

The
Hippo
Postman
and
other

TRUE stories
of
Love (VOL. 2)

Written by
JOSEPH
PAUL
OZAWA

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This book

is dedicated to

my wife, Andrea

and my children,

Alison,

Susan

& Matthew,

and my grandchildren,

Jack & Tessa,

- for they

taught me

how to love.





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INTRODUCTION

Volume 1 of the hippopotamus stories was a series of stories which I told in Central Asia and Russia in the mid-1990's, simple stories, stories about God's love and of our human love. **Volume 2** is a collection of new stories but similarly, simple stories of God's love and the love we are all capable of sharing with one another.

I have often been asked, "But are these stories for children or adults?" I wish I knew! One of the things I've found over the years is that when I teach, preach or lecture, it is often the children who seem to understand



me best! They laugh at my jokes. They nod in approval at the right points. Sometimes the children even cry. Still, adults have secretly told

me that the stories made them cry too. One Indian Hindu family told me that each family member had a “favorite hippo story”, and that each one had “been touched” by their favorite story. I recall that once on a television show in Japan, the co-hostess of the show, a lovely and formal Japanese lady began crying. These stories are for the heart – for your heart.



Another question I have been asked is, “Are these true stories?” There are a few stories in both volumes which I have not experienced directly, but which have been known to be “true”. However, the vast majority of stories are my own experiences and are totally true – though sometimes I may have gotten facts or details mixed up. One recent story took place in a courtroom and after I wrote the story, I read the account of newspaper reporters who were also there, and their interpretation of what was

said and done differed somewhat from mine. So we all have our own view of reality. But, yes, these are true stories. The hippo books are “non-fiction”!

Finally, I have been asked if these stories are for any one religion or race or nation? You know, these stories were told in Russia but the first edition of the hippo book came out in Chinese. Since then, it has been published in Japanese, English, Dutch Afrikaans, and Arabic. The stories have been told in nations as diverse as Rwanda, Cambodia, Canada, China, Japan, Syria, South Africa and Thailand! The stories were made into a six-part television show with “manga” cartoon illustrations and shown on secular television in Japan. I know that people of many nations and religions have enjoyed the stories. Every person in every nation is capable of the deepest



love, regardless of race or religion. Almost everyone I have ever met of any religion is searching to know God better. We all desperately need relationships. We all have broken hearts over people in our lives. Yes, the hippo loves you all.

Finally, a true story was released recently about a baby hippopotamus who lost his mother in a natural disaster on the Kenyan coast, and ended up bonding with a big tortoise. The hippo loved the tortoise and the turtle adopted the hippo. One photograph showed the hippo cuddled up with the big ole tortoise. So cute!!



These hippo stories are all about, "love, love, love"!!!

With a BIG HUG,

Joseph Paul Ozawa

