

A Sign on a Farmhouse



The late Charles Kuralt, widely known for his *On the Road* segments for *The CBS Evening News with Walter Cronkite*, was once traveling through the back roads of Ohio.

He passed a farmhouse with a homemade banner on it that read *Welcome Home Roger*. One of his associates said, "I wonder who Roger is?" They decided to drive to the farm and meet the family.

Roger was a soldier on his way home from Vietnam. The family was anxiously awaiting his return from the war. Roger's mother was baking a cake and his wife was there, playing with the baby son that Roger had not yet met. Kuralt and his crew brought in their cameras and interviewed the family.

Kuralt then wrote a story about all the soldiers who were returning home. He sent the story to New York, and Cronkite put the story on the evening news. The story was a huge success, and hundreds of viewers called in to express their gratitude for the story about waiting for Roger. Kuralt's trip through the back roads of Ohio affected thousands of lives.

Life is about relationships.

The late Catherine Marshall, author and wife of the well-known Peter Marshall, chaplain of the United States Senate, once told about a couple named Mary and Harold Brinig, who moved to Chicago many years ago. Soon, they were lonely. They were also irritable and unhappy with each other.

While seeking help from the Bible, they saw these words of Jesus: "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide" (John 15:16).

Somehow, that passage became like light penetrating the darkness for the Brinigs. They wondered if Jesus was choosing them for some kind of unknown service, and what it could possibly be in Chicago.



(more)

The first person they encountered after this discovery was the waitress who served them in a nearby restaurant. She apologized for giving them such slow service, and said she was new in the city and miserable. They invited her to visit them in their apartment after work.

A neighbor who was a widower became the second person they befriended. Soon a dozen people were meeting once a week for conversation and prayer. Out of these meetings grew a project called *Adventures in Friendship*, from which scores of people were involved in visiting the lonely and the shut-ins throughout the whole area.

Life Care Centers of America and Century Park are built on relationships – with our residents, their families and our associates, of course, but in a wider reach to those who can be meaningful to our mission in a variety of ways.

As Jesus said, we have been appointed. What new person will you meet today, and how will you grow from it?

– Beecher Hunter

