

Man Who Serves Unnoticed

Benedict Jebakumar is a man on a mission. Ever since 2012, he has dedicated his free time to sweeping the Outer Ring Road of Bangalore, India, of metal nails deliberately put there by nearby tire-puncture shops to boost their profits.

It all started when Jebakumar realized that he would often have to deal with a punctured car tire when taking the Outer Ring Road from his home in Banashankari to his office, or vice-versa. He didn't think much of it at first, but then he noticed the many tire repair shops lining the roads, most of which were often busy fixing the tires of seemingly unlucky motorists.

It didn't take long for him to figure out that whenever he got a flat tire it would always be because of metal nails conveniently located close to one of those puncture repair shops. He went to the local authorities to report his findings and ask them to take action, but they didn't seem too eager to help. That's when he decided it was up to him to keep the roads clean for himself and other drivers.



At first, he would pick up the nails by hand, but soon realized that it was a very time-consuming and ineffective method, so he built a tool to help him on his cleaning runs. He took one of his broken fishing rods and modified it by attaching magnets to one end and making it foldable.



Jebakumar leaves his home around 7 a.m. and stops by specific points on the Outer Ring Road, making sure they are nail-free. He does the same thing on his way back from work, because many times the miscreants running the puncture repair shops will spread a new batch of nails right after he leaves. On some days, he collects so many metal nails that he fills his bags and has to return with more to finish the job.

For example, on March 21, 2016, he collected a whopping 1,654 nails off the road. He keeps all the nails he has picked up since 2012 and claims that his collection now weighs over 50 kilograms. Until the nail problem is solved by the city, Jebakumar plans to keep taking care of things himself, as best he can. "I will continue as I am helping many people," he said.

(more)

Interestingly enough, in 2015, when asked by *The News Minute* if a passerby ever stopped to ask him what he was doing with a broken fishing pole on the Outer Ring Road, Jebakumar realized that in three years nobody had ever approached him about it. “It is such a fast-paced world that nobody has even observed that there is a man wandering about a busy main road in search of something. They have not even noticed that these nails are potential threats to their vehicles,” he said.



What a remarkable story of a man dedicated to a cause of helping others!

God doesn't leave us here without a purpose. He places His love in our hearts and then He sets us loose in a world of needs.

The problem is that most of what really helps other people isn't superhero stuff. But because there is little recognition in such humble service, we drive right by the nails on the road, holding out for a more glamorous project.

What is the humble need you could do something about right now? Such opportunities are present every day in the centers of Life Care and Century Park, and in the world around us.

If it is really God we seek to serve, it shouldn't matter if people notice what we are doing. Even if no one stops to ask what we are doing, pleasing Him should be enough.

The greatest among you shall be your servant (Matthew 23:11 ESV).

– Beecher Hunter

