

A Flat Tire, and a Ministry

There is a beautiful story on the *Divine Opportunities* blog by a man named Larry. Many years ago, Larry was driving down Highway 240 in Memphis when he saw a car pulled off on the side of the road, with a flat tire. He felt strongly that God was leading him to stop and help.

He pulled up behind the stopped car and saw a young woman standing by the side of the road, staring off into space. When he asked if she needed help, she began to cry. The young mother had just come from St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, where her 2-year-old son was undergoing treatments for leukemia.

Her husband had walked out on the family not long after their child's diagnosis. And this flat tire on the side of Highway 240 felt like the final straw for this young woman. She felt so lost and alone.

Larry didn't have a solution for the woman, but he did have a story. He knew now why he had felt the urge to stop. You see, eight and a half years earlier, when Larry's son was just 2 years old, Larry's wife had died of leukemia. He knew what it was to be grief-stricken and confused. He knew what it was to be a single parent. He knew what it was to feel alone and helpless and desperate. And he knew what it was to rely on God for his strength.

And so, Larry began sharing the story of how God worked through his grief and anger and loneliness. He told how God had helped him to be a single parent to his little son. As Larry wrote on the blog, "It was a God thing. I don't recall a lot of what I said; it's like it came in and went out, a lot like a gift of the Spirit. It's not necessarily something I thought about and said. It just flowed."

Larry sat with the woman while she cried. Then he changed her tire and prayed with her. And when Larry drove away that day, he understood in a new way how God had used his pain to bring comfort and strength to someone else in need.



What are some conclusions we may draw from this story? Among them is this: There is some pain that needs a solution, and some pain that needs a story. You may never get an answer to your "Why?" So change the question to this: "How can God use this?" We ask God for a reason; God gives us a purpose.

(more)

Be ready to share your story of how God is working in your life – even in your pain and suffering. Someone needs to hear it.

In the fifth chapter of the Gospel of Mark, Jesus tells the demon-possessed man He had just healed: *Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how He has had mercy on you* (Mark 5:19 ESV).

– Beecher Hunter