

Rescue in a Burning House

Robert L. Allen, in his book, *His Finest Days*, tells of a small boy who was being raised in a frontier city by his grandmother. One night, the house catches on fire.

The grandmother, trying to rescue the boy who was asleep in the bedroom upstairs, is overcome by the smoke and dies in the fire.

The frontier city doesn't have much of a fire department. A crowd gathers around the house, and they hear a small boy crying out for help. The lower floor is a wall of flames, and no one seems to know what to do.

Suddenly, a man pushes through the crowd and begins climbing an iron drainage pipe that runs to the roof. The pipe is hot from the fire, but he makes it to a second-floor window. The man crawls through the window and locates the boy.

With the crowd cheering encouragement, the man climbs back down the hot iron pipe with the boy on his back and his arms around his neck.

A few weeks later, a public meeting was held to determine in whose custody the boy would be placed. Each person wanting the child would be allowed to make a brief statement.

The first man said, "I have a farm and would give the boy a good home. He would grow up on the farm and learn a trade."

The second person to speak was the local school teacher. She said, "I am a school teacher, and I would see to it that he receives a good education."

Finally, the banker said, "Mrs. Morton and I would be able to give the boy a fine home and a fine education. We would like him to come and live with us."

The presiding officer looked around and asked, "Is there anyone else who would like to say anything?"

From the back row, a man rose and said, "These other people may be able to offer some things I can't. All I can offer is my love."

Then he slowly removed his hands from his coat pockets. A gasp went up from the crowd because his hands were terribly scarred from climbing up and down the hot pipe at the burning home where the boy had lived.

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The boy recognized the man as the one who had saved his life and ran into his waiting arms.

The farmer, the teacher and the banker simply sat down. Everyone knew what the decision would be. The scarred hands proved that this man had given more than all the others. He had shown a remarkable love for this boy in his desperate need.

The lesson is simple: We show our love by our actions.

And love is proven every day in the centers of Life Care and Century Park.

The King will say to those on His right hand, "Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me." Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, "Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?" And the King will answer and say to them, "Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me" (Matthew 25:34-40 NKJV).

– Beecher Hunter

