

Waking Up the Nation,  
One Reader at a Time...

# PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT

## Who is My Neighbor?



by **Joan Vetter**

Seeking to justify himself, the rich young ruler arrogantly asked Jesus who his neighbor was. I never noticed the way the Amplified version of the Bible (Luke 10:30) portrayed Jesus' answer. It states, "Jesus, taking him up, replied..." I've always been interested in the scripture that states Jesus knows a man's thoughts, so He knew why this man asked that question and he was up for the debate. Jesus then proceeded to tell him the parable of the good Samaritan.

As we dissect the parable, first Jesus said "by coincidence" a certain priest was going down along that road. So I take it that God sent him - for I've heard coincidence described as God-incidence. However, for whatever reason, this priest chose to actually pass to the other side of the road. Then a Levite also passed by on the other side.

Remember, as I share this I'm not judging anyone - my finger points also to myself. How often is it too inconvenient to stop and help a stranger. We have all our proper little excuses folded up in neat little bundles in our mind. I don't have the experience to help and I may not do the right thing. I've got somewhere I need to be. Somebody else can stop.

I was already planning to write on

being a good Samaritan when I received the newsletter from Crystal Peaks Youth Ranch in Oregon. Kim Meeder, founder of the ranch relays the encounter she and two friends had while hiking. They happened upon a hiker lying on the ground in obvious distress. There were people passing by, but only two others stopped to help. The afflicted woman began to have a seizure and was going into shock. Kim and her friends wrapped a blanket around her and laid down beside her to keep her warm. Then they carried her down the trail by making a stretcher from walking poles, shirts and dog leashes. The sad part of this story is later they discovered one of the men who walked by was a pediatric doctor who was equipped with a thermal mat and

a radio, but he chose not to stop and help.

I realized it is so easy to allow Bible stories to be simply a story, but how the Lord longs for us to put ourselves into the story and learn of Him. Kim states, "Friends, each of us has something we can give to those in need around us. We don't need to be the smartest, fastest, or most experienced...we simply need to stop and give what we have to those who are suffering in our midst."

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