

## The Power of a Nickel

Charles Cardwell McCabe (1836 – 1906) was an American who distinguished himself as a Methodist pastor, an Army chaplain during the Civil War, a church executive chiefly in the field of fundraising, as chancellor of American University, and as a bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church, elected in 1896.

His success in eliciting contributions for worthy causes got a boost from a surprising incident.

When Chaplain McCabe set out to raise a million dollars for missions, he met many disappointments and was often greatly discouraged. One day, while going through mail that was particularly disheartening, he came across a letter from a boy, and out of the envelope fell a badly battered five-cent piece. The letter, penned in a boyish scrawl and liberally punctuated with blots, read:



*Dear Chaplain McCabe:*

*I'm sure you're going to get a million dollars for missions. And I'm going to help you get it, too. So here's a nickel toward it. It's all I've got right now, but if you need any more, you just call me.*



This act of sacrifice and investment on the part of this little boy became one of Chaplain McCabe's most effective stories in his money-raising campaign, and by it, he was eventually able to reach his goal.

A boy's nickel, multiplied, became a million dollars. He helped far more than he knew.

Perhaps you consider what you do for others to be insignificant and of little value. Maybe the act is an encouraging word, listening empathetically to a friend, helping a neighbor with a chore, hugging a resident as you make your rounds today, offering a cup of coffee to a visitor, dropping by a funeral home to visit with a grieving family, or taking a meal to some folks down the street having a hard time financially.

God can take a simple act of kindness and produce a remarkable result.

– Beecher Hunter