

The Entertainer

Traveling with Soozie is an interesting experience. Though sometimes she claims to be sort of antisocial, she really loves interacting with people. There are no strangers to her; only instant friends. She asks about them – how they are doing, where they are from, etc, and she really listens to them. She is a born entertainer, which is one of the reasons that kids love her so much.

In Bible times hospitality was a sacred institution. Generally a person was not molested when under an enemy's roof. People took strangers in often at peril to their own lives as with Lot in Genesis 19. And we know that the key point of this story is imbedded in Hebrews 13:1-2:

Keep on loving each other as brothers.
Do not forget to **entertain** strangers,
for by so doing some people have **entertained** angels without knowing it.

Soozie engages in this very literally: she actually entertains them by telling stories, singing songs, drawing pictures, and having a “dancing” body language. She has a “traveling hospitality” type of philosophy.

She also believes in trying to deflect or divert people away from bad situations. She responds to those who are in pain, and wants so much to end their suffering. For instance, when our granddaughter Abbi is crying because she isn't getting her way and is about to get into trouble with her Dad, Soozie tries to distract her to avoid the upcoming punishment. This is quite different from the way that my father frequently handled this type of situation: “Hush, or I'll give you something to cry about!”

A great example of this is when we were on a long airplane flight, and as we began to descend a toddler began to cry. Soozie, in typical fashion, began making faces at the child and got her to not only laugh but to mimic the faces. Pretty soon everyone that could see either of them were being entertained. This little baby waggled her tongue all over face until it was completely wet!

It is a great thing that Soozie is a teacher, and especially that she is an art teacher. There is a tremendous value in art therapy that most school systems do not realize; many times internal demons are flushed out with the strokes of the brush or other creative activities. Soozie employs this principle with the same personal mission of wanting people to feel better about their lives. She is a peacemaker, or a joybringer, such as Jesus proclaimed His kinship to in Matthew 5:9:

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.