

### **Outflow Testimonial: Contributor wishes to remain anonymous**

God taught me a lesson when I got my oil changed. For some strange reason, I was having trouble making the correct turns to get to the Jiffy Lube that I've been to many times. When I finally got there and parked my car I saw a young guy having a smoke on the bench outside the office. As I was about to walk in I casually greeted him with "How ya doin'?" To my surprise he answered, "I've been better." I stopped and sat next to him on the bench and asked him what was wrong. He told me he had run into another car that day and banged up his fender, and he had already spent a lot of money fixing his vehicle. As we talked more I found out that his name was Daniel, and he was a history and political science major at a nearby college. I showed him the book about Tony Blair that I happened to be carrying with me just then. I found out about his difficult family situation and about the military men in his family under different kinds of duress because of their service in Iraq.

When our cars were done and we walked in to pay, the Holy Spirit startled me by telling me, "Pay his bill." I jumped in and did it. Daniel was dumbfounded; he couldn't believe it. I told him that he had enough stuff to worry about, that it was easy for me to take his oil change bill off his mind. When we walked out and Daniel was still astounded and grateful, I explained that God had sent many people into my life to take care of me over the years, especially when I was in grad school when we were so often financially strapped and people stepped in to help us in totally unexpected ways. "But you know, I really shouldn't have been surprised," I concluded, "because God took care of my deepest needs for eternal life, forgiveness, and reconciliation to himself in Jesus Christ and his death and resurrection for me." I told him that if there was one way he could repay me, he could come to my church so I could give to him more there. He said he would.

I drove away in tears. At the church we've begun talking about a fresh vision that God has for us, something that we're calling "Care along the Way," inspired by the story of the Good Samaritan. It occurred to me that I had just done exactly what we've been talking about—helping someone with a need and taking the next step to invite the person to meet Jesus in the church. A few months ago I wouldn't have thought to do that.

To my joyous surprise, on Sunday Daniel came to church. He said he enjoyed it and would come back again with his fiancée. I found out later that the greeter who met him at the door asked him what had brought him to us. Daniel replied, "My friend invited me."