Kindness in the Car



Dear Friends,

On our recent trip to New Zealand, John and I were picked up by an Uber driver, Finn, to take us to the airport.

Our driver was friendly and happy to ask us a few questions about ourselves and share a little about his own life. During our conversation, he told us about a couple he had recently picked up in his car.

He explained that he had some difficulty finding their address, so he had to phone them to work out exactly where they were. However, at the end of the phone call, the couple inadvertently left the line open!

Much to our driver's embarrassment, he found himself listening to a rather heated argument between the two of them, complete with swearing and name-calling. By the time he arrived to collect them, the argument was well underway. They were so angry with each other that they refused to sit together, with one sitting in the front and the other in the back.

The driver then began the hour-long journey to their destination. However, rather than speaking to each other, the couple continued their argument by texting back and forth from their separate seats!

Knowing what had been going on, our driver eventually decided to step in. He bravely introduced himself and explained that he couldn't spend the next hour driving them while they continued to give each other the silent treatment and argue by text. He then told them that he was a Pastor and had some experience helping people work through conflict. He kindly offered to help them sort out their differences.

I imagine the couple were rather surprised, and perhaps a little embarrassed, but thankfully they accepted his offer.

Our driver told us that after a short while, he pulled over for a break. By then, the couple had managed to talk through their problem, made up and were once again sitting side by side in the car!

We were delighted to hear this story, not only because of the kindness he had shown to two strangers, but also because it gave us an opportunity to share a little about ourselves. We told him about our involvement at Randwick, and he seemed genuinely pleased to discover that we too were Christians.

As we chatted further, we discovered that the church where he pastored had a lady whom I also serve alongside in Prison Ministry. What a lovely connection! It was a double blessing that he had been so open in sharing his story with us, and that we had been able to enjoy this unexpected meeting.

His story reminded me of what we had been learning with Kevin as he taught us from the book of Ruth. We saw how Ruth's kindness towards Naomi, and Boaz's kindness in providing for both Ruth and Naomi, played such an important part in changing the course of their lives.

It struck me that our Uber driver had also shown a special kind of kindness. It would have been much easier for him to simply drive the couple to their destination and stay out of their troubles. Instead, he was willing to step outside his comfort zone, show compassion and offer help to two people who were clearly struggling.

And isn't that a wonderful reflection of God's kindness?

God's kindness is not always revealed through big or extraordinary events. Sometimes He works through ordinary people, in everyday situations, to bring encouragement, help and blessing to others. Just as He used Ruth and Boaz to demonstrate His loving kindness, He can use us too, often in ways we may never fully realise.

Of course, God knew exactly who would be picking us up that day. He used what might otherwise have been an ordinary Uber journey to bless us with an encouraging story, a lovely connection and a reminder of His goodness.

What a wonderful reminder that God's kindness is all around us, and that He delights in using His people to share that kindness with others.

It was certainly a lovely start to our holiday!

God Bless,
Annette De Gouveia