



MS. HANEY

By John Dash

Though there's nothing in Jean Haney's list of accomplishments that hasn't been done without the "help of the Lord Jesus," she will skip the halo, thank you. She's just a "very ordinary woman," who gets "angry, impatient and frustrated"

"I'm no saint." The single adoptive parent, teacher, homeowner, executive at the Association for the Blind, Jean Haney, for the 39 years of her life; hasn't seen anything other than a dim patch of color when the sun is strong. "I'm just an ordinary person who happens to be blind," she said, launching a vigorous tickle attack on the ribs of her daughter, Kendra.

Feather the cat and Christi the dog watch the scene with amiably startled eyes.

That Kendra is now her daughter is Jean Haney's clearest evidence of "divine intervention" in her life.

Jean Haney: A Rich Life In the Lord

"All my life I wanted to be a mother," she said. "And I thought that it would be through the conventional way of having a child when I was young. Then I began to grieve over my age and realization that I would not be a grandmother."

She manages both a wince and a chuckle remembering those days, acknowledging her former ability to "work myself up into a real state."

"But when I got to know the Lord Jesus personally, I realized that I would get first class treatment," she said.

She remembers that it was February of 1976 when she was reading Psalm 113. "He honors the childless wife in her home; he makes her happy by giving her children. Praise the Lord!" that she realized, "I could claim that promise."

Two months later, she said, it came to her attention that orphan children in India, under the egis of Mother Teresa's sisters, were available for adoption in the U.S.

She said that she called friends, her doctor and her priest for advice. Then on a Monday she phoned Washington to initiate the process.

She spoke with Kathy Sreedhar, the American agent for the children; explained her situation; and Sreedhar said, "Let me call India."

"When I hung up, I prayed, 'Lord stop it here if it won't work — or else let the doors fling open.'"

Twenty minutes later, Sreedhar called back with the information that she had been accepted as a prospective adoptive parent.

"Now the Lord has to receive the glory for this," Ms. Haney said.

It was on All Saints Day that year, after an exhaustive process of screening and filing forms and waiting, that she received a phone call: "Congratulations, Mama!"

Kendra arrived seven months to the day after that reading of the Psalms.

The dog eats the cat's food; the cat climbs up and around items of furniture that she shouldn't. Kendra displays for visitors her cookbooks and her artwork, done at the North Baptist Christian School where math, gym and art are her favorite subjects. Neighbors and friends stop by, occasionally one will help out with some



Jean and Kendra get ready to make a batch of cookies.

household repairs. Jean enjoys reading through records, cassettes and braille.

"In many ways, we're ordinary people. Our family life is the same as other people have. We're really not that different. Kendra is not responsible for taking care of me. It's important for her to be a child," Ms. Haney said.

In her office at the Association for the Blind, she cautioned, "I don't like the term 'disabled.' It's realistic to think of myself as physically handicapped. It's important to face the fact that not having vision requires me to ask help and use my own ingenuity."

She confides that once a well-meaning friend offered to pray that she would be "healed" from her blindness. Ms. Haney bristled that in coming to know the Lord Jesus she had already been "healed — freed from certain memories."

Through that experience of healing, she said, she knows that "Everything is due to the Lord — the glory is the Lord's."

**HANDICAPPED
PARKING PERMIT**

Permit No. _____

Locality Issuing Permit _____

Approved by _____

Permit expiration date _____

ADDITIONAL
INFORMATION

SAMPLE

In accordance with Section 202a of the Vehicle and Traffic Law, this permit entitles the handicapped person to whom it was issued to park in any area in any city, town or village of New York State which has been designated by such city, town or village as a place for parking for handicapped persons. Details concerning such designated areas can be obtained from the local authority.

MV-664 (12/77)

Official Permits Govern Disabled Parking Spaces

By Martin Toombs
Southern Tier Editor

Elmira — Parking spaces for the disabled are becoming more common, and, therefore, are probably more abused than ever before.

In addition to the people who use the spaces without any justification, there are others who, although disabled, do not have the legally required handicapped parking permit.

Since 1977, New York State has distributed official handicapped parking permits which allow use of parking spaces marked by the increasingly familiar blue signs displaying a wheelchair emblem.

The permits are not restricted to disabled drivers, and can even be issued for

disabled children. They must be obtained from the clerk in the city, village or town in which the disabled person lives; the permit is valid throughout New York.

The permits require a doctor's certification of disability, and the entire process can be accomplished by mail. Elmira City Clerk Dorothy Terris said that her office has issued 115 of the permits. At first they put expiration dates on them, she said, but now if the disability is not temporary, they leave the term indefinite.

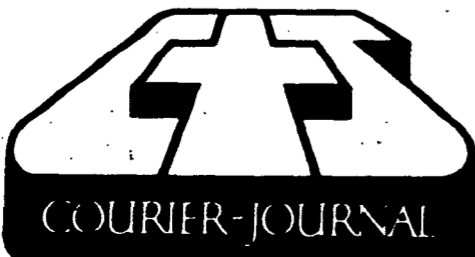
The yellow cards should be displayed on the dashboard or visor on the driver's side of the car. The card's front has the wheelchair emblem, and lists the locality issuing the permit, the expiration date, and an approval signature. The name and address of the disabled

person and conditions concerning its use are on the reverse.

Two cars recently parked in the disabled parking spaces at the Arnot Mall in Big Flats illustrate the current ignorance concerning the permits. One car had a "disabled driver" sign taped to the windshield, but did not have the legal, required permit. The driver of the second car, properly showing a permit, took time to remonstrate about the misuse of the spaces by the able-bodied and by disabled without permits. She also told of being upbraided once for using the spaces. Although not disabled herself, the permit is issued to her husband, she explained, and her accuser was under the mistaken impression that only a disabled driver could use the permit.



Tickles are part of the daily routine.



Support Programs for the Disabled

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