



Was That A Stop Sign?

by Jackie Abbott

Isn't Houston traffic a nightmare? I am so glad that I live in an area that the traffic isn't quite as bad as other places. Most of my obligations and errands are a mere thirty minutes or less from home.

Fortunately, some wise person or committee devised a few methods to keep us as safe as possible on the roadways.

We find stop signs in various places. They are especially prevalent in the home-type neighborhoods where travel is at a slower pace than highways and freeways. Sometimes there are four-way stops where vehicles in all directions are to stop and look before they cautiously proceed through the intersection. Some places have stop signs just for traffic going back and forth on one street. The other traffic has the freedom to go through the intersection at will. How frustrating this can sometimes be when it seems there is no end to the free-moving vehicles. Unfortunately, this frustration can lead to impatience, and sadly to accidents, both minor and major.

Then there are the traffic lights. Red means stop, yellow means caution, and green means go. These are sometimes misinterpreted to be: Red means hurry before the cross traffic gets the go sign; Yellow means speed up so you can beat the cross traffic's go sign. But green remains the same: **GO**, but ignore the cross traffic that may be pushing the wire ignoring that caution light. Not a good thing can come of that situation.

Life for me can be like these traffic signals. I am such a "Green" light after a Sunday service, I'm ready to go and be a servant of God, wanting to do good, pray for others, love everyone, and be forgiving. Then here comes that Yellow caution light. Do I dare to say anything to "that person" about Jesus and how He has saved us all and wants all to come to Him? Will I be able to have answers if they should question me? Maybe I'll just say "Have a blessed day," and go on my way. Guess I came to a full stop after all. Did I miss the opportunity to express the love of Jesus to someone who needed it?

Sometimes when I am relating events of our church and its activities, I sense a caution light in the attitude of my company. Should I look for the red light that tells me to stop? Is it possible to say too much? Would too much cause a U-Turn in those that hear me? I know that God wants me to move forward; I just need to listen to Him and know when and where.

And I have my own issues with those "traffic signals". My green light can change to red in the blink of an eye. Some people can push my buttons and I am ready to honk my horn right back at them. Fortunately, God has managed - more often than not - to remind me of what a wicked wreck my tongue can cause.

There are times when God has nudged me with a "caution", knowing that I am going to face something unpleasant. I thank Him a lot for that. What a blessing that He sees what's going to happen and intercedes for me. He has made me strong when I have lost loved ones with His assurance that He has them in His hands. When those birthdays and anniversary dates arise, I can smile...maybe with a tear...remembering the wonderful time that God gave them to me. I can praise Him and glorify Him for all the things He does...and it's all in the map He has laid out for me.

Thank you, Lord.