

Ministering Buddy

“Mom,” Elizabeth asked, “can you take me to the library?”

Mom smiled. “Not right now. I’m going to bring Sister Monroe a plate of brownies. Do you want to come with me? I could use a buddy.”

“Yes!” Elizabeth exclaimed. Elizabeth liked visiting Sister Monroe. She always gave Elizabeth a cookie or ice cream, even if it was before dinnertime. Sister Monroe was blind, so she couldn’t see. She always wore sunglasses and carried a red-and-white cane.

When Elizabeth and Mom got to Sister Monroe’s house, Elizabeth ran ahead to knock on Sister Monroe’s door. After a minute, Sister Monroe’s husband answered the door.

“Hello, Elizabeth!” Brother Monroe smiled. “Sister Monroe is in the den. I’m sure she’ll be happy to see you two.”

Mom and Elizabeth followed Brother Monroe inside. Sister Monroe was sitting in a recliner chair and listening to music.

“Hi Sister Monroe,” Elizabeth said. She held out her hand for Sister Monroe to feel. “We brought you brownies.”

“Sounds delicious!” Sister Monroe said. “You’re welcome to grab a cookie from the jar, Elizabeth honey.”

While Elizabeth ate her cookie, Sister Monroe talked. She told stories about her life and about her family. Elizabeth liked hearing Sister Monroe’s stories. Sister Monroe had visited a lot of places. After a while, Mom and Elizabeth headed back out to the car.

“Why do you always visit Sister Monroe?” Elizabeth asked as Mom pulled out of the driveway.

“I’m her ministering sister,” Mom said. “That means I try to help her as much as I can.”

“Can I be a ministering sister, too?” Elizabeth asked. “I like helping people.”

Mom laughed. “You’ll have to wait a few years to be official, but until then, you’re always welcome to be my ministering buddy.”

Elizabeth liked the sound of that.

That Sunday, Elizabeth and her family got to church early. Elizabeth noticed that Sister Monroe was sitting by herself. Elizabeth went up to talk to her.

“Where’s Brother Monroe?” Elizabeth asked.

“He’s not feeling well today,” Sister Monroe said.

Elizabeth was sad that Sister Monroe had to sit by herself. She wondered what a ministering sister would do. “Can I sit with you?” Elizabeth asked.

“Of course, honey,” Sister Monroe said. “I would love that!”

Elizabeth sat with Sister Monroe all during sacrament meeting. She held Sister Monroe’s hand the whole time. She made sure to sing the hymns extra loudly, so Sister Monroe could hear the words. She told Sister Monroe who was speaking.

After the meeting, Mom came to get Elizabeth. “Thank you for taking care of Elizabeth,” Mom said.

“She was the one taking care of me,” Sister Monroe laughed.

Elizabeth smiled. She was so happy that she was able to help Sister Monroe. Elizabeth loved being a ministering buddy!