

Pastor's Corner

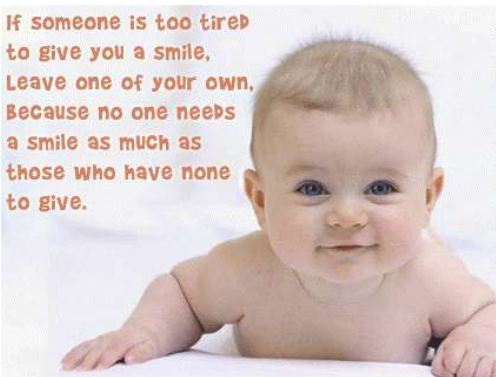
Just a Smile?

March 11, 2009

Dear Friend,

Right now, more than ever, it's the little things that make a difference. Job losses are on the rise. Many of those who still have jobs are seeing their hours cut back. Those who rely heavily on tips are seeing that source of income evaporating. People are losing their homes. Even people who have been renting, which was assumed to be safe, are facing the possibility of moving as the homes they are renting are going into foreclosure. People who thought they could retire in a few years are seeing their retirements cut in half, or even more. We're in tough times, and many, many people are hurting. And they're not only hurting financially, but the question that is on many people's minds is this: *When will things get better? How bad will it get before it turns around? Will it even turn around?* Jesus talked about these very events and He described how people would be reacting: "Men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth . . ." Luke 21:26.

If someone is too tired
to give you a smile,
Leave one of your own,
Because no one needs
a smile as much as
those who have none
to give.



What can we do? It's the little things that really count right now. Many times in a crisis people get focused on the big things, and overlook the little things. But right now, more than ever before, it's the little things that will make a difference in people's lives, that make the difference of whether they keep on going or not. Little things like a smile, a word of encouragement, or stopping to chat with someone for a minute and just listen. It's during these times, when people are rushing around and their hearts are failing them from fear that we can actually give them the encouragement they need.

Yesterday I heard the story of a young man that was giving up. He felt so alone during the crisis he was in that he finally decided to walk to the bridge and end it all. Before he left, he wrote a note, and it said that if anyone talked to him, or smiled at him, or acted as if they even noticed, he would take that as a sign that people still cared. What would have happened if he met you on his way to the bridge? What would have happened if I passed him? Would I have disappointed him? I think of that man every time I see someone walking on the street, or sitting at a bus stop, and it reminds me that I can make a big difference with the little things.

Remember today, it's the little things that count. A smile, a nod, a friendly word, a tract of encouragement; these little things make a big difference!

Please, make a difference today! We're praying for you!

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