

What would the world be like without love? People in Uzbekistan got a taste of that on February 14. This year their government cancelled Valentine's Day. News reports said events to celebrate the romantic holiday were not allowed. Instead, the people were told to celebrate the birthday anniversary of a famous Moghul emperor.

Government leaders in Uzbekistan have had bad feelings about Valentine's Day for a long time, saying it is a Western influence they do not want in their country. Last year, one Uzbek newspaper described the holiday as the work of "forces with evil goals." Some people in Uzbekistan are not bothered by the holiday's cancellation; others, however, feel as though their government is forbidding love itself. One Uzbek resident protested the cancellation, saying, "Valentine's Day isn't something bad or harmful. . . . It's just a day dedicated to showing extra love to the people you care for."

Think about it...

- What do you think about Uzbekistan cancelling Valentine's Day?
- Why do you think newspapers around the world reported this story?

February 26, 2012
Lesson 13
by Rebecca
Haynes Mott



The Beat

Love All Around

There are many different types of love. On a sheet of unlined paper, draw a stick figure of yourself. To the left of the figure, list some of the sources and kinds of love you receive. Draw an arrow from each one to your heart. Then think of ways you can give and share love with others. List those on the right side of your figure and draw an arrow from your heart to each one. Below your stick figure, write this quote: "The love in your heart wasn't put there to stay; Love isn't love 'til you give it away." What does that mean?

How will you show God's love to someone this week?