

“PAY IT FORWARD” EXPERIENCES

“Pay It Forward” – That’s What God Wants All Of Us To Do

Several months ago, a church member donated money to the church. The member wanted the money to be used in a different way. Together, the Pastor and the member came up with the “Pay it Forward” project. Church members were given an envelope. A total of \$25 was inside. The member was asked to use the money to lend a hand to someone in need. The church was footing the bill—all you were asked to do was to reach out and help someone by using the money. My experience is listed below:

Thoughts kept pouring through my mind. How can I use this money wisely? What can I do? Who can I help? I decided that I wanted to help an older person.

I chose my intended recipient of the “Pay it Forward” money, but my thoughts continued. Where can I go? I believe God led me to a grocery store called Market Basket. Many elderly people shop there—surely I can use this money to lend a hand to someone there. As I walked through the store pushing my own shopping cart, I observed many people. For some reason on this particular day, most of the shoppers were young people.

I had my mind made up—I wanted to use the money to help an elderly person. I pushed on and continued my shopping. Then it happened. I saw her; she was elderly woman. She was carefully reviewing her grocery list. Further observation revealed that she was trying budget her grocery purchases wisely. Instantly, I knew she was the person God wanted me to help. She looked up and we both smiled at each other. I spoke to her and I said, “How are you doing today?” She replied, “Oh, I’m doing ok—I have to be.” I knew this was my opportunity. I walked closer to her and I handed her the money along with the small “pay it forward” insert. She said, “What is this for?” I smiled again and said, “It’s for you.” I know that I shocked her—she was astonished. I didn’t give her time to react—I simply walked away.

I know God led me to this elderly lady because she was in need. The money assisted her in paying for her groceries that day. It gave me a tremendous sense of pride and joy to use the money to help this soul that was struggling financially. My pride was supported by the thought that this is what Jesus wants all of us to do. While the church gave me the means for this outreach ministry, it also taught me a greater lesson. We can all help someone out using the “Pay it Forward” program throughout our lives. The “Pay it Forward” can be a warm smile, a kind word, or it can be financial assistance to someone in need. That’s what God wants all of us to do. I will continue the “Pay it Forward” concept by applying it in my life.

Kathy Patterson

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“Pay It Forward” – That’s Not Just Coincidence

Good Friday....As I was walking into the grocery store, I saw an older lady walk in right behind me that was having trouble walking and getting around.

Still, she managed to push a cart and get everything she needed very efficiently. She had to have been in her late 70's.

As I got the few things I needed and went up to the checkout lines that were a mile long, I placed my groceries up and checked out my items. Little did I know that when I turned around, the same lady was next in line to check out.

I took this as a sign from God, that this lady walked in behind me, met me in numerous aisles throughout the store, and then again at the checkout line...that's not just coincidence. As her items were getting rung up, I handed the money to the cashier, as well as the "Pay it Forward" note and she handed the note to the lady as I was walking out. I wished her a blessed Easter. She looked at me, smiling brightly, with tears in her eyes, and wished me the same.

Emily Doyle

“Pay it Forward” – Pass It On

I received A “Pay it Forward” envelope in church and this is how I used the money.

I went to the Laurel Wood Home to see Dorothy Glessner and I took her some flowers. She was real happy to see me and I enjoyed the visit with her.

I took 2 of my widowed lady friends out to lunch--one was a recent widow and the other lady had been a widow for a few years. They thought it was very nice of me to pay for lunch. I gave them the “Pay it Forward” slip, and I asked them to do a kind deed for someone else. They both said they would “Pay it Forward” too.

God Bless, Mary Shaulis

“Pay it Forward” – Appreciation for The Experience

Megan and I found the \$25 “Pay it Forward” envelope and decided to use it to feed the construction workers on Goucher Street. Megan used her employee discount to get \$50 worth of pizza from Papa John's and we dropped it off to the manager of the

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job one night after her shift. The workers were very appreciative and thankful that we gave them the pizza!

It was a good experience for us because we weren't sure how they would receive it, if they would be annoyed that we were interrupting them or maybe they might not even be allowed to accept it - but they loved it!

I'm thankful to have had this opportunity! Thank you! :)

Brianna Hull

“Pay it Forward” -- An Act Of Kindness

I was in Altoona babysitting for a few days and I noticed a Grandma looking a little rough with a beautiful baby in her cart at Walmart.

The Lord put it upon my heart to give her some cash. I gave her the money and I told her to buy something for the baby. I just walked away without looking back. Just a very small act of kindness.

The “Pay it Forward” project was a really good idea not only for lent but for every day!!!

Jeanne Cober

“Pay it Forward” -- Continue to Help Others Out of Our Love For God Until Jesus Returns

When I was just a child, I stayed with my grandmother every weekend. She told me stories of how she lived and how hard the times were.

My grandfather was a coal miner by trade and the two of them didn't have a lot of money. However, my grandmother said they gave what they could to anyone in need.

Also, my grandmother told me how men came into their town on trains. They were hungry and my grandmother made them sandwiches and they ate them on her porch. This kind gesture really impressed me as a child--it always stuck with me growing up.

When I was a young teen, I started seeing children in need. I would make things

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for them or give them things to make them feel better. For example, I gave a Bible to a girl on my bus. I did things like that because of the influence my grandmother had instilled upon me as a child. As I've grown older, I never stopped giving— sometimes its money, sometimes its toys, clothes, or help. I try to do what I can do according to the situation or the person's needs.

I'm not bragging, I'm just telling you how I came about “Pay it Forward” a long time ago. When I checked under the church pew in front of us and no money in an envelope was found, I really wasn't disappointed. I don't think the church should be handing out money to Christians to do what we should be doing anyway (just my opinion).

I know some people may not think they can help others—we don't make that much money. I believe that we will not miss money that we use for others. I believe that we will not miss what we are able to give away in material goods. We are Jesus' hands, feet, eyes, ears, mouth-body on earth. We should be loving and giving to others on a daily basis.

I have tried to instill the “Pay it Forward” concept of helping people in my children as well. We have way too much stuff which we can't take with us when we leave this earth and there are so many people in need. My hope is that we all will continue to help others out of our love for God until Jesus returns.

Anonymous