



She said I saved her life!

I thought nothing of it. In fact, I had forgotten about it. But I was told weeks later that I had saved her life. Her friends who told me I had saved their friend's life reminded me that we rarely know the impact of what we do; that God uses our ministry of compassion, encouragement, prayer and teaching in ways we do not anticipate. The conversation taught me a valuable lesson—one I have, myself, delivered in sermons and lessons.

The woman whose life I reportedly saved was caught in an awkward family situation. She was distraught, effectively a prisoner in her own house.

I visited her in her home. I listened to her plight. I empathized with her frustration and fears. But there was really nothing I could do. Other than pray with her, that is. I talked to God on her behalf in her living room.

She testified to her friends that my attentive listening and prayer on her behalf gave her comfort in knowing someone was bearing her burden and courage to take action necessary to extricate her from her predicament.

It wasn't her physical life that was saved so much as her emotional well-being. And it wasn't I who saved her life, but God. I was merely His agent who took her case before the divine Deliverer in the name of our faithful Advocate.

There are lives in danger where you work and live. People seated near you at church are in danger, their lives at risk. How tragic the words of the surviving acquaintance of a suicide victim, "I had no idea of his/her struggles. I wish I had known to speak a word of encouragement and assurance." You don't have to be a trained counselor. All you need to do is talk to the Wonderful Counselor, the Prince of Peace. This lyric of Ronnie Hinson may inspire you.

If you've got a problem, I'd sure like to share.
There's one special way I can show you I care.
I could offer opinions that might prove untrue.
For the only sure answer here's what I'll do.
I will talk to my Father for you.
And if I know my Father, here's what He'll do.
He will lay at your feet all the things you pursue.
It's no bother, for my Father will do it for you.
I have never prayed fire down from the sky.
But God saw each tear that ever fell from these eyes.
So if you've got a mountain alone you can't climb
I'll take your burdens and I'll make them mine.
I will talk to my Father for you.
And if I know my Father, here's what He'll do.
He will lay at your feet all the things you pursue.
It's no bother for my Father will do it for you.