

# Result of a Fall in the Snow

Rev. Daniel Meyer, senior pastor of Christ Church of Oak Brook, Illinois, tells about a boy named Mark who was walking home from school one winter day when he saw that a kid ahead of him had tripped in the snow and dropped all of his books, two sweaters, a soccer ball and a small tape recorder.

Mark knelt down, helped the boy pick up his articles, and – since they were going the same way – offered to help him carry his burden. Mark discovered that the boy’s name was Bill. He loved video games and history, but was having a lot of trouble with his other subjects, and he had just broken up with his girlfriend.

“Gosh,” Mark said, “that must be really hard. If you ever need somebody to talk to, you can always talk with me. You can even come to church with me if you like.”

Moments later, the two of them arrived at Bill’s home. Mark was invited in for a soft drink and to watch some TV. The afternoon passed quite pleasantly, but after that day, the two boys only occasionally saw one another.

Years went by until, a few days before high-school graduation, Bill asked Mark if they could have a few words together. “Mark,” he asked, “did you ever wonder why I was carrying so many things home that winter afternoon? I was cleaning out my locker so I wouldn’t leave any mess for anyone else to clean up. I’d been storing up my mom’s sleeping pills, and I was going home that day to kill myself. My insides were broken up into a million pieces, but that afternoon, you helped me believe that maybe they might come together. And, you know, if the offer still stands, I think I’d like to go with you to that church of yours.”

There are people around us with all kinds of needs. We encounter folks every day in our centers in Life Care and in Century Park who are dealing with issues of one kind or another. Everyone, however – the people we serve, their families, visitors in our buildings, vendors or co-workers – can use some encouragement, acts of kindness, someone to listen or someone to demonstrate understanding to what they may be going through.

We can’t always know what someone is dealing with. But treating others in our interactions – personally or professionally – as we would want to be treated should always be our rule.

And who knows how you may bring healing to a broken spirit.

*And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them (Luke 6:31 ESV).*

– Beecher Hunter

