

THOSE 'NIGHT COOKIES'

Thursday's *Perspective* focused on "night cookies," a term used by Snoopy in a conversation about loneliness with Charlie Brown – a memorable *Peanuts* comic strip.

Night cookies, we said, are essentially lifters or pleasant interludes that are difference makers in people's lives.

The late Zig Ziglar, author and motivational speaker, in his book *Something to Smile About: Encouragement and Inspiration for Life's Ups and Downs*, told the story of a sociology class that studied 200 young boys, most of whom came from the inner city of Baltimore, Maryland.

As a result of their study, the students came to the same conclusion for each of the boys: "He hasn't got a chance."

But 25 years later, another sociology professor did a follow-up study and was able to locate 180 of the original 200 boys. Of that number, 176 had become doctors, lawyers, successful businessmen, etc.

When the question was asked of the men how they had been able to escape their predicted future, they all, in one way or another, said basically the same thing: "There was this teacher ..."

The professor found the teacher and asked her what she had done to have had such an impact on so many of the boys.

She simply smiled and said, "I just loved those boys."

She supplied the "night cookies."

And so can you, through ...

- A smiling, cheerful countenance as you interact with those who are struggling with some physical or emotional difficulty.
- A hug for a family member concerned about a loved one.
- An interesting field trip to a popular restaurant or entertainment venue for a group of residents.
- A new sweater or afghan (perhaps one you have made) for a woman seeking warmth against the chill of an evening.
- Throwing a big birthday party for someone who has no family to do so.
- Expressing gratitude to a veteran for his or her service to our country, and asking for a recount of some heroic incident.
- Arranging a media interview for a person with a significant life accomplishment.

Pass out some night cookies. You'll recognize those who need them.

Whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant (Matthew 20:26 NKJV).

– Beecher Hunter

