

## A Traveler's 'Aha!' Moment

Judy Keene of Hoffman Estates in Illinois was hurrying through Chicago's commuter train station when she had an "Aha!" moment that stopped her in her tracks.

She had just left the candy counter where she had bought Valentine's treats for a party she and a few friends were planning for their church's single moms.

Doing so took her thoughts back to a cookout the previous summer for which she had covered the cost. "The single mothers, their children and I enjoyed a glorious day at a local, sunshine-drenched beach, conversing and stuffing ourselves with burgers, chips and the trimmings," she recalled.

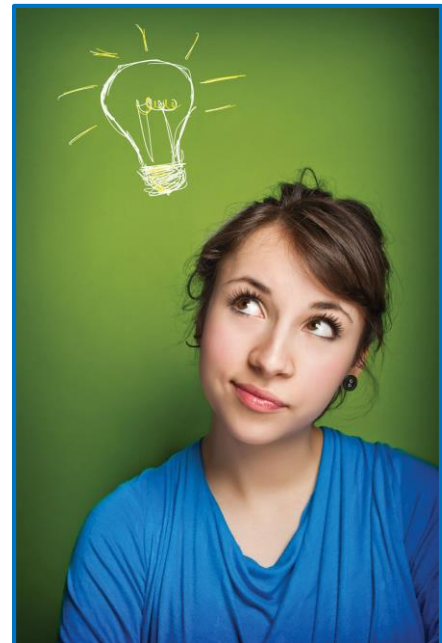
"As the afternoon ended, I sat among the moms at the picnic table as they enthusiastically divided up the leftover hot dogs, sodas and desserts. No one thought to offer me a thing. My feelings were a little bruised," she confessed. "No, I didn't need the food. And most of the moms had given little thought to where the picnic spread had come from. But the slight was significant enough that I recalled it in the train station six months later."

Then it hit her, she said. "How much more slighted God must feel when, as recipients of His enormous generosity, we are reluctant to share a portion of our resources with Him. Just as I didn't need the potato salad, He doesn't need our money. But He does crave our acknowledgment that all we have is from Him."

Keene's "Aha" moment should turn on a light bulb over our heads (as the comic strips portray).

Just as we should give of our financial blessings to the church and to causes that make the lives of others better, we should be offering our praises to our Lord for the abundance of His blessings in our lives, such as ...

- For the breaths that we draw.
- For the roof over our heads and the shelter from storms enabled by our homes.
- In hot days like these, for the relief afforded by air conditioning.
- For the beauty of a sunrise as that heavenly body begins its climb into the sky.
- For a meaningful occupation in Life Care and Century Park, positively touching the lives of others.
- For a spouse who loves us and children who challenge us.



(more)

The list, you see, goes on and on.

And so should our grateful and worshipful praises – in a continual flow to our Creator and Provider.

*Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever (Psalm 136:1 ESV).*

– Beecher Hunter