



# THE BESOM

sweep away suffering

Denise was a single mother with two children and a third on the way. She had just moved into in a small house provided by the council after waiting for a long time. The house was in a shabby state and desperately needed decorating. The garden was also overgrown and a real mess. Denise lived on benefits and couldn't afford to redecorate or get the garden seen to, especially as she needed items of furniture as well.

Peter and Karen were a married couple who lived across town. They were Christians who worshipped at the local church. Both of them had a real heart for reaching out to needy people in the town but they weren't sure how to do it. They wished to follow Jesus' teaching about helping the poor but they were dissatisfied with only giving money to charities for unseen projects. They didn't know that Denise existed.

A social worker visited Denise and immediately saw that she was in need of help to get the house into a fit state before the baby arrived. She contacted the local Besom project after it had been recommended by a colleague. She knew that the Besom was an organisation run by Christians from churches in the area which provided things and help for free.

At the same time, Peter and Karen's pastor told them about the local Besom project which was in need of people willing to give time, skills, things or money to help the poor. They went along to a meeting to find out more and came away excited about it. They prayed about it and felt that this was an opportunity to put into practice the work of the Kingdom, reaching out to those in need.

The Besom coordinator had arranged to visit Denise with her case worker. He made notes of what she needed and explained how the Besom worked: local Christians would pray for the things she needed and would then wait for a response before getting back to her as soon as possible.

Back at the Besom office, Peter and Karen left a message to say that they wanted to help with this ministry. They had prayed and felt that they were able to give time to help with practical projects. They didn't know about Denise. The Besom core group also prayed that all of Denise's needs would be provided.

A week later, Karen was busy working to tidy up Denise's garden, working along with 3 other Besom volunteers from different churches. At the same time, Peter was hanging wallpaper in Denise's living room, helped by two other Christians. The money for the wallpaper had been donated by another person who had prayed and felt that they wanted to donate something.

Denise was overjoyed. Two days later, her house was transformed and her two children had somewhere safe outside to play. The baby's room was ready and everything had been provided for free, no strings attached. Peter and Karen had really enjoyed themselves – they'd made new friends from another church and felt real joy to bless someone who had until recently felt really miserable in her new surroundings.