

Today I helped a blind man, but he actually helped me to see better.

It all started early this morning when I was getting set up for a tree job in an older part of San Diego. This job was on a quiet side street across from a large, and well known Catholic church compound. While putting my orange cones in the street, I noticed an elderly blind man in ruffled yet proudly worn clothes, with sport coat, carefully coming up the block on the other side of the road. He was using his special, white and red, long blind walking stick with a small ball at the end, moving it left and right as he hesitatingly and slowly worked his way forward.

Upon seeing his helpless and trusting condition, I immediately walked across the street and said in a soft voice: May I help you get somewhere? He said he was trying to find the main office of the Catholic church. I told him I'd take him there, so I gently, but firmly put my hand on his shoulder, as we walked through the large parking lot, and then up some stairs and down a long corridor, until we came to the main office. The problem was it didn't open until 9 am which was still an hour away.

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Asking him what he needed he said he wanted to ask someone at the church if they'd help him get back to his home in another part of town. He said someone has stolen his bag with his money and wallet in it and he needed bus fare to get back home. I said, no need to wait an hour, my friend. Please let me give you bus fare, which he gratefully received.

As we were walking back to the street, my hand firmly resting on the nape of his neck, confidently guiding him, my client from across the street came to ask me a question about her trees and then realized what I was doing. It was at that moment I spontaneously asked her, would she please walk him to the bus stop, which she kindly did.

And so I watched the two of them walk down the street, the blind man with his arm resting on hers, and then they turned the corner and I saw them no more. And so, the baton of love was passed from one stranger to another, as part of the seamless thread of gratitude, substance and abundance that weaves through all life and experience.

All of this reminds me of the Bible passage that says: having ears we hear not and having eyes, we see not.

~ Gary