gaps in society is unhealthy for everyone.

ONE LOVE

One Love, One Heart, Let's get together and feel alright

(hear the children crying) One Love (Hear the children crying) One Heart

Give thanks and Praise to the Lord and I will feel alright,

Let's get together and feel alright.