



St Vincent de Paul Society,
Our Lady of Guadalupe
Conference
7001 35th Ave SW,
Seattle, WA 98126



One of those special visits.....

We had a hard time setting up our home visit with Lexie because the phone number we had been given did not work and by the time we got there it was almost dark. We knocked on the door, Lexie answered holding a candle and invited us into her bedroom which was directly opposite her front door, explaining that this seemed to be the warmest room in the house.

When I called the City that morning, they told me that her electric power had been cut off and she owed almost \$800.00. When I pointed out that according to our file Lexie was in her mid-seventies and that this seemed a bit harsh, the reply I got was that they would not have been so tough on her if she had paid anything toward her bill since May. Furthermore, the City had been trying to get her signed up for some programs that would have really helped reduce her bill but she had failed to supply the information that they needed.

So we began our visit, sitting on the bed in her bedroom in the flickering candle light. We learned that she had worked for the Salvation Army for 20 years and so was getting a pension as well as SSI. She had fallen behind because she had been hospitalized in May and was still trying to dig out from under the co-pays. As we were talking I looked around the small but comfortable room and noticed on her nightstand a bible; not just any bible but probably the most loved and cherished bible I have ever seen. It was worn and tattered from years of use, its tissue thin pages were wrinkled and dog eared and its top end was much thicker than all the rest because of a multitude of gaily colored book marks. The more I looked at the bible, the more it seemed to me that it was glowing softly reflecting back to its owner some of the emotions it had roused and reminding her of graces given and yet to come.

A little later as we were saying goodbye and were trying to encourage in the face of the long cold dark weekend ahead, she smiled at us and said "I'll be fine; The Good Lord has gotten me through worse than this and I know He'll help me through this". I looked at her Bible again and thought yes, He most surely will!

Thanks to your monthly contributions, we were able to make sure that her power was reconnected on Monday and for Lexie to be signed up for the various programs for which she is eligible. You might say we have brought light to her darkness but you'd be so wrong, for that little apartment glowed with faith.