

Life In The Body

News and Notes for the :
Shelbyville
Church of Christ

June 16, 2019

Her Last Ride

The cab driver arrived at the caller's address and honked. He waited a few minutes, then honked again. Since this was to be the last fare of his shift, he considered just driving away, but instead walked up to the door and knocked.

"Just a minute," said a frail, elderly voice. He could hear something being dragged across the floor. After a long pause, the door opened. A small woman in her 90s stood there. She was wearing a print dress and a pillbox hat, like somebody out of a 1940's movie.

Next to her was a small nylon suitcase. The apartment looked as if no one had lived in it for years. All the furniture was covered with sheets; there were no clocks on the walls; no knickknacks or utensils on the counters. In one corner was a cardboard box filled with photos.

"Would you carry my bag out to the car?" she asked. He took the suitcase to the cab, then returned to assist the woman. She took his arm, and they walked slowly to the car. She kept thanking him for his kindness. "It's nothing," he said. "I just try to treat my passengers the way I would want my mother to be treated." "Oh, you're such a good boy," she said.

When they got in the cab, she gave him an address and then asked, "Could you drive through downtown?" "It's not the shortest way," he answered. "Oh, I don't mind," she said. "I'm in no hurry. I'm on my way to a hospice."

He looked in the rearview mirror. Her eyes were glistening. "I don't have any family left," she said in a soft voice. "The doctor says I don't have very long."

He reached over and shut off the meter. For the next two hours, they drove through the city. She showed him the building where she had once worked as an elevator operator. They drove through the neighborhood where she and her husband had lived when they were newlyweds. She had him pull up in front of a furniture warehouse that had once been a ballroom where she had gone dancing as a girl. Sometimes she'd ask him to go slow in front of a particular building or corner and would sit staring, saying nothing.

Suddenly she said, "I'm tired. Let's go now."

They drove in silence to the address she had given him. It was a small convalescent home, with a driveway that passed under a portico. Two orderlies came out to the cab as soon as they pulled up. They were solicitous and intent, watching her every move. They had been expecting her.

He opened the trunk and took the small suitcase to the door. She was already seated in a wheelchair.

"How much do I owe you?" she asked, reaching into her purse. "Nothing," he answered. "You have to make a living," she said. "There are other passengers," he said.

Almost without thinking, he bent and hugged her. She held onto him tightly. "You gave an old woman some moments of joy," she said. "Thank you." He squeezed her hand and walked away.

Behind him, a door shut. It was the sound of the closing of a life.

He didn't pick up any more passengers that day. He drove aimlessly, lost in thought. What if that woman had gotten an angry driver, or one who was impatient to end his shift? What if he

had refused to take the run, or had honked once, then driven away?

We're conditioned to think that our lives revolve around great moments. But a great moment often catches us unaware—beautifully wrapped in what we may consider an insignificant one.

(In this essay, I have borrowed extensively from an article by Kent Nerburn, who was, I believe, the cab driver. —Joe Barnett)

*As you go about in this world, live the gospel.
Be the light of the world ... God's ambassador.*

Upcoming Events :

Gospel Meeting at Paris :

When : June 24-26 at 7:00 each evening

Who : Mark Day of Flatwoods, Ky.

Where : Paris Church of Christ
704 Alexander St.
Paris, Illinois 61944

Lady's Day ... "A Word Fitly Spoken"

Presented by : Sheila Butt

Date : August 3, 2019 (*Mark this date.*)

Venue : Clinton Church of Christ
5450 Evans Rd..
Clinton, Illinois 61727

Luncheon : calling ahead appreciated (217/ 935-5058)

Pride Packages For Soldiers: We rotate the items that we bring in so there will be a variety of things available for Pat to send to our soldiers. For the next two weeks we'll be bringing: Pringles, Small containers of chips (no bags), *Flavoring packets for water, Rice Krispy Treats, Little containers of ravioli , Easy Mac & Cheese

Birthday : Terry Perry: 6-20

Reading : Judges 6: 28-40

NEXT WEEK : (June 23, 2019)

Song Leader : Greg

Scripture Reader : Larry

Table & Announcements : Bob



Prayer List : .

Larry Johnston : Larry had prostate surgery on Friday. Results came in after this bulletin was printed.

Betty Lowe : Betty is having significant heart issues, but she is involved in physical therapy to rebuild her strength enough receive a stent. She hopes to accomplish this goal by the Fall. She is making some progress toward her goal, but it is slow.

Mike Nichols : Mike continues therapy and is working hard to regain his mobility. He is beginning to show incremental progress but it is a long, challenging process.

Those with ongoing need of prayer :

Those with age related issues :

Marge, Ruby, Mary, Doris, Delores, Betty, Pete & Hazel,

Others with ongoing issues :

Doris Faulkner : Her condition is advancing more rapidly.

Madonna : Her biweekly chemo will continue indefinitely.

Nancy Miller : Parkinson's Disease

Brenda Stevens : Ongoing severe painful back issues

Butch Reynolds : Heart condition and back issues

Jerry Rankin : Heart Issues

Glenda Hyneman : Multiple recurring issues, some serious

Bruce Miller: Madonna's brother-in-law is holding his own.

Dan Luidhardt : Wayne's friend has severe kidney failure due to diabetes. His condition is deteriorating.

*** Each day as you pray for those on this list,
always include our congregation and her elders**

*Visitors are always welcomed.
We invite you to visit our assemblies.*

Schedule of Services :

Sunday Morning : Bible Study 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:20 a.m.

Sunday Evening : Worship 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday : Bible Study 7:00 p.m.



Ya'll Come !