

LOTR: Road Trip

Week 12, Opole, MN Sunday, July 12th

Roadside Assistance: The Help of the Holy Spirit

REBECCA: Over halfway through our road trip. Wow has it gone fast! Do you remember when we first started? We had no idea where we were going and I didn't know any of you. And you're all so cool!

ISAAC: Yeah this has been a good time – I can't believe that old guy gave me a ball signed by Rod Carew. He knows more about the Twins than I do!

JEFF: Being on this trip has helped me see people from a different perspective.

SAUL: You mean like this? (holds his head upside down)

ALICE: I liked the swimming pool the best. I wish I had one that big in my backyard! That was like Olympic size!

REBECCA: There's definitely been some interesting moments...speaking of – I do have an update for you. Remember the dog who got hit by the van? He made it. His owner, Jo called me last night and said Jasper is now up and walking around. He has a couple of broken ribs and some bumps and bruises, but he should be able to fully recover.

VEGAS: Oh that makes me so happy. He seemed like such a sweet dog.

ALICE: I wish we could go see him.

REBECCA: Maybe we can come back up to Rush City sometime.

MOOSE: So what are we doing today Ty? Digging ditches? Pulling weeds? I don't see much out this way...where are we anyway?

SAUL: Maybe we'll be herding goats...baaaaa baaaa...you'd make a good goat herder Ty...

JEFF: That makes me thirsty for some Ganoosh...

REBECCA: Some what?

TY: Don't ask – an object lesson gone baaaaaaaad. To answer your question Mr. Moose, we are right near Opole – not a Metropolis by any stretch of the imagination.

ISAAC: And what'll we be doing? We're not really digging ditches are we?

TY: Oh no Isaac...we're gonna be branding cattle and shearing sheep.

ISAAC: Really?

VEGAS: He's lying. He always that one thing when he's not telling the truth.

TY: What's that?

VEGAS: If I told you then how would I keep an eye on you?

ISAAC: Okay...really what are we doing?

TY: Replacing smoke alarm batteries and furnace filters...tightening handrails...checking on pets...cleaning toilets if we have to.

JEFF: Not it.

ALICE: So where are we doing all this?

TY: Out in the country...there's quite a few elderly folks who live out here. A group from St Cloud – Helping Hands For The Elderly – regularly send out volunteers to make sure these people are doing okay. So we have a list of homes to visit and a checklist of things to do.

ISAAC: How come we always have to help old people?

REBECCA: Some day you'll be old and you'll want people to care about you.

ALICE: And old people are nice. My grandma is really cool...and she makes yummy chocolate chip cookies!

MOOSE: My grandma once thought the Preparation H was her toothpaste.

JEFF: That's not true...you just made that up.

MOOSE: No I didn't...

JEFF: If she had, I'm sure it would have done something to her...

MOOSE: Well, she said her teeth didn't itch.

VEGAS: I can't believe these are real conversations...

TY: We're here! First place on the list...Mavis Eidelle. She's a widow that's been living out here for 14 years...just her and her cats. She gets around okay, but can't reach everything and climbing a ladder is out of the question.

VEGAS: How do you know all this stuff?

TY: I've been in contact with the director of the Helping Hands program. Actually, Helen is supposed to be meeting us here. She wanted to see all of you and thank you for volunteering.

REBECCA: Oh no it looks like some of her planters blew over...Alice you wanna help me with those?

ALICE: Sure!

(LEAVE OFF TO SIDE, HELEN ENTERS...mike change)

HELEN: (yelling back to the direction of the house) Mavis, I'll get someone in there in a second to open some windows. It's too hot and stuffy in there dear. Good morning troops! How are you fine people doing today?

(all respond in character)

TY: How's Mavis doing?

HELEN: Well I think she takes better care of her cats than herself. She doesn't look like she eats much. But otherwise she's going pretty strong. Her flowers are doing well...and I see a couple of your helpers are picking up those planters. Wind gets kinda crazy through here some days. So who are all of you?

(introduce themselves)

HELEN: Well I'm Helen Boch, director of Helping Hands For The Elderly and I am so glad to have you guys pitching in with us. It's great to see young people who are willing to do good for others. Ty tells me you are on some sort of church road trip. Are ya having fun? (all respond in character) Well Ty why don't you take the boys in and get all the windows open – they may take some elbow grease to get em to open. I'll take these ladies to check on George, Gracie and Peanut. (Ty and the guys exit...Helen turns to girls) You like cats?

VEGAS: Depends on which kind they are...there's only two kinds: Adorable and psychotic.

ALICE: Yeah, Nazi cats!

HELEN: Well I can assure you these are the adorable variety. I finally talked Mavis into moving them out to the barn. She was starting to get behind on cleaning the litter box and the cats were starting to soil the flooring in the house. So now they are barn cats!

VEGAS: It's really cool what you do...I mean helping people like this. How many old people do you visit?

HELEN: Well I don't visit them all – there are regular volunteers who are assigned to different homes. But it's somewhere around 40 I believe. But we do more than visit them. We get to know their doctors so we can be alerted if they've missed an appointment. We give rides to some who can't safely drive anymore. We make sure they are current on their utility bills. We try to help them to stay safe and secure in the home that they don't want to leave. And if necessary we help them transition to an assisted living facility.

ALICE: That sounds like a lot to manage.

HELEN: It is. But I know they need it. Some would never have asked for it. Stubborn as my dad, God rest his soul...But they are dear people. I can't imagine leaving them alone.

VEGAS: It's nice to have someone looking out for them.

HELEN: We could all use that. What about Ty? He must have done quite a bit of planning to put together a trip like this. I hope you kids realize how much he cares about you. I told him he had to be crazy to do this 21 days in a row...but he said you were worth it.

VEGAS: Was he leaning in like this when he said it?

HELEN: We were on the phone, so I'm not sure...why?

VEGAS: Uh...no reason...

ALICE: Hey there's one of the cats! Which one is it?

HELEN: Oh that's Peanut. Looks like he's playing with grasshoppers again.

ALICE: He's so cute!!! He looks so fuzzy!

HELEN: Let's go see if George and Gracie are in the barn.

VEGAS: Helen, can I ask a question?

HELEN: Sure, go ahead dear...

VEGAS: Well...why do you do this? I mean...what made you do this?

HELEN: These people need care. They need someone to look after them. If not me, then who? I have lived my life trusting that God will work through me each day. I just keep loving people wherever I see em. Yesterday it was Harris Zilke, today it's Mavis Eidelle...and you two and the rest. If I leave my heart open, God will pour His love through me and onto anybody who gets in my way. So look out!

ALICE: You seem like you have more energy than all of us put together!

HELEN: Oh I'm not like this all the time dear...Sometimes I feel older than the people I look after. But God gives me His strength. And with His strength I can do anything He leads me to. He does it for you too, you know...You're looking at me like I have six heads or something! Don't worry about it, God will show you in His time.

(ISAAC comes running on stage)

ISAAC: Hey guys! You got come see this! Moose got his head stuck in one of the windows! Oh it's hilarious!

ALICE and VEGAS: We'll be right back! (run off stage)

HELEN: (alone, looks up to sky) Thanks for the reinforcements, Lord. (turns toward barn) George! Gracie! Come on out! We've got company!