

Stopped by a Policeman

In a *Reader's Digest* article, Jim Williams of Butte, Mont., writes about an incident on the highway.

"I was driving too fast late one night when I saw the flashing lights of a police car in my rearview mirror. As I pulled over and rolled down the window of my station wagon, I tried to dream up an excuse for my haste."

When the patrolman reached the car, he said nothing. Instead, he merely shined his flashlight in Williams' face, then on his seven-months-pregnant wife, then on their snoozing 18-month old child in his car seat, then on their three other children, who were also asleep. Lastly, the light played across the two dogs in the very back of the car.

Returning the beam of light to Williams' face, the patrolman uttered the only words of the encounter:

"Son," he said, "you can't afford a ticket. Slow it down."

And with that, he returned to his police car and drove away.

Sometimes, mercy triumphs over law. We've experienced grace dispensed by people in family, business or government at various points in our lives, and we should be sensitive to opportunities to extend it to others.

After all, God shows His mercy to us.

– Beecher Hunter