

I agree with the proverb “The work praises the man.” The work does not praise us in the same way as we praise each other. It does not applaud us or say “Great job!” It praises us by giving us satisfaction in having done a good job. This is true with any kind of work. It is true when we are doing mundane chores and it is also true when our work could make a big difference in people’s lives.

An example of work that is very important and could possibly save many lives, is the work that Jacques Durieux is doing. He is a volcanologist. He studies volcanoes. The main volcano he studies is in Africa, near the city of Goma. The name of the volcano is Nyiragongo and it erupts alot. This is a special volcano. It has a lake filled with molten lava in its crater. This lava is unique as well. It has been known to travel up to 60 mph in past eruptions. Most lava does not move that fast. In 1977, the crater’s walls cracked and the lava lake drained in less than one hour. If this were to happen again, the people in the city of Goma would not have enough time to get out of its way. Another problem facing the people of Goma is that if the volcano were to erupt, it may disturb a lake near the base of the volcano. This lake is also special. It contains toxic gases from the volcano. If this lake is disturbed, it could release the toxic gases and they would spill over the edge of the lake and into the city of Goma, killing everyone in its path. Jacques Durieux is working to predict when this volcano will next erupt. He and a team of men went to the crater of the volcano to get a sample out of the lava lake. They knew that they were risking their lives, but they wanted to save the people in Goma. They strung a long piece of string

with an iron hammer across the crater to get the sample. After some time, they were successful in getting the sample. With this new information, they will hopefully be able to predict the next eruption in enough time so that the people of Goma can safely evacuate. If I were Jacques Durieux, I would imagine that I would feel very satisfied knowing that the work I was doing could save so many lives.

I may not ever go into a volcano to get a sample like Jacques Durieux, but I can still be praised by the work that I do. For example, when I help my mom around the house by taking out the garbage, doing the dishes, doing my schoolwork, and feeding the animals I feel satisfied when I do a good job and help out. Even though I am not saving lives through my work I can still feel satisfied in the work that I've done.