

# Three Windows Three Women

## Women and poverty



*Heidi Martin, 26  
Strasburg, Pennsylvania*

There I stood in the drizzling rain—a young woman five hundred miles from home with a car that would not start. I needed to find a garage. I needed a tow truck to get there. I needed a cup of cold water.

Then, through a miracle that I can only attribute to God, the car started. And through a second miracle, I thought of the Nofziger's, a family that knows the joy of generosity and lived a mere forty-five minutes away. During a phone call, Wendell offered to take the car to a trusted mechanic and, in her own soothing way, his mother Nancy invited me home: "Just come to our house. We have apple pie and ice cream."

Here was my cup of cold water, offered in quiet simplicity, but with soul-quenching effects.

I am told that two-thirds of those living in poverty are women. Still, this number reflects only those living in physical poverty—a heart-wrenching tragedy in its own right—but I wonder how the number might increase if we included women living in spiritual poverty or emotional poverty or social poverty.

The final count is overwhelming, but the solution over-powering. Be it a kind word, private prayers, public fundraising events or home-made apple pie and ice cream, find your cup of cold water and offer it. The world is full of stranded women in need of a drink. 📌

Based on Isaiah 41:18 and Mathew 10:42.