

## Who Knew?

A recent church sermon told about a young man who had returned from military service and had great difficulty re-entering his former community. He came home to a divorce situation, was having difficulty with family relationships and had no luck securing a job. At a time of desperation he had a pistol aimed down his throat and



finger on the trigger. A man, who was willing to risk his life to protect our freedom, was on the verge of ending his life. Fortunately, God moved him to put the gun down. He wasn't a man of faith but he felt the invisible forces to reluctantly stop at a church he had driven past every day since his return from the front line. He was warmly greeted as he reluctantly entered the doors of the church. None of the people welcoming the young man knew they had just saved the young man's life. But, God knew.

There are people hurting all around you. In all likelihood their tears of pain are reserved for quiet times when they are alone. They may look perfectly normal out in public. Without the loving support of others those alone times can be devastating. They can be a time when a gun ends their pain, as almost happened with our military veteran in the true story above. With the help of loving Christians we can introduce them to Jesus, who offers to take away their pain. We never know how our kindness can actually save the life of another person.

But, it doesn't happen until you take the second step. Second step? God took the first step. God knew! God knew there was a person in need. He placed the person directly in the path or line of sight. By making you aware of a person's need God is asking you to be compassionate with others. *Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ (Galatians 6:2)*

You can respond by offering to help, welcoming people, talking about your faith and praying for the needs of others. Perhaps it will result in a saved life. Perhaps you can pave the way for them to find their peace in Jesus. *Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing (2 Thessalonians 5:11)*. Don't let the moment pass you by. You know of God's love but others may not.

Who knew? God knows; now it's up to you.

**Question:** Can you name an example of a time when you encouraged a person at a time when they were down? Did they seem to respond to the loving assistance they received?

**Prayer:** Dear Lord. We get so busy with our own lives it is easy to overlook when others are hurting. Help me to be compassionate towards others and generous with my time to provide people in need with assistance. Amen.