



## Monday Matters

April 29, 2013

### Who's First - You or Others?

What do you think of when you hear the words "putting others first"?

Back in the 1800's William Booth, founder of The Salvation Army, was preparing to send out his annual Christmas message to members of this organization all across the world. Email wasn't available back then; Facebook didn't exist. In those days, communication was by telegraph, and you paid for each word you sent. During those days times were tough and The Salvation Army was short of funds. The masterful, creative General Booth sent a one-word telegram. That one word was "OTHERS".

The essence of what Booth was trying to communicate was for the members of The Salvation Army to think and serve "others", putting others first before their own wants and desires. That message rings true today in that organization as it did 150 years ago.

Having learned to drive at the age of sixteen and living in Chicago, I learned some aggressive driving skills. Don't let anyone get the best of you on the road. Don't let people squeeze in front of you even if they use their blinker. That's the way



**Help Each Other & Love Each Other. Never Stop Sharing.**

### Quote of the Week

"If you want to "put others first", be like a tree, under whose shade you do not expect to sit. Be a tree, give fruits, flowers, shade to others without expecting anything from others."

**Monday Matters**

people drive in Chicago - aggressive and impatient.

Recently I've had the opportunity to spend a number of months in South Carolina. It is a laid back area of the country. The full time residents never seem to be in a rush. It has been refreshing driving in South Carolina. Other drivers will actually allow you (almost encourage you) to change lanes in traffic without a horn blowing or screaming at you. If I'm on a side street wanting to turn into traffic, people simply stop and let you in. If I'm first in line at a stop light that turns green and I don't start moving immediately, no one is blowing their horn at me. How refreshing. Drivers put others first.

A couple of weeks ago an elder in the church where I serve called me and asked if he could have a stool dropped off and would I put it somewhere convenient for him. He had been asked to be a greeter at the church doors for several upcoming weeks. Ralph is in his seventies and is the Managing Director of a law school. Recently he has had some major back problems that keeps him in pain and limits his mobility. Standing for any period of time would not be good for him.



No one would have objected one bit if he asked someone else to fulfill his responsibilities as a greeter. Instead, Ralph brought a stool to sit on because he wanted to serve others. His willingness to serve is demonstrated in his caring attitude and actions. He puts others first.

"Others" might not be starving to death or living in a disease ridden slum where General Booth served. They may be simply looking for friendship, help, a listening ear, or just a kind smile and the words "hello".

Every time we come in contact with "others", we are provided a wonderful opportunity to put "others" first. It's not a once in awhile response to

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"Pasture Politics"

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Give It Away

"others" but a daily response. It should be a lifestyle of putting "others" first - to our fellow employees, our neighbors, the worker at the grocery store or restaurant, the driver of the car trying to make a left turn across our lane of traffic. The list could go on and on.

Putting "others" first will bring joy and happiness to us. But our motive should be out of a heart of love for "others" and for God.

by Ron Nelson