

A Breakfast Surprise

An act of kindness, particularly one that is totally unexpected, can have marvelous effects. Lola and I were on the receiving end of such a good deed recently, and we have been basking in the glow of it ever since.

We had gone out for breakfast to one of those restaurants "where the locals go" - away from the interstate, off the beaten path of tourists passing through town.

Although I typically have a "healthy" breakfast of hot oatmeal or cold cereal, such as honey-nut Cheerios, this occasion was different. We both ordered country ham, eggs (over-medium, thank you), sausage gravy and large biscuits (we call 'em catheads in the South).

When the waitress delivered the food, she announced that there would be no charge: someone else had already paid the bill. "Who would that be?" I asked, as I surveyed the room. She didn't know their names, she said, but added that someone in the party worked with me.

I looked all around the room again, and saw no one I recognized. Out of the corner of my eye, however, I spotted a familiar face in the hallway, waving and smiling as she disappeared from view. She is, indeed, a co-worker at Life Care. She was having breakfast with her parents. Her father, an acquaintance for whom I have great respect, had taken care of the tab.

That generous gesture produced several effects:

1. Somehow, the food seemed a little tastier.
2. Our friendship, though not dependent on country ham and eggs, was enriched by the demonstration of goodwill.
3. This beneficence reminded me that I need to do something -- for him or someone else -- to perpetuate the blessing.

Will you perform a random act of kindness for someone today? I will.

--Beecher Hunter