

As the members of the team were not proficient in the local language, they could not communicate with the boys clearly. They tried their best to request them to volunteer to donate blood to save the dying girl. One little boy stepped forward, ready to donate his blood. During the transfusion he started to sob and appeared to be mentally disturbed. The staff tried their best to console him.

Then a Vietnamese nurse arrived. She talked to the boy and enquired in the local language about the cause of his worry. She had a long conversation and hearing her words of assurance, the boy appeared to be remarkably relieved. His sobs were replaced by a smile. He was peaceful and jubilant. The nurse then explained the real situation. When the team requested his blood to save the girl, the poor boy had a major misunderstanding. He thought that they were demanding ALL the blood in his little body. He believed if all his blood was drained, that he would die. Still he was ready to offer his blood to save the girl. The barrier of language made the team unable to explain the details to him. The words of the local nurse consoled him considerably.

The American staff then inquired why the boy volunteered to donate his blood though he feared it would end his life. The Vietnamese nurse replied that she had asked the same question to the boy. His answer was, "***because she is my friend!***"

Jesus taught, My commandment is this: love one another, just as I love you. The greatest love a person can have for his friends is to give his life for them (John 15:12,13).

St. John reminds us, My children, our love should not be just words and talk; it must be true love, which shows itself in action (John 3:18).

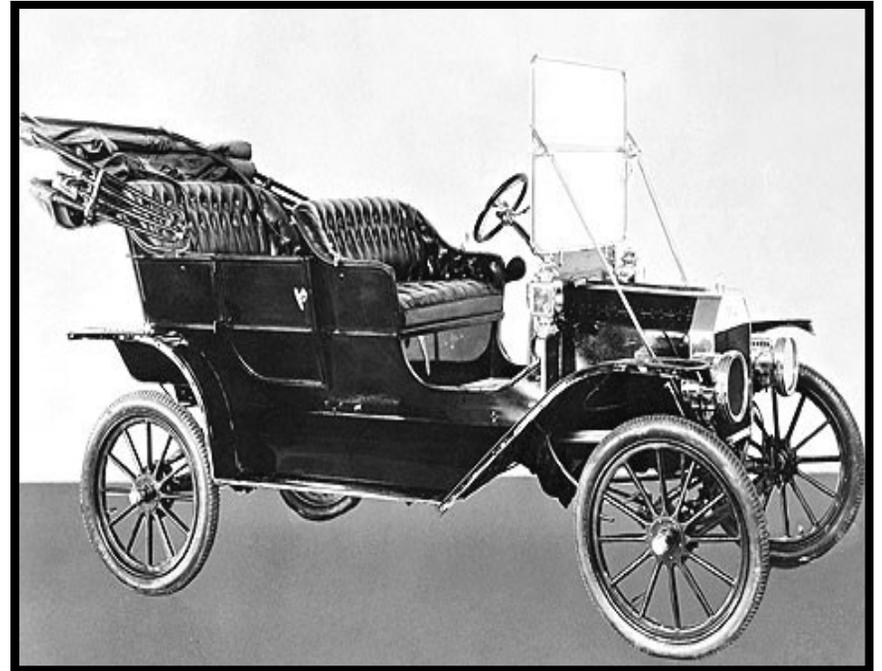
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MORAL SHORT STORIES #2

KNEE - MAIL AND A DARING DONATION



1908 MODEL T FORD

HEARING THAT THE CAR REFUSED TO START,

THE STRANGER TOLD HIM,

"LET ME TRY. I HAVE SOME EXPERIENCE IN HANDLING THIS MODEL."

KNEE - MAIL

by DR. B. PHILIP

A person was driving his 'Model-T' Ford car through a remote village in the USA. He stopped it to take some refreshments from a wayside restaurant. Then he tried to start the car, but failed. He tried his best but could not identify the problem or solve it. As he remained worried and stranded in a strange place, another similar car came forward and stopped near his car. An elderly man alighted from the car and smiling softly, asked the person about his problem. Hearing that the car refused to start, the stranger told him, "Let me try. I have some experience in handling this model." He examined the car, made some quick adjustments and started it. The car roared into life. The man thanked the helper and praised his skill. Then he asked his name. The stranger told him, "My name is Henry Ford. I am familiar with every part of this car as I was closely associated with every stage of its design, development and manufacture." The man was surprised to find that the stranger was the great Henry Ford, who founded the Ford Motor Company in 1903.

Henry Ford (1863-1947), after innovative and extensive experiments had developed the Model T car in 1908 as a simple, reliable and affordable car which was within the economic reach of the average American. By developing the concept of 'assembly line' in motor car manufacture, Ford could increase the efficiency of manufacture and decrease the cost of production. He lowered the price of the car and revolutionized the manufacture and use of cars in the USA.

In the journey of life, we may encounter a variety of problems concerned with different facets of our life such as health, education, work relations, family and finance. We often create unnecessary tension, anxiety and worry when we try to solve the problems by ourselves. Like the car designer in the story, we have an expert creator, who knows everything about us and our life, our requirements, weaknesses and capabilities and so is able to solve any problem associated with our life. Let us have the humility to surrender ourselves before the omnipotent God. He is the loving Lord who has a definite plan for the welfare of each of us.

It is said that the shortest distance between a problem and its solution is the distance between our knees and the floor. The one who kneels to the Lord can face any problem with confidence. When prayers go up, blessings come down. Prayer should be the 'steering wheel' and not the 'spare wheel' in the vehicle of our life. God answers '**KNEE-MAIL**' without fail.

The Lord has said, "By my great power and strength I created the world, mankind and all the animals that live on the earth" (Jeremiah 27:5). David praises the creator, "Lord, You have made so many things! How wisely you made them all! The earth is filled with your creatures" (Psalms 104:24).

"The Lord says...I alone know the plans I have for you, plans to bring you prosperity and not disaster, plans to bring about the future you hope for" (Jeremiah 29: 11).

"Happy are those who are humble; they will receive what God has promised!" (Matthew 5: 5).

"Ask, and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you" (Matthew 7: Luke 11:9).

St. Paul advises, "Don't worry about anything, but in all your prayers ask God for what you need, always asking Him with a thankful heart" (Philippians 4:6).

"Come near to God, and He will come near to you" (James 4:8).

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A DARING DONATION

by DR. B. PHILIP

An orphanage in a remote village in Vietnam was bombed in the Vietnam War. Many children were wounded and some died. The French missionaries who owned the orphanage and the vigilant villagers tried their best to rescue the children. But medical care was not available. Some of them ran to the neighboring town and sent a message to the MASH (Mobile Army Surgical Hospital) Unit of the American military. The mobile medical unit rushed to the orphanage with a team of doctors, nurses and other staff and started their operation to save the wounded children. An eight year old little girl was badly wounded, she had lost a lot of blood and was in a very critical state. The only step to save her life was an immediate blood transfusion.

They examined her blood. It was of a very rare group. A donor with a compatible blood group was needed urgently. None of the members of the medical team or the staff of the orphanage or the available villagers had a matching blood group. They tested the blood of the children and identified a few little boys with the required blood group.