

# **One Nation Under God - Walk Across America**

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Every year at Christmas, most Americans unwrap presents that were set under a tree the night before. Many American also receive neatly wrapped gifts for their birthdays. Some gifts are large and some are small. But not all gifts come neatly wrapped in a box. The most valuable gifts can come at very unexpected times just when we need them.

On November 25 just one month before Christmas, I went to do some Christmas shopping along with millions of other Americans that day. After first going to the post office to mail some newsletters, I went to a Christian bookstore to buy a Christmas gift for my wife, Nadine. Then I traveled to a local department store to do some shopping for myself. Before entering the store, I talked to the Salvation Army bell ringer at the front door and blessed him for the work he was doing. After walking around the store, I left and proceeded to my car, which was parked along the side of the building. There was a narrow walkway between the wall of the building and the parked vehicles. At the end of the row was my car. As I stepped into the vacant parking place beside my car, I tripped. From that moment, my concept of time was altered. I do not remember falling or if I ever lost consciousness. I do remember one of my first thoughts as I lay facedown on the asphalt parking lot; tomorrow I may be in heaven.

Blood on my nose was the first thing, I saw. My eyeglasses that lay broken in front of me was the second thing. Pain shot through my head. To no avail, I tried to flag down a car while I lay there. Slowly I stood and attempted to walk to the front of the store to the Salvation Army bell ringer. After staggering a few steps to the wall of the store, I rested. Then a passing motorist spotted me, stopped and came to my aid. Jeff B. was the first Good Samaritan. He asked what happened, asked me to sit down, called 911 and went inside the store to report the accident. He came back and asked if he could phone my wife, which he did.

Soon a small crowd of people, some store employees, others onlookers, gathered. A woman stepped forward and asked if she could wipe the blood off my face. Her voice was very comforting and I allowed her to do so. The second Good Samaritan must have been praying as she very gently cleaned my forehead, because it did not cause any additional pain. I told her, "God bless you."

Soon the sound of sirens filled the air. As the ambulance stopped, the first Good Samaritan stepped forward again. This time he suggested that I allow the ambulance to take me to the hospital. As a policeman took information about my accident, an EMT began checking my injuries and blood pressure. The EMT asked if I wanted to go to the hospital. This time the Good Samaritan said, "Go, you may be hurt more than you realize."

I told the EMT, yes, and he asked if I could walk over to the ambulance. As I used my left hand to help me stand, pain shot through my entire left arm into my shoulder. Soon my neck was placed in a brace. I was strapped to a board and carried to and placed in the ambulance.

At the hospital, the doctor checked my blood pressure, which was 125/78. The number surprised me since I have high blood pressure. My wife, Nadine, entered the room, as the doctor began rolling me to the right to check my shoulder. A bout of vertigo swept over me at this time, almost causing me to fall to the floor.

When Nadine asked if there was anyway that she could help, I replied for her to contact the prayer chain at our church, Praise Fellowship. Later I was taken for x-rays on my shoulder and a CAT scan. Both returned negative and I was released to go home with my arm in a sling.

On Monday after visiting our family doctor, it was back to the ER for another CAT scan, since I had headaches, vertigo, nausea and sleepless nights. It was diagnosed as a mild concussion and I had to stay home to rest for at least one week. One week after the fall, a strange phenomenon began to occur when I turned my head. Lights started to appear in my right eye and as evening approached, the lights became brighter and more often. There was one more week home from work and a visit to an ophthalmologist. The vitreous gel in my eye was pulling on my retina causing the lights and there may have been some slight bleeding in the eye. This should pass away in time.

The next week I went back to work but the headaches increased and my shoulder, that appeared to be healed, began to constantly ache and by the end of the day was very painful. There were trips back to my family doctor, a neurologist and a MRI on my shoulder. My headaches may last for two more months and the MRI showed a tear in my shoulder. There will be more trips to doctors for my shoulder.

In all of this, I realized how much I have been blessed, especially on the day that I fell. That day everyone shown me love and I did not hear one negative word. The first Good Samaritan showed me love, mercy and wisdom. With the second Good Samaritan, there was love, mercy, and the ability to comfort me and give me peace. Peace flowed into me when she wiped the blood off my forehead. In times of AIDS and HIV, the world may think that she risked her life in order to give a person a small measure of comfort. To me she was an angel.

*Peace I leave with you, my peace I give onto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*

John 14:27

For me that day, the fruits and gifts of the spirit abounded in the acts of those who aided me. There were love, peace, kindness, goodness, gentleness, wisdom, faith and healing. The greatest gift of that day was none of these and all of these. It is a gift that no man can give or take away. It is a gift that does not come on a cold winters' night by a man dressed in a red suit. I did not earn this gift by doing good deeds for others. It is a gift that no one can buy and is more valuable than all the gold in the world, but the gift is free. The gift is eternal life in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Because on a spring day in 1972, I confessed with my mouth and believed in my heart that Jesus Christ died on a cross and rose on the third day that my sins may be forgiven, my name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

*For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast.*

Ephesians 2:8-9

*...if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.*

**Romans 10:9**

To learn more about the One Nation Under God –Walk Across America, go to our web site, [www.walkacrossamerica.info](http://www.walkacrossamerica.info).

God bless,  
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Total miles walked of the American Discovery Trail - 731 miles  
Number of prayer walkers - 58 prayer walkers  
Number of people praying for America - 47,813 prayer warriors

PS – Yesterday I learned that my shoulder needs physical therapy to heal (three times a week for four weeks). Also I am only allowed to work four hours a day until farther notice. Since I know where my help comes from, I am asking for prayer: prayer for a full recovery for my shoulder and prayer for finances. The prayer walk shall continue in April.

Thank you and God bless