

Precious Child of God

A young woman named June volunteered at a church agency that served the poor and homeless of her city. One day, June met George, who had come in to receive some help.



Winter was coming, and he needed a jacket and some shoes to help keep him warm. He took a seat in the chapel because the waiting room was crowded and noisy. When George indicated he wanted a Bible, June went to get one for him while he waited his turn in the clothing room. When she returned with a Bible, she sat down to talk to him for a while.

George looked like he was in his late 50s or early 60s. June noticed his thin hair beginning to gray and the deep lines that marked his face. His hands were stiff, and he had lost part of one finger. Although it was 1:30 in the afternoon, he smelled slightly of alcohol. He was a short, slight man, and he spoke softly. He had come into the agency alone, and June wondered if he had any family – anyone who cared that he existed.

June wrote George's name in the front of his Bible along with the date. Then she showed him the study helps in the back, which would help him find key passages.

As they talked, the thought occurred to June: George is one of God's very precious creatures. She wondered if George knew that. She wondered how long it had been since someone had told him, if at all. What if no one had ever said to him he was precious to God – and to all God's other children as well?

George had very little influence or stature, but God spoke to June through him that day – "My children need to know they are precious to Me. Please tell them that." Since then, she has made that message a part of every encounter she has at the church agency.

No doubt, most of the associates in Life Care and Century Park have chosen the profession of health care because they understand the truth that June discovered – the people we serve are precious to God.

Have you told any – or one – of them that? You can do so in a variety of ways: through conversation, in a prayer you voice with the individual, by an act of love, or by the compassion that radiates from your face or in your actions.

And don't forget, you, too – you, the caregiver – are esteemed and highly favored by God. He says so in the Bible: *I have called you by your name; you are Mine ... Since you were precious in My sight, you have been honored, and I have loved you* (Isaiah 43:1, 4).