

## THE QUEST FOR \$20 TUITION

Glenn Plaskin, in his book *Turning Point*, tells about an event that occurred during his senior year in college in the midst of the Great Depression.

His family did not have the money for the first quarter's tuition, although tuition for a quarter at Northeast Missouri State, where he attended, was only \$20, and that included books. His father did not have \$20. But he said, "Don't worry, Son, we'll go to the bank, and I'll sign your note with you. We'll get the money."

They went to the bank the next morning. The banker had tears in his eyes as he shook his head. The directors had instructed him that without collateral there were to be no loans, and there would be no exceptions. Father and son went to private individuals who were known to lend money, but everywhere it was the same: no collateral, no loan. There seemed to be no way Plaskin could go to college that year.

But the day before he was supposed to leave, a big truck backed up to their house, and two men lay down some boards from the truck bed to the front porch. Although Glenn Plaskin wasn't there that afternoon, he heard what happened.

There was one thing his mother loved more than anything in the world, besides Jesus and her family, and that was her Gulbransen piano. It was the only decent piece of furniture they had. But the men rolled it out of the house, onto the boards, and into the truck. The driver reached into the pocket of his overalls, pulled out some bills, and handed it to Paskin's mother – a 20, a 10, and a five.



Then they got into the truck and drove off with the pride of his mother's life.

His father threw his arms around her, and she cried and cried. That night, his mother couldn't even talk about it, so his father told him, "Son, you can go on back to college tomorrow. Your mother sold her piano." And he handed Glenn the money.

Afterward, Paskin thought, "That's love like God's love. The most precious possession He had was His only Son, and yet He gave Him up to be disgraced and crucified so that we could learn to love like that."

Glenn Paskin was right. And it is Christ's love that compels the people of Life Care and Century Park to selflessly serve those who come to them with serious needs.

*Above all, keep loving one another earnestly (1 Peter 4:8 ESV).*

– Beecher Hunter