

# A Favor Repaid

Many years ago, two boys were working their way through Stanford University. Their funds got desperately low, and the idea came to them to engage Ignacy Paderewski – Polish pianist, composer, diplomat and politician – for a piano recital. They would use the proceeds to help pay their board and tuition.

The great pianist's manager asked for a guarantee of \$2,000. That was a lot of money in those days, but the boys agreed and proceeded to promote the concert. They worked hard, only to find that they had grossed just \$1,600.

After the concert, the two boys told the renowned artist the bad news. They gave him the entire \$1,600, along with a promissory note for \$400, explaining that they would earn the amount at the earliest possible moment and send the money to him. It looked like the end of their college careers.

“No, boys,” replied Paderewski, “that won’t do.” Then, tearing the note in two, he returned the money to them as well.

“Now,” he told them, “take out of this \$1,600 all of your expenses, and keep for each of you 10 percent of the balance for your work. Let me have the rest.”



The years rolled by. World War I came and went. Paderewski, now premier of Poland, was striving to feed thousands of starving people in his native land. The only person in the world who could help him was Herbert Hoover, who was in charge of the U.S. Food and Relief Bureau. Hoover responded, and soon thousands of tons of food were sent to Poland.

After the starving people were fed, Paderewski journeyed to Paris to thank Hoover for the relief sent him.

“That’s all right, Mr. Paderewski,” replied Hoover. “Besides, you don’t remember it, but you helped me once when I was a student at college, and I was in trouble.”

When you do a kind deed for someone, you never know how you will be repaid.

– Beecher Hunter