



Lila's Log: Making Friends, Bringing Comfort, and Spreading our Lord's Message

Greetings, Fellow BSLC Members! K9 Comfort Dog Lila here, with my April report.

As my Top Dog frequently says, sometimes God puts us in the right place at the right time. And my last visit to Columbia St. Mary's Hospital was a good illustration.

After a few quick greetings with the nurses and a very appreciative doctor, I stopped to see a man who recently had undergone open-heart surgery — and was especially missing his border collies. My handler had adopted three border collies over the years, so the two of them had plenty of stories to share. I did my gentlest “visit” command, while he told us how his B.C.’s had recently “saved” his granddaughter from two potentially “dangerous strangers,” who had driven up, gotten out of the car, and quickly approached the granddaughter and the next-door neighbor girl she was playing with. Turns out the two adults were the neighbor girl’s grandparents, but to a border collie, all strangers are subject to a barkfest!



My handler and I were just about to leave the I.C.U. when we noticed a man sitting alone in the family waiting area. He caught sight of me and smiled faintly, but we could tell he was distraught. Turns out his father had suffered a stroke and was very apprehensive about his future. In his distress, he had had a serious a-fib episode, and his son had run out of encouraging things to say to him. It seemed that both of them were ready to give up. As I approached the son, he bent over and deeply massaged my shoulders and lay his head against my neck. Soon he started breathing more regularly, and my handler and I sat and talked with him for over 20 minutes. Did our visit solve any of his problems? I doubt it—but by the time we said our “We’ll pray for you” farewell, we were confident that God had led us into that family waiting area for a reason. And fortunately, we had been wise enough to follow His lead.



Until next month, friends

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Lila 

P.S.

Ever search for the right thing to say? (Please see next page).

Instead of ...

Say ...

Keep a stiff
upper lip.



I can see
you're hurting.

It's for
the best.



Wow, that's
really hard.

I know how
you feel.



How are you
really feeling?

God doesn't give
you more than
you can handle.



Can I pray
for you?

It's God's will.



I'm so sorry that
happened to you.

You should do
_____!



I don't know
what to say.
How can I help?

You'll get over
this in no time!



Give yourself
time to heal.

You'll be fine.



I'm here for you.

@stephenministries