

Random Acts of Kindness

I wrote a story for my Granddaughter's book that she is doing on my memories about them any kind acts of kindness I have experienced. There have been many acts from strangers, from the occasional free coffee in line at Starbucks to being picked up after falling in a parking lot by a very kind and concerned couple. The one that touched me the most was on Valentine's Day 2020. It was before the lockdown, and I felt the need to get out of the house. I needed some alone time. My husband had been having problems for several years, but things were definitely worsening at this time, and I needed a break. The caregiver was with him, so I left and decided to go out to eat. I went to Olga's. It was not busy; it was the slow time of day between the lunch people and the dinner people. I sat down and had a good table where I could see the whole restaurant. About two tables from me were a couple and they were having what appeared to be a pleasant lunch, after all it was Valentine's Day. I ordered my food and got out my kindle and continued to read my book. I was absorbed in a book and read while I had my meal. The couple and I exchanged glances and I smiled but we did not talk. As I had sat there, I had remembered all the Valentine's Days my husband and I had shared. There was usually candy, flowers, and always a card and dinner or lunch out. I was not morose but content with my memories and would later stop on the way home to buy him a box of candy which he would attempt to eat all at once. Eventually the faces changed in the restaurant, and I noticed the waitress had not brought the check. I had been absorbed in my kindle and thought she didn't want to disturb me. I called her over and gave her a gentle hint that I needed the check. She told me the couple sitting two tables away had paid for my meal and included the tip. I was shocked and told her why I was alone and how much their kind gesture meant to me. We were both teary. I walked to my car and thanked God for the strangers that touch our lives. Growing up the kindness of strangers seemed to be expected and accepted. I remember walking up to a house and asking to use their phone to call home because I was having car trouble. People did for each other what they could, and it was normal. Now we celebrate those random acts of kindness and wish for a safer and kinder world. I dated a man who would stop to pick up hitchhikers, especially if they were in uniform. I never felt frightened or threatened by this. He was in the army and would do for others what he wanted them to do for him and I always knew I was safe with him.

1Thessalonians 5:15-16 Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong but always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else. Be joyful always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus

Lord, we thank you for this day. May we seek and find ways to be kind to each other. Kindness need not be random but a part of who we are as your children. Be with our Pastor, bless his ministry. Bless him and Laura and their family, grant them good health and safety. Be with our church, may we be a blessing to you, to each other and to our community. Be with those who are ill and those who grieve. May we be hope and comfort to them. Be with our staff and leaders and grant them vision for our journey. In Jesus name we pray. Amen

Grace Epperson