

FaithBIT



Rest Stop God Moment Reflection by Dana Connett

One concept that has stuck with me from my time as a confirmation guide is “God moments.” We were often challenged to be on the lookout for God moments in our lives during the week. On July 19, God was not just in a moment; rather, He was encircling my family and holding in the palm of His hand the family of Jim at a South Dakota rest stop.

My family was traveling toward the Badlands and Black Hills of South Dakota in a rented RV. Only an hour after leaving Sioux Falls our first morning, I suddenly felt a need to stretch. (Although I had broken my hip and injured my knee this winter and was still struggling with pain and stiffness, I was normally able to sit a few hours at a time.) We pulled into the next rest area and planned to visit the little roadside chapel there; however, on the sidewalk was a woman on her phone who seemed quite distraught. We stopped to see if she was okay, and she said her husband, Jim, was in a diabetic coma and she was on the phone with an emergency dispatcher. Keith went to assess the situation and sprinted to the RV for some juice. He motioned the girls and me away from the picnic shelter where Jim lay, as he didn’t want the girls to witness what was unfolding, nor did we want to invade the family’s privacy. While Keith tried to assist Jim’s daughter, a hospice nurse, with CPR, the girls and I wept, held each other, and prayed for the ambulance to arrive, for healing, and for comfort for their family.



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When the on-call EMTs finally arrived, the girls in brightly colored T-shirts ran to the parking lot to direct the ambulance to Jim’s location. Keith and the EMTs got Jim onto the gurney, but sadly, it was too late. Jim’s wife rounded the corner of the shelter with vacant eyes and told me he had passed away. All I could do was embrace her, cry with her, and let her know we would be praying for her. I knew that although Jim was with God, for the moment, those left behind would feel alone.

As we got back into the RV, I was reminded that we may be asked to be God’s hands, feet, and heart in even the most unlikely places. This “eternal rest” stop experience reinforced our common humanity, grieving for a stranger purely because he is a fellow child of God.

God moments occur around us every day but often go unnoticed...until a God event jolts us out of our complacency.

Proverbs 16:9: *In their hearts humans plan their course, but the LORD establishes their steps.*