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**PASS IT ON !**

In our local So Cal newspaper of 7/18/09 there was a story about a coffee shop in Blue Springs, Missouri. Not just any coffee shop – it was the Steamin’ Bean drive-through coffee shop. On July 6<sup>th</sup> a 32-year-old mother pulled up to the window and did something nice for someone else. She paid \$3.50 for the 16-ounce latte ordered by the customer in the car behind her.

When that customer, a total stranger, learned of the act of kindness, she did the same thing for the customer behind her. And so it went and continued for 12 days, and counting the last I heard, at the Steamin’ Bean coffee shop in Blue Springs, Missouri just outside Kansas City.

Now, get this: as of 7/17/09 more than 1,450 customers have essentially said, “Thanks for the free cup of coffee, but I’d like to pay for it and for a cup for the car behind me; I’d like to pass on the blessing!”

Missouri has been called the “Show Me” state. This act of “coffee kindness” shows us all that, whether we live in Missouri or elsewhere, we should look for opportunities to pass on some of the blessings God has showered upon us. Psalm 68 says, “Blessed be the Lord, Who daily loads us with benefits.” (v.19)

Many years ago there was a young boy called Mark Guy Pearse. As he was returning home from school on a boat, for the holidays, he discovered that he did not have enough money for the boat fare. When the money collector came to him poor Mark became upset. As he counted out his money, the kind man went into his own pocket and made up the fare. How relieved the young boy was, but before he could say anything, the man said, “If you ever find anyone in the same state just remember and pass this kindness on.”

Well, years went by and this young boy grew up and became a preacher. One day as he was standing on a railway platform he saw a boy crying. When he asked why, the boy said, “I’ve no money for my fare.” Mr. Pearse, as he now was, replied, “Don’t cry, I’ll buy the ticket for you.” As they were going along the platform, Mark Guy Pearse remembered his own school-day experience and told the boy to pass this kindness on. Mark Guy’s brother-in-law, Dr Henry Burton, heard all about the incident and wrote a hymn called, “Pass It On”. Here is the first verse:

“Have you had a kindness shown? - Pass it on:  
It was not given for you alone, - Pass it on.  
Let it travel down the years,  
Let it wipe another’s tears,  
Till in heaven the deed appears: - Pass it on.”

JdonJ