

A Golfer's Gift

Are there people who will take advantage of the generosity of others? Certainly. It has been so since the beginning of time.

Not a lot of press coverage was given to the tough Argentine golfer, Robert De Vincenzo, but one story from his life shows his greatness as a person.

After winning a tournament, De Vincenzo received his check on the 18th green, flashed a smile for the cameras, and then walked alone to the clubhouse. As he went to his car, he was approached by a sad-eyed young woman who said to him, "It's a good day for you, but I have a baby with an incurable disease. It's of the blood, and the doctors say she will die."

De Vincenzo paused and then asked, "May I help your little girl?" He then took a pen, endorsed his winning check and pressed it into her hand. "Make some good days for the baby," he said.

A week later, as he was having lunch at a country club, a Professional Golf Association official approached him, saying, "Some of the boys in the parking lot told me you met a young woman after you won the tournament." De Vincenzo nodded.

The official said, "Well, she's a phony. She has no sick baby. She fleeced you, my friend."

The golfer looked up and asked, "You mean that there is no baby who is dying without hope?" This time, the PGA official nodded.

De Vincenzo grinned and said, "That's the best news I've heard all week."

For many years, a minister by the name of the Rev. M. E. Littlefield lived and worked in Cleveland, Tennessee. He founded Faith Memorial Church, and became known as a friend of the poor, establishing centers for distribution of food, clothing and household needs. He also began a Christmas party for children that continues to this day, offering coats and toys for disadvantaged boys and girls.

Someone said to Brother Littlefield one day, "Don't you know that there are those who betray your trust, who ask for help when they don't need it?"

The preacher replied, "It is not my place to judge the truthfulness or the character of those who seek my assistance. I try to respond however I can to meet the need that is presented. In that way, I have satisfied my responsibility to God. Anything else is between the recipient and his Maker."

--Beecher Hunter