

A Boomerang Gift - Part III

As a refresher, my articles from August and September, 2010, concerned Boomerang Gifts, something I am quite sure are part of a universal law. My Legal Assistant, Linda, commented after she read the first article that she had never heard of a Boomerang Gift before. I responded that I had not ever heard of one either, prior to writing the article, even though my own experience had told me over and over again that a Boomerang Gift existed. It is important to note that a Boomerang Gift is a gift that a person gives without the slightest consideration of receiving anything in return. In fact, I believe it initially exists as a gift that is given when no one notices and when there will be little or no kudos. A gift that is given in anticipation of a return gift will not be a Boomerang Gift. The workings of this, as with most things too wonderful to explain, are very mysterious and magical.



Lisa Adler

My next example of this phenomenon must be told in the context of being a mother. Those of you who are parents know that parenting is one of the most difficult and precarious things we

ever do (also one of the most important). My precious daughter, Paige, who is now 25 years old, has given me permission to tell this story (otherwise I would not dare). Paige had just finished her masters degree work in Special Education (with emphasis in Autism) at Vanderbilt University. It was the spring of 2009, and although the economic climate and job market prospects were grim, Paige had received two job offers at schools in Nashville, Tennessee. Well, Paige felt that she was being led to come back to Indianapolis (which thrilled my soul, although I tried with all of my might not to influence her in that decision), despite the fact that she had not a single job offer here.

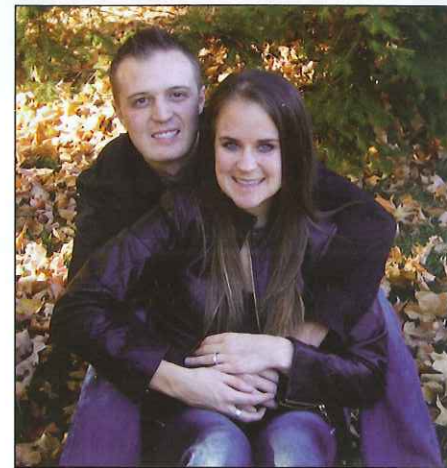
On faith, Paige moved back to Carmel to a cute apartment on the Monon Trail. As the weeks passed, Paige had no job offers; plenty of interviews, but all of them looking for a teacher with experience. I could tell her mood was darkening. One Sunday afternoon, I had to be in the office to finish a project due the next day, and I heard a little knock on the outer office door. It was Paige, and she asked if we



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could talk. My project was looming, but I had learned long ago that we do not get to choose the day and time that our children REALLY need to talk to us, so I said sure. She started to cry, and I swallowed hard, knowing that I was going to have to not succumb to total syrupy compassion but instead to pull up that "tough love" which is the only thing that truly helps when self-pity lands in our child's heart. The last rejection call from a school principal had come. I took Paige into the conference room and shut out of my mind all else but what was concerning her. She told me that she had made a big mistake to move back to Indiana, and she regretted it SO MUCH. I listened and then said, but if God was really leading you to move back to Indiana, then He has not forgotten about you. Faith means believing when we cannot see our way clear. I then said that she had talked for months, even before she moved from Nashville, Tennessee, that she wanted to get involved during the summer break by helping to serve meals to the less fortunate at the Wheeler Mission. I reminded her of something that I had told her many times when she was growing up, "If you are feeling sorry for yourself, then do something nice for someone else." The tears dried, and Paige made calls the next day to the Wheeler Mission, starting her kitchen service at the mission within a day or two.

The first day, she entered the kitchen, and saw a handsome young man advising the volunteers of their duties. Well, you can probably write the rest of this article yourself. Brandon, a substance abuse counselor and employee of the Mission, took her out on their first date by the end of her third week of kitchen duty in June,



Paige & Brandon

2009, and to the best of my knowledge, it was love at first sight for both of them. Paige and Brandon plan to be married on June 18, 2011. Oh, and by the way, Paige did get that dream teaching job in Fishers, Indiana later in the summer of 2009. It was a life-changing Boomerang Gift.

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