

The Hitchhiker

By Bob Larsen

Sometimes when we share the gospel with people, it seems like an exercise in futility. Some people show a negative response or no response at all. Don't let that bother you. Keep praying for them. Many years ago, I had an experience that may be as much of an encouragement to you as it was to me.

I was riding with a Christian friend and we picked up a hitchhiker. I gave him a brief explanation of salvation, but he did not show any response at all, and I was disappointed. A year later, I was doing work for the Billy Graham crusade that had taken place at the Minnesota State Fair grandstand. I was working on contacting people who had gone forward and made a profession of faith in Jesus.

When I called one of the people on the list, his mother told me that he was in the hospital at the University of Minnesota. She encouraged me to visit him, so I went there, and to my surprise, her son was the hitchhiker that I had talked to a year before. I thought, "What a miracle it is that God arranged this meeting." It reminded me that God is working in people's hearts, whether we see it or not. So, don't be discouraged when you don't see an immediate positive response to your message of salvation. God may be working in their heart, and it may be invisible to us.