

STEP BY STEP

There you are...on your way to work and wouldn't you know it, a stopped school bus with flashing red lights! Pity the day when you're mere seconds from getting through and the stop sign pops out! Then, Murphy's Law takes over which says, "The amount of time it takes for the bus to complete its pickup is directly proportional to how late you are!" That's when you begin the mental thrashing; "See! You should have turned back at that last block!" or "If you had only left five seconds earlier!"

This morning was different for me. It wasn't the first time I'd had to wait on this bus. This bus isn't just any bus either. It's a special bus. This bus picks up a little boy who uses a pint-sized, red and white cane to "see" where he's going. He comes down the walk; each step carefully placed one after the other. He doesn't come alone, though, he's led by a friend. His helper looks to be a couple of years older than he, possibly an older brother.

In this moment, the clock and the commute fade into the distance and more important matters come into focus. I begin to experience how this little boy's brother cares for him. I witness the older boy as he walks at just the right pace; how he holds his arm out with a slight bent so the little fellow has an easy grasp. The two make their way down the walk, one patiently leading the other. This particular morning, the young boy loses his grip and I see him groping to find the anchor of his brother's arm. His brother stops, reaches out, and takes him by the hand. The older boy tenderly helps the younger each remaining step and then, finally, up into the awaiting yellow carriage. They have safely arrived at their destination.

This reminds me of our Christian walk. We look through a glass darkly on this side of heaven. Sometimes, we stumble and fall. Our Father, however, has not left us to make our way alone in this dark world. God has given us the Holy Spirit to illumine our path and to show us the way. He is the "Paraclete," meaning the One who comes alongside. He leads and empowers us to walk in a manner that's pleasing to God. When we stumble and fall, He tenderly reaches out for us and helps us to our feet. He comforts us, encourages us onward, and reminds us of grace.

God has also given us our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. We are to pray for one another and bear each other's burdens. We're to walk alongside and encourage one another. We're to tenderly help one another back onto the path of holiness when we fall.

This morning, waiting on a school bus became a lesson in life. It was a reminder of God's gracious gifts and how He has provided just what we need to reach our heavenly destination.