

YMCA

An unusual event occurred one night at the Y when Dorothy came along to play piano for the service. I was so glad she was able to share this experience. We went through the usual singing to begin with, but only two men were present.

Both were handicapped quite severely, yet similar in their physical appearance. Their knees and feet turned inward, giving them great difficulty standing or walking. Their arms would not fall to their sides normally but their elbows stayed away from the body so their hands were hanging away from their hips on both sides. Their faces were not perpendicular to the floor but bent sideways at an angle with the lower jaw slightly out of line with the upper teeth. Both men spoke with difficulty, laboring to communicate at all, yet one of them had a college degree.

This particular night the Lord had burdened me with speaking on faith from Proverbs 3:5-6: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths." When I realized these were the only two men present, my mind raced to what these men might think about these remarks on faith. I went ahead with my plan, explaining how God can direct our paths if we trust Him, and trying to make faith as realistic as possible. (I must add that they were sitting on the second row in front of me, side by side.)

When I closed with prayer, one man stood up, shook a finger at me and said, "That's all right for you to say. But what about me?" Before I could think or answer (if I could have), the other man grabbed his coattail and haltingly said, "You sit down; I'll explain to you about faith. I live here at the YMCA and I sell greeting

cards. I pray every day for the Lord to provide enough money for breakfast, then for lunch, then for supper. I pray for the amount I need for a room here, and God always supplies.”

It has been many years since that incident, but I have never forgotten how God supplied through this Christian an effective answer for his friend. Later, the first man asked for a private session in his room. His story unfolded as follows: He had lived in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, as I remember. Due to his physical disabilities, he was very limited as a boy. However, he discovered an ability to repair bicycles and throughout his teenage years, used his parents’ garage as the neighborhood center for bike repair.

Business grew, enabling him to sell new bikes as well as repair used ones. Eventually he bought out a competitor and seemed to be making money. Although his folks were Christians and he had become a Christian in his early years, he became discouraged with his life at home and decided to find a new endeavor. This brought him to Omaha and to the YMCA. He enrolled in the trade school to learn to repair radios, hoping for a bigger income.

The question he asked was, “How can I know the will of God for my life? I have been through the radio school for weeks and haven’t found a job here at all. I have \$1800 in the bank but no job.” I prayed with him for wisdom and then explained that it seemed to me he was in the will of God at home with a business, knowledge and an income. But he was not content and left it for something else. However, that was his past and now we had to ask God for the next step.

My suggestion was that he pray and ask the Lord to get him a job in Omaha within a certain time frame, whether within the next week or two weeks or whatever he felt comfortable setting before the Lord in prayer. If no job opened up in

Omaha, I suggested that he tell the Lord he would assume that the Lord wanted him to go back home.

In about a week I walked into the YMCA and hobbling toward me was this same young man, all smiles, with a young lady beside him. The day after we prayed, his father called him from South Dakota and had a job for him with the gas company at a great hourly wage repairing gas meters. His girlfriend was going back with him and they were going to be married.

This really amazed me, seeing how God could provide a job for an unlikely prospect, at a good wage, and a nice-looking young lady to become his bride. I am still moved by our miracle-working God, who used my sermon on faith for two incredible, but wonderful, men.