

Weekend Garage Sale Yields Unexpected Results

An exceptional garage sale held last weekend here in Orangevale yielded results far beyond the organizer's expectations. It was advertised by a roadside sign which read "Family Crisis Yard Sale" with an address ... that was all. But it was enough to draw hundreds of people responding to a simple call for assistance. Turning down one of the side streets which would lead to the sale, there was no problem finding the sale. The only real problem encountered was finding a parking place.

The purpose of the sale was to provide assistance for a family who had experienced a severe chain of medical experiences which saw the husband going through a diabetic emergency which led to kidney failure and further complications. He was on dialysis for two weeks and doctors expected he could be in this condition as an outpatient for some time after being released from the hospital.

This is how my part of the story began. That is not, by any means, the whole story. As it turns out, I have known the family for over 20 years but when they moved several years ago, we had fallen out of touch. The husband



was one of those people who was full of energy and always had time to help out other people. He was, and still is, not only active in their church but was seen as an example of someone who lived that faith in every aspect. He was the kind of person who always gave and never asked. He has asked, however, that I not use his name—a request that I will honor.

When I was leaving, and despite the tremendous number of people I had seen, I could not help but wonder if we, as a newspaper, might have helped increase the response by reaching people who were not members of his extended family. And the next thought was

"how many other people; how many other charitable garage sales, bake sales, or car washes did people miss out on? Why don't we know about these things? The answer is simple, we can't be everywhere and don't know everything. We have to rely on other people from our community-people like you—to tell us so we can tell you!

So here is the rest of the good news, events which the family attributes to their faith, responses to their prayers and those of hundreds of their friends, and to the power of priesthood blessings he received the day before he was released from the hospital.

"We feel we were especially blessed," his wife says. "He is recovering well and gaining more of his strength back every day. And we feel especially blessed to see the response from so many people—both from within our church and from people who are not of our faith—strangers who came forward in response to other's needs."

Which brings me back to my other observation: Our goal ... our mission, if you will ... is to serve the community; to tell people what is going on in as many aspects of Orangevale life as we possibly can. We want to hear from you, because we can't help, and others can't help, if we don't know.



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