

Do You Want Me?



Park York has known the agony of seeing his wife suffer with Alzheimer's disease. It first began with an occasional incoherent or irrelevant question but digressed to round-the-clock perpetual care. As she declined from 125 pounds to 86, he continuously ministered to her needs. His daily routine consisted of feeding, bathing, diapering, changing beds, cleaning house, fixing meals, dressing and undressing her, and whatever else became necessary to care for his wife. Sometimes she would mumble a word or two but never a sentence. Then one Friday morning she seemed to step outside of her illness and asked a question with perfect enunciation, "Do you want me?" These softly spoken words greatly impacted Mr. York. He cried out, "Of course I want you, Flossie," as he hugged and kissed her. Mrs. York returned to her state of oblivion just as quickly as she had momentarily escaped, but her four brief words would never be forgotten. **People everywhere are asking the same question this dear woman posed, "Do you want me?"** May we all respond with the same compassion Mr. York provided for his wife.

* Christian Reader, Jan./Feb. 1990, p. 22



Judge Gently

Stephen Covey tells of an unusual experience on the New York subway. While people were sitting quietly in the car, a man entered with his noisy and rambunctious children. The man sat down and closed his eyes as though he was oblivious to his rowdy children. The once quiet subway car was now a

disturbing place of chaos. The children's inappropriate behavior was obvious to everyone except their father. Finally, Covey confronted the man about his children. The man opened his eyes and evaluated the situation as if he were unaware of all that had transpired: "Oh, you're right. I guess I should do something about it. We just came from the hospital, where

their mother died about an hour ago. I don't know what to think, and I guess they don't know how to handle it either."

Compassion starts when we begin to understand the hurts of others.

* The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People, Stephen R. Covey, 1989, p. 31

Use of articles implies nothing, Pastor Devers

Don't Ask

An angry pastor's wife looked over the remains of a dinner that had long since turned cold. She intensely inquired of her husband, "Where have you been for the last two hours?" His hollow eyes gazed toward his wife; then he slowly responded, "I met Mrs. Burton on the street and asked her how she was feeling." * The Happy Clergy, Herb Walker, 1977, p. 7

Air Head?

Six-year-old Molly complained to her mummy that her stomach hurt. Realizing it was lunch time, Mum told Molly, "Your stomach is empty; you'll feel better after you put something in it." Later that evening the pastor came over for a visit. During the conversation he mentioned he had a headache. Molly piped up with the solution: "That's because it's empty. You'll feel better once you put something in it."