

HAVE A
**good
day**



|| November 2017 ||

Two-Way Thankfulness

Rebekah Ceidro was scanning her Facebook newsfeed when a post gripped her heart. Chris Moore, a friend and former coworker of Ceidro's, suffered from chronic kidney disease and announced that in six months to a year, he would need a kidney transplant. If he didn't get one, he'd have to be put on dialysis.

"I just kept seeing the post and it would tug at my heart," Ceidro says. She wanted to help, so she messaged Moore that if they shared the same blood type, she would be his donor. Grateful, Moore was touched by her selflessness. The good news was that they were both type O. Although the medical staff thanked Ceidro for her offer, she was disqualified because she was overweight, potentially putting herself at risk.

I'm too fat to save my friend's life, she thought. Stunned but still determined to help, she

began running and eating healthfully. Within a year, Ceidro lost 40 pounds, ran a half marathon, and was put at the top of Moore's kidney donor list.

When the doctors determine the date for the transplant surgery, Ceidro will be ready. "The amazing thing about this story is that I went into it hoping to save a friend's life—and in a way, he ended up saving mine."



A MESSAGE OF CHEER AND GOOD NEWS. *Pass it along!*

Giving Back

Due to a lack of funds to keep it going, Thunder Bay's Rotary Shelter House in northern Ontario was set to shut down its



street outreach program. That's when an anonymous shelter resident gave \$10,000 earmarked for the specific program, monies he received from a legal settlement. That generous check from an individual donor as well as other fund-raising helped Shelter House eventually reach their annual operating goal.

The man gave the money to help his friends "stay safe." Staff member Alexandra Calderon said, "It was incredibly moving. I mean, I'm very passionate about the work we do here at Shelter House, but it just takes it to a whole new level."

It's a Dog's Life . . . as Mayor

Some would say Rabbit Hash, Kentucky, has gone to the dogs. Especially because the town's mayor actually is one. Brynneth Pawltro, a pit bull, beat out a cat, a chicken, and a donkey to win the coveted election. Rabbit Hash's population is a mere 300 not counting animals, so the town doesn't really need a mayor, but they give the position to a local animal as part of a fund-raising campaign for town improvements. The residents can vote as many times as they wish for their candidate—but each vote costs them a dollar.

Brynn follows a prestigious line of mayors, including Lucy Lou, a border collie who served eight scandal-free years in office, and Junior, a black lab who preferred public appearances to policy decisions. Since her election, Brynn fulfills her mayoral duties by appearing at events, letting the locals pet her, and napping by the river.



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The Joke Pays Off

When tourists discovered the quaint town of Winters, California, they showed up to enjoy its beauty and good restaurants—and filled all the town's parking spaces. Parking became such a problem that the locals began to complain. So as an April Fool's prank, an anonymous resident installed an old meter on the main street, one meter amid dozens of free spaces within the town's four-block business district.

Winters' residents marveled at the oddity, and soon it became a local attraction. The media filmed parents feeding it coins just to show their children what the machine did. When the meter was removed for repairs, the residents complained again—they wanted their beloved meter back ASAP. Back in working order, the meter makes the town about \$100 a year, which goes toward Winters' annual July 4 fireworks show.



Surprise Checkup

While walking through the woods near her home, veterinarian Shannon Moore was surprised to run into a former patient. Several years before, a good samaritan brought a box turtle that had been hit by a car to Hocking Hills Animal Clinic in Logan, Ohio. Moore repaired his broken shell with fiberglass

and released him in the woods. "Recently, while walking on my hillside, I spotted an odd pattern in the leaves," she says. "To my amazement, there was my old patient with the fiberglass still on . . . years later!" She and the turtle didn't chat much at their reunion, but Moore examined her work and took some photos. "Sometimes, being a vet is the best thing there is."

Just for
laughs



"Just loaves and fishes? No gluten-free bread?"



"It's quite common in your job. You have choir leader's elbow."

The person who knows everything has a lot to learn.

Reputation is what you are supposed to be; character is what you are.

Parents can give their children everything except common sense.

Open the Door

Some people think God is an aloof deity; someone who sits in heaven, his eyes peeled for anyone who breaks his rules, ready to rain down thunderclaps of judgment upon them.

Not many people think of God as someone who stands at their doorstep, knocking and requesting permission to enter their life and have a relationship with them.

But that is exactly how the Son of God, Jesus, described his desire. "Look!" he said. "I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends" (Revelation 3:20).

Startling thought, isn't it? God, the creator of the world, waiting for the voluntary response of those whom he has created.

That thought is repeated in the Bible. "The high and lofty one who lives in eternity, the Holy One, says this: 'I live in the high and holy place with those whose spirits are contrite and humble. I restore the crushed spirit of the humble and revive the courage of those with repentant hearts'" (Isaiah 57:15).

No, God is not some remote, uncaring being. Quite the reverse. "His purpose was for the nations to seek

after God and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him—though he is not far from any one of us" (Acts 17:27).

The problem is not that God is far and remote from us. The problem is that our sin has separated us spiritually from him. And he, the one who has been sinned against, still waits to be invited into our messy and disordered lives.

Only when we acknowledge our sin and trust in Jesus who died for our sin will we experience his presence. Repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ are the keys that swing open the door to the Lord—the Lord who waits.

Until you invite him in, life is empty. But when you invite him in, life becomes vibrant and full. Open the door . . . and have a good day—and a great life!

[Jim Kraus]

**"But when
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NAME &
ADDRESS:

HAVE A GOOD DAY AND A SPLENDID *forever!*

