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Editorial

Well, here we go again! Christmas is approaching us fast and we are all suddenly very busy thinking what present to get for all our nearest and dearest! And at the same time trying to find out whom of our family members can make it "Home" for Christmas Dinner and who can't make it! But for those of us who are lucky enough to have two or three generations of family members alive, usually get a chance to all get to see each other at some time during the Christmas / New Year festive days, even if we seldom manage this all the same day! After all, it is the time of the year when we celebrate not only the Birthday of the Founder of Christianity, but also a new beginning for each of us with the start of a new year just days after Christmas.

A new beginning of aspirations, resolutions, and high hopes for the coming New Year! It is the most natural thing for us all to have these desires at this time of the year! So what is more natural than our biggest desire to meet together with family and friends during these festive days? Don't we all usually have a lot to talk about with Parents, Siblings, Children, and Grandchildren? Yes, and good friends and neighbours too!

I want to share with you a true story which happened a few weeks ago and told to us first hand by a lady I shall call 'Jenny' (not her real name) for obvious reasons. Jenny and her husband have been friends of ours for over twenty years and for the last few years has been 'housecleaning' for several couples around the district, just a few hours per week for each, as she does not want to work fulltime anymore. One of these clients is an elderly couple, Don and Debbie (again, not their real names of course). Debbie is confined to a wheelchair most of the day; hence the necessity to employ Jenny on one afternoon every week to do the heavier housework and while there she also does a load or two of laundry. While Jenny is there Don loves to pack Debbie, plus her wheelchair, into his van and off they happily go to 'the big smoke' (New Plymouth) to do their shopping. Most times they arrive back home again just before Jenny leaves. So, some weeks ago, this routine took place as usual and Don and Debbie duly arrived back home and Jenny went out to help Debbie into her wheelchair and push her into the house while Don starts to bring in the groceries and any other 'shopping' from his van.

Jenny was just pushing Debbie into the house, when there was an almighty moan from the van, "Ooh noooh, ooh noooh," Don groaned, standing by the open car door. Jenny rushed over to see what was wrong. "I forgot to load the groceries", Don groaned!!! He explained that he was parked in the disabled section at the supermarket and had parked the trolley almost full of groceries on the left side of his van. Jenny suggested he go straight back and check first if his stuff is still there and, if not, go and ask the supervisor if someone had brought the trolley back into the shop! She told him she would stay with Debbie until he returned!

Sure enough, just an hour later Don returned, with the groceries!!! When Don go back to town, he found his trolley of groceries still standing exactly where he had left it an hour earlier, and not one item had been 'pinched' out of it!!! How is that for Kiwi honesty? When Jenny told us her story, I almost fell off the chair laughing, I thought it was the funniest story I had heard in many years! I told her, "You've made my day for a whole week!!!"

But it's nice to have confirmation that at least 99% of our fellow-kiwis are good and honest people!

I ask you, is this not a wonderful story for this time of the year? I could not have beaten this true pre-Christmas story in my wildest imagination!!! In conclusion, would everyone please note my new address and phone number in the "Officials' Panel". Thank you.

On behalf of your editing committee and our merry band of volunteer monthly helpers I wish everyone a joyous Christmas and a very Happy New Year and safe motoring! But hey, everyone please be careful out there on the road!!! Always!!!

Merry Christmas and cheerio from Paul.

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