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Center for Creative Ministry

Contemporary Comments


Deuteronomy 8:11-17; Philippians 2:3, 4; 1 Corinthians 15:51, 52; Revelation 22:1-5; Matthew 22:39; Genesis 2:21-25

Almost everyone has now heard about the New York police officer, Larry DePrimo, whose photo was captured while giving a homeless man a pair of socks and boots to ward off the cold. The Arizona tourist who caught the scene, Jennifer Foster, was touched by what she saw. The photo got onto the NYPD Facebook page and "went viral."

"My heart went out to this man," DePrimo told CNN. "I just went toward him and asked him if he wanted a pair of socks." DePrimo then headed to a nearby shoe store and-after asking the man his size-bought winter boots and helped the man put them on his feet. Since then, the barefoot man, once thought to be homeless, has been identified by the New York Times as Jeffrey Hillman, 54. That name was confirmed to CNN by Hillman's older brother, Kirk.

"Seeing him on the street, the way I saw, that was a shock at that particular time with no shoes and in the cold," Kirk Hillman, 62 of Allentown, Pennsylvania, said, recalling the first time he saw the photo.
that went viral on the Internet. "My brother has been homeless for a while now, he's been on the street for many, many years of his life." But according to the city, Jeffrey Hillman has housing—an apartment in the Bronx.1

The reaction to this "new" information has hardened some to think, "Yeah, just a panhandling trick to get more sympathy and money." First we see Jeffrey Tillman, the 54-year-old, as a homeless man needing shoes. Then we hear he is seen without the boots he is giving still looking for help. Next we discover he has housing. In fact, various family members and city organizations have tried to help him for years, but he's turned them all down.

In this week's Sabbath school lesson we discuss "The Christian Life" and dig deeper into what it means to move beyond correct "doctrine" to sound "living." Could it be that we actually distance ourselves from hurting people by rationalizing away their situations. Maybe we are too quick to join others in writing off people who seem hopeless or "use the system." Perhaps officer DePrimo's act of kindness demonstrates a spirit that more of us—regardless of how we interpret what would be best under the circumstances—need in our lives.

One of Hillman's family members stated, "Jeffrey has his own life, and he has chosen that life..." So, does that change what Jesus did when we walked away from God?

~cr

1. CNN

About Us

Since 1988, the Center for Creative Ministry has been serving local church leaders and individuals around the world. Formerly known as the publishers of ABBA Newsletter and the Baby Boomer Ministries Resource Center, we have now broadened our generational/ministry focus to include our children. The Center for Creative Ministry took on its new name on June 1, 1996.

The Center for Creative Ministry, formerly Baby Boomer Ministries, is a privately funded and managed para-church ministry fully recognized by the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America. We are dedicated to supporting the local church in outreach and nurture ministries by providing resources, information, training, and consulting.
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