

THE KINDNESS OF STRANGERS

I think a lot of people made resolutions this year to be kinder. It seemed like every time I went out this week people were doing kind things for me. From running ahead of me to open doors for me to not trying to run over me in the parking lot, to helping me with my groceries, to being concerned for me when I tripped and luckily caught myself on the hood of my car preventing injury, good Samaritans were present. As I lay sprawled across my hood holding on to the windshield wiper, a woman came running from several cars away yelling "Are you alright!" Then she wanted to help me into my car. I assured her that I was fine, and I really appreciated her concern. It was my own fault; I was not watching where I was going. It seemed like everywhere I went people were opening doors for me and letting me go first. When I returned home from grocery shopping (bought a chicken for .20 cents a pound. It was the size of a small Robin, but it was .20 cents a pound. I had to have it.) Then I bought a steak for the same price as our first mortgage payment. But I figured it would all balance out. When I returned home from the grocery store the next-door neighbor saw me and came over and helped me carry all the groceries into the house. I had only spent \$135 so there was not very much. (I recall that my food budget was \$40 for 2 weeks for a family of 4 in the early 60's but I also recall how I came to hate Tuna Noodle Casserole). Kindness was rampant that day. Almost makes me want to go grocery shopping again. Kindness is such an easy thing to give and a wonderful thing to receive. God planned it that way so we would care for each other.

Galatians 5:22-26 But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit let us keep in step with the spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking, and envying each other.

Heavenly Father, we thank you for this day. Let us honor it by our love for each other showing kindness wherever we go. We ask that you be with those who are ill and those who mourn, may they feel your nearness in their lives. Be with Pastor Don and bless his ministry. Be with him as he begins his mission trip this week and be with those who travel with him. Grant them safety in their travel and be with them in their mission. Be with our church Lord, may it be your church, open to all who come. Be with our staff and leaders, guide and protect them. May we be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ, here in this place and in this time. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen

Grace Epperson