



From Our Wesley Nurse . . .

The Power of Prayer and Spiritual Encouragement

Many times we do not see what others see or experience. I would like to share my experience and thank you for making a huge difference in the lives of a family in need through your generous support of the Wesley Nurse Program.

Recently, I received a call from the school's Homeless Liaison asking me to pay for a hotel stay for a mother and her five children. As a "good steward" of the Wesley Nurse community outreach funds, I asked all the "right questions:"

Why does she need help?

How did this happen?

Does she have family who can help?

In answer to my questions, the Homeless Liaison simply replied, "She and her children need our help." That statement was all it took, in my embarrassment, I said, "Of course, I can help."

When the Homeless Liaison and I went to the hotel, I met a young woman who was respectful, thankful and remorseful. I saw a mother who loved and cared for her children. Without asking, she tearfully told me her regrets for the choices she had made that created the crisis she and her children were in.

When I asked if I could pray for her and her children, she said, "I would love that!" After we prayed, she asked for a hug and I readily responded.

She volunteered that she loved the Lord, but didn't attend church regularly. I shared with her that her relationship with God was what was important and that joining a body of believers would strengthen her and her children's faith. She agreed and said she wanted to find a church when she got settled.

I encouraged the mother to turn this situation into a positive opportunity to make beautiful memories with her children. The family had been provided transportation on a train to go to her extended family in Wisconsin. I suggested that she might help her children to draw pictures, write, and capture all the exciting things they would see and experience on their 2-day "journey and adventure." She said she hadn't thought of that, but said it was a great idea. Her tears started turning into smiles as we talked about all the fun things they could do as a family. I told her God is a loving Father who has a plan and purpose for her and her children.

The next morning, the Homeless Liaison took the family to the train station. The Homeless Liaison sent the following email: *I dropped mom and the kids at the train station. She was so appreciative of you praying with her and giving her words of encouragement. I noticed a big difference in her demeanor. She was more hopeful than worried after that. So thank you for that, as well.*

Elgin is a great place to live, worship and love one another.