

A Note in a Washroom

In June 1997, the *Associated Press* reported that an employee at a Massachusetts store found a \$20 bill on the washroom floor with a note folded inside.

Help! Kidnapped. Call Highway Patrol, the note said on one side, and listed two Oklahoma telephone numbers. *My Ford Van Cream & Blue Okla*, it said on the other side.

The police were notified, and after they determined the names of the elderly couple registered at those phone numbers – Floyd and Rita Rupp – they put out an all-points bulletin. The media published photos and descriptions of the missing couple. The two daughters of the couple sat anxiously by their phones waiting for news as the interstate police search lasted 24 hours.

Then a phone call was received at the office of Mr. Rupp. The office manager heard a familiar voice report, “I’m sitting here enjoying the view of the ocean.”

It was none other than the missing man.

“You have no idea what’s going on, do you?” said the office manager.

No, he didn’t, but when he found out, he and his wife were quite embarrassed. It turned out his wife had been feeling insecure about the drive back to Oklahoma, which she would be making alone. She had written the kidnap note and kept it in her purse just in case she needed it. It had accidentally fallen out of her purse in the store washroom.

Life offers anxieties and uncertainties. We go to great lengths to feel safe.

The basis for a strong sense of security is a deep trust in God.

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, even though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea (Psalm 46:1-2).

– Beecher Hunter