

Courage in the Storm

Several years ago, a terrible ice storm hit Pittsburgh, making travel almost impossible. At the height of the storm, a church family called their pastor about an emergency. Their little boy had leukemia and he had taken a turn for the worse. The hospital said to bring the boy in, but it could not send an ambulance, and the family did not own a car.

The pastor's car was in the shop, so he called a church elder. The elder immediately got in his car and began the treacherous journey. The brakes in his car were nearly useless. It was so slick that he could not stop for stop signs or stop lights. He had three minor accidents on the way to the family's house.

When he reached their home, the parents brought out the little boy wrapped in a blanket. His mother got in the front seat and held her son, and the father got in the back. Ever so slowly, they drove to the hospital. Dr. Bruce Thielemann, who was senior minister of the First Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, told what happened along the way:

"They came to the bottom of a hill and as they managed to skid to a stop, he (the elder) tried to decide whether he should try to make the grade on the other side, or whether he should go to the right and down the valley to the hospital. And as he was thinking about this, he chanced to look to the right and saw the face of the little boy. The youngster's face was flushed, and his eyes wide with fever and with fear. To comfort the child, he reached over and tousled his hair. Then it was that the little boy said to him, 'Mister, are you Jesus?'

"Do you know in that moment he could have said yes," Dr. Thielemann said. "For him to live was Jesus Christ."

Loving as Jesus loved, you see, requires courage, involvement and self-sacrifice.

--Beecher Hunter