

Miracles Do Happen: To Others Too

An Amazing Story

After visiting a busy (10,000 visitors/day) flea market (The Market at Marion in Belleview, FL) with our our friends on a beautiful Saturday morning, we went to lunch... where I discovered I had lost a hearing aid sometime during the morning. We looked all around the patio where we were eating, but could find nothing.

I wondered if I might have dislodged the aid when I was trying on sunglasses at the flea market so I called the flea market office with out success and later decided to go back to the market Sunday morning to see if it had been turned in to Lost and Found. After filling out some papers in case it was located, we returned to where I had tried on sunglasses.... and magically...my hearing aid was lying on the side of the aisle by the sunglass table!!!!

It was not damaged and worked fine...now I have \$2000 to buy new golf clubs!!! It was a major relief to find it!!! Imagine finding this small one-quarter inch item after thousands of folks had walked by during the previous 20 hours! And sometimes, I have trouble finding a golf ball!! We went directly to church!!! I mentioned this story in one of my newsletters and received a number of comments regarding similar stories from others...we all have miracles happen to us from time to time. Several of the most interesting are in the following paragraphs.

My high school classmate, Marilyn Cunningham, told this story: "A couple year ago I was shopping at Lane Avenue

Shopping Center, got out of the car with my hearing aid on my knee, and accidentally dumped it in the park lot. I could not locate it that day, but went back the next morning, found it.

I looked up and thanked the Lord, as I knew I would be out \$2,500, and promise Him I would not be judgmental for the rest of my life (I'm not sure I have lived by it)." Note: Marilyn did call me a idiot for favoring one of Obama's proposals!!! But her heart is in the right place...and so is her hearing aid now.

My golfing buddy, Jim Myers, told this story: "Last week after departing a restaurant, Sally (Jim's wife) discovered that she had lost an EXPENSIVE earring that I had given her for her 80th birthday. It matched a ring our children had given her... a topaz and diamond combination." (Note: I hope my kids get me something like that for my eightieth birthday September 10, 2015...are you listening Jeff, Jay and Jill?) "We searched up and down our condo, her clothes, the car we rode in, etc., and yes, the Catch 22 restaurant.

The next day we went back to the Catch 22, even though it was still closed and there on the sidewalk leading to the front door, Sally spotted the back clasp and nearby the earring with a flattened post. Got it fixed and all is well now!" What a great story!

Walter Oliu, Jane and Jack Fender's bother-in-law, wrote to say: "Great hearing aid saga—if I were you, I'd have been

tempted to nip along to the nearest place selling lottery tickets and bought a bunch to extend the lucky streak!" I should have but didn't...It was \$165 million in FL that night! Ruth would have given it all away anyhow!

Lastly, Vijay Rostogi, Mary Beth Harper's significant other and my good golfing buddy told me: "I had a vision that you returned to the flea market and found your hearing aid lying right by the table where you were trying on sunglasses." It is remarkable to have such an accurate vision as that and I will call on him the next time I misplace something. His story is somewhat suspect as he told me about his vision AFTER I told him how I had found my hearing aid!!!

These semi-miracles are of course not miracles in the true sense of the word, but those of us who had these experiences are grateful that we were able to find an expensive item we had misplaced. It was tempting to not drive the twenty-five miles (one-way) on a wild goose chase with the implausible hope that we might find the "needle in the haystack," but the never give up attitude of those of us who were lucky surely paid off. The extra step, the extra mile, the extra good deed always pays off one way or another.

The toughest part about writing this story was owning up to the fact that I need and use hearing aids. Oh well, at least I can hear the birds sing, the golf balls drop into the cup and Ruth telling which way to turn.

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