



Weekly Devotion

Weekly Devotion for June 3

Growing in Generosity is Growing in Faith

by Dennis Nelson

“You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.” — 2 Corinthians 9:11

Rose and Isaiah Kofie were as filled with hope as any new parents are when awaiting the birth of a child. But their son’s birth came earlier than expected. Doctors said that it was unlikely that the little fellow would survive. He did survive, and he needed God’s care, for in his early life, he struggled to mark the milestones of development. The medical diagnosis was that their son, Jude, would live with autism.

Music was an important part of family life from Jude’s earliest years. No one taught Jude to play keyboard instruments, yet, somehow, the music in Jude’s mind directed his fingers to the melodies, harmonies, and flourishes that echoed and added to the styles of jazz, pop, and classical pieces, too.

Bill Magnuson is a piano tuner in the Colorado town where the Kofies live. By chance, he happened to see and hear Jude at the keyboard: no musical score anywhere to be seen. Bill was astounded by Jude’s obvious talent and concluded that this extraordinary young musician should not be limited to playing on an electronic keyboard.

One day, unexpectedly, a grand piano was delivered to the Kofies’ home as a gift. Bill, the piano tuner, determined that no better use could be made of an inheritance from his father than to provide the talented young musician with a quality instrument. Bill also promised to tune it monthly and to pay for Jude’s ongoing skill-building with a professional music teacher.

When Jesus directs his followers (in every age, including ours) to love our neighbors in the same way we tenderly care about ourselves, I believe he had in mind something like what happened in the heart of Bill, the piano tuner. Bill didn’t focus on Jude’s limitations or on his ethnic heritage. He focused on the possibilities of beauty and joy that Jude’s gifts could bring to people who needed them. And that focus of tender concern moved him to generosity and joy in giving of himself and of his means to advance those possibilities. The world we live in could use a lot more of that generous spirit. And as we grow in faith, we have opportunities aplenty to grow in just that way.

Journaling:

How has God’s generosity toward you inspired you to be more open-handed with what you have—your time, talents, or resources—so that others might experience His love and goodness through you?

