

Help With the Bags

It was to be one grand reception. Reporters and city officials gathered at a Chicago railroad station one afternoon in 1953. The person they were meeting was the 1952 Nobel Peace Prize winner. A huge crowd was on hand.

A few minutes after the train came to a stop, a giant of a man – six-foot-four, with bushy hair and a large mustache – stepped from the train. Cameras flashed. City officials approached him with hands outstretched. Various ones began telling him how honored they were to meet him.

The man politely thanked them, and then, looking over their heads, he asked if he could be excused for a moment. He quickly walked through the crowd until he reached the side of an elderly black woman who was struggling with two large suitcases.

He picked up the bags and, with a smile, escorted the woman to a bus. After helping her aboard, he wished her a safe journey. Returning to the greeting party, he apologized: “Sorry to have kept you waiting.”

The man was Dr. Albert Schweitzer, the famous missionary doctor who had spent his life helping the poor in Africa. In response to Schweitzer’s action, one member of the reception committee said with great admiration to the reporter standing next to him, “That’s the first time I ever saw a sermon walking.”

Every day, in the centers of Life Care and American Lifestyles and in the work of Life Care at Home, this principle is proven over and over again:

Forget yourself for others, and others will not forget you.

--Beecher Hunter