

## **Blessings Lived (an excerpt)**

*Donna Morse*

I first noticed the family at church about a year ago. We seem to sit several rows apart on the same side of the church rather habitually. Although I have not actually gotten to know them personally, we smile and say hello in passing. They seem very kind and warm hearted. Their dress is casual, but always neat. In fact, I would say they look quite comfortable in attire and in manner. They seem to be almost at home in the pew, and very comfortable with people.

They have a lovely young daughter, whom I've guessed to be about 10 years old. She is quite attractive with her long dark hair, fine facial features, deep brown eyes, and quick warm smile. Sometimes she has a special girl friend sitting with her during the church service. Sometimes she sits apart from her parents with a special friend. And sometimes her mother has to remind her to "shhhhh" when she and her friend forget that they are supposed to be quiet. The mother is kind in her correction.

This family always sits on the aisle. They need to sit on the aisle. They also have a son, and his wheelchair needs to be beside them. I'm not sure why their son is wheelchair bound, but I suppose it is due to a birth defect or birth injury. I can tell that his muscles are flaccid, and he has almost no control over his body. His eyes are seldom open, and he cannot speak except in cries. His arms occasionally appear to flail around randomly, his hands dangling limply from them, but he never moves them for long. He cannot fully raise his head although at times he appears to try very hard to do this. Sometimes he cries out during the church service. His parents are quick to comfort him. Sometimes they will remove his frail body from the chair and hold him in their arms until he settles down. At other times they will take him out into the foyer, so as not to cause too much disturbance for others.

Sometimes I see the boy's father holding his helpless son and walking... his son's feet on his feet, they walk together as one. The boy has no strength in his legs, so his father holds him securely to his own body as they walk. The father chats with friends as he walks or stands holding his son in front of him. When the boy drools his mouth is gently wiped, he is talked to and touched often, and he is enveloped in

the arms of his mother or father when he appears to be in distress. There is so much tenderness, gentle touching, and love expressed in this family for both their children.

It was only a few months ago that my husband and I happened to drive into the church parking lot at the same time this family arrived there. It was then, for the first time, I happened to notice their license plate frame. It read, "Twins, twice the blessing". I hadn't known their son and daughter were twins. They appear so very different. Yet, I'm so glad they feel God's blessing as they lovingly care for their two dear children. I think they are all blessings.