



CHRISTIAN RECORD

SERVICES FOR THE BLIND

Christian Record Annual Day of Giving

April 14, 2018

Going Through Life with God: Marye's Story

Today's story was written by Marye McKinney, a very nice lady who happens to be legally blind. For many years, Marye has been the calendar artist for Christian Record Services for the Blind. In this story, Marye tells about a time when she didn't follow the wise advice of a person who was in charge at blind camp. Marye graciously shared this story so you could hear it today as part of the Christian Record Annual Day of Giving.

Do you know what it means to go through life with God? The Bible has many stories about people who obeyed God as well as stories about those who did not. Proverbs 3: 5-6 says, "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths."

I'm going to tell you a story about a girl named Marye who learned an important lesson about following good advice and how easy it is to get into trouble when we don't follow good advice.

Marye has always seen the world very differently from her friends. Everything was very, very blurry unless it was really close to her face. Marye could see clearly for only three inches away from her face. (*Indicate distance with a ruler or by another means.*) She was legally blind. And when she was in a place where the light was not very bright, she was totally blind!

When Marye was 11 years old, a lady came to her house and told her parents that there was a summer camp through Christian Record Services for the Blind, specially designed for kids who were blind. Marye was so excited!

The day finally arrived when Marye's parents took her to camp. How surprised she was to discover other people who were blind! What an exciting time to discover that, instead of needing people to help her, *she* could be the one to help others.

Marye soon learned only two of the eight girls in her cabin could see better than she did. Marye got right into helping those other girls. She let one of her friends hold on to her elbow, and the next would hold onto that person, and so on. Like a little train, each girl holding onto the next, Marye would lead them. (*Demonstrate with children holding onto the elbow of the person ahead of them in a line.*) Together they would walk to the cafeteria, flag raising, or the swimming area. Wherever they needed to go, Marye would lead them. Marye enjoyed feeling needed! She loved being the leader so much that she ignored her own limitations.

Christian Record Annual Day of Giving
April 14, 2018
Going Through Life with God: Marye's Story
Pg. 2

Marye's camp counselor, Dianna, knew Marye loved to lead her friends around. Dianna also knew Marye was completely blind when she was in a dark room or when it was nighttime. She told Marye, "Please have someone else lead the group in the evenings." Do you think Marye listened? Unfortunately, Marye ignored her counselor's warnings.

One day, Marye was leading her friends to the campfire program. Marye noticed the sky was growing darker. She was struggling to see where she was going. By now she had been at camp for a few days and was pretty sure she knew the way even in the dark. So, with the train of cabinmates holding onto her, off she went—straight into a tree!

All the girls tumbled to the ground! What a pile of people! Marye was so embarrassed—afraid her friends would be mad at her. But all she heard, as the camp staff rushed over to check on them, was giggles and jokes! How nice to be accepted and forgiven!

Proverbs 12:15 says, "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice." Do we always listen when our parents give wise advice? Do we sometimes ignore the advice from our teachers? And sometimes, like Marye, do we make a mistake because we think we know what is best?

As we go through life with God, our Father in heaven wants to lead us on His perfect path. And when we fall, God is there to pick us up and show us His love. I want to go through life with God. How about you?