

Hudson River Sampler
Printed Oct 2012

Random Acts of Kindness

by Naomi Fata

As I pulled to a stop behind a line of cars at a red light, the bumper sticker of the car in front of me caught my eye. Just as I made out the words "Practice random acts of kindness," the light changed and the car pulled away. I brushed the saying away without a lot of thought.

Several months later, the question was posed amongst some friends about whether we practice random acts of kindness. I jumped to say that I do, but the depth of the question suddenly hit me. I had always thought of it as a rather flippant saying of our day to just be kind once in awhile. Yet, truly the root of it has a very strong Biblical connection. Looking at the heart of the gospels is one common thread woven through the message: LOVE.

Didn't Jesus love the most unlovely, those with the less societal connections, those less fortunate?

But what does a random act of kindness look like in small town America today? What if it is stopping to buy a 50¢ lemonade from a child's stand? This might just make that child's day. It could be lending a hand, being a friend, meeting our neighbor. The possibilities are endless, if we just think about it as if we are being used by God to make someone a little more aware of His love.