

## Tears on the Bus

Beth Raby once competed in a high school vocal competition in which the songs were to be sung in a foreign language. She had four weeks in which to prepare, but since she had a great deal going on in her life at the time, she didn't prepare as well as she might have.

When the time came for her to perform for the judges, she couldn't remember some of the German words in her song. She threw in every German word she could think of. As a result, she did not receive her usual high marks. She felt awful.

On the way home, her teacher said to the group of students, "Don't worry. You did your best." That was all he expected. When they stopped to have lunch, however, Beth remained on the bus, where she burst into tears. She knew that she had *not* given her best. As she sobbed with her head down, she felt a hand on her back and looked up to see her teacher. He had big tears in his eyes, too.

Those tears, far more than any words spoken, brought healing to her heart. While she knew by his words he believed she could do better in the future, she knew by his touch that he would be there to help her. More than any other single thing, that touch helped Beth to become a compassionate teacher herself.

The incident also reinforces the truth of the adage: People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care.

--Beecher Hunter