



# “My Sidewalk Friend”

*By Larry Hayes*

I've been dropping off copies of the latest issue of A050 at a friend's house for several years. Prior to his illness, he was a regular ambassador in our neighborhood.

Daily, you would see him walking on the sidewalk, smiling, waving and talking to everyone. Cars would honk and he would cheerfully wave back.

We struck up a friendly conversation and immediately bonded, even sharing the same first name: Larry.

We would chat about everything under the sun including the new homes springing up in our neighborhood, the benefits of exercising and just life in general. Just two older guys about the same age standing together on the sidewalk chitchatting and enjoying each other's company.

Several times, I thought about inviting Larry and his wife over for coffee or to go out for lunch. But life got busy and time slipped away.

One day out of the blue, he says: "Larry, thank you for your magazine. It helps me a lot."

That little compliment made my day and I have never forgotten those positive words. It brought back memories of my mother who used to tell me: "if you can't say something nice about someone, don't say anything."

Just a few weeks ago, I heard the sad news that Larry had passed away. It jolted me because I didn't know he was seriously ill, even though I hadn't seen him recently walking the neighborhood.

I miss my sidewalk friend.

### Lesson relearned—

we are mortal and life is short. Next time you meet someone on the sidewalk, smile and take the time to say "hello." You might make someone's day and make a new friend.



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Larry W. Hayes  
CEO/Publisher

