



The Goodness of America

Voice of an Angel

In the Holy Scriptures, the cherubim unceasingly sing God's praises. Perhaps that explains Rhema Marvanne's gift: a voice that is nothing less than godly. Just eight years old, Rhema has regaled the world with her angelically sung gospel music. Even more awe-inspiring than Rhema's talents, however, is the inspiration behind her spirituality and music.

When Rhema was just three years old, her loving mother, Wendi, was diagnosed with ovarian cancer. Rhema's parents, both of whom are devout Christians, faced a difficult decision: Should we tell our little girl that she will likely soon lose her mother, or should we go on as if all is well and let her mother's death be unexpected?

In the end, her parents chose to keep Rhema apprised of her mother's illness. It was likely the best decision they've ever made. Not only did Rhema's faith in God sustain her through the dark days of her mother's demise, her spirituality grew stronger each and every day.

Additionally, because Rhema was aware of her mother's condition, each moment with her mother was lived as if it could be the last. When recalling memories of her mother today, Rhema looks back fondly on their short time together, even though she witnessed her mother undergo surgery after surgery, multiple chemotherapy treatments, sickness, and struggle.

Rhema has appeared on multiple television shows, including Maury Povich's program *Maury* and international news. In every appearance, she entertains the audience with spiritual music such as "Amazing Grace" and "I Love the Lord."

During each interview, her faith in God and impressive maturity are evident. She is extremely articulate and has impeccable coping skills, strengthened by her spirituality. When questioned about her mother, Rhema's smile lights up a room, and rather than engaging in self-pity, she sees her mother's journey as a cause for celebrating, believing she is now in heaven where she no longer suffers.

Rhema's music is available for purchase on iTunes, Amazon.com, and her website's official store. Likewise, videos of Rhema's performances are available on YouTube, where a number have over a million hits. Despite her fame, however, Rhema remains humble and outgoing. Regardless of her maturity, her innocence remains untouched.

Rhema's goal is to act as a public servant of God, which is why she performs for churches, charities, hospitals, non-profit organizations, and a number of special events, including singing the National Anthem at a Dallas Cowboys game.

More importantly, Rhema's wish is to make her mother proud. It seems by all accounts that she is succeeding in that task.

Everyday Heroes

Albert Einstein once said, "Only a life lived for others is worth living." A couple of good Samaritans in Splendora, Texas, are living proof of that.

On January 6, Tom Porter and his wife heard a loud crash and immediately rushed to the aid of a 21-



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year-old man who had run over a feral hog and crashed into a tree as a result. Following the crash, the truck burst into flames, with the driver's one-year-old baby in the backseat.

The driver, Carl Lucius, injured his back and broke his leg. The child was trapped in her car seat.

Porter explains, "We were sitting out by our burn pile and heard a loud crash and knew there was a wreck on this road, so we jumped in the truck and came down here."

As Porter and his wife appeared on the scene, the flames grew ever larger. According to Porter, "The neighbors said there was a baby still in the truck, so I jumped in the back of the truck."

Porter managed to enter the vehicle and cut the straps of the child's car set with his pocketknife, freeing the child and ultimately saving her life. "The baby was in the car seat," said Porter. "And, it's the same car seat my granddaughter had. But I couldn't get it undone. Before we left I threw [my pocket knife] in my pocket. I cut the straps and pulled the baby out. I jumped out of the truck and the next thing you know whole truck is in a blaze."

Pointing to a number of other heroes involved in the incident, Porter explained, "Fortunately, Junior and the other neighbor was there, and when I pulled the baby out through the back window, they grabbed the baby, and just a couple of seconds later, [the truck] was burning pretty good."

The baby was rushed to Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center, where she was treated for minor injuries.

Finding Someone in Need

When Officer Jonathan Seiter began a routine traffic stop at 10:45 p.m. on December 11, he had no idea that he was about to engage in a physical altercation with a large and physically fit 64-year-old man named Otto Coleman.

Seiter noticed Coleman's vehicle that night because the car was missing a headlight. When Seiter approached the vehicle, however, Coleman was highly uncooperative, prompting Seiter to ask Coleman to step out of his automobile.

Upon exiting the vehicle, Coleman began to shove the officer. During the nearly five-minute physical encounter, Coleman attempted to reach for the officer's gun and taser numerous times.

Though Coleman called for backup, the first person on the scene was an unidentified woman. She quietly approached the suspect and began to hit him, providing enough time for the officer to regain control of the situation and bring the suspect to the ground.

Describing this heroic intervention, Sergeant Larry Tolpin remarked, "This young lady did come to his aid. I think it was very commendable, though, don't get me wrong. I'm not endorsing the citizens participating, but under this particular circumstance it was very commendable of her."

Coleman was later charged with a number of crimes, including resisting arrest and assaulting a police officer. Later, police discovered that Coleman has a long rap sheet, which includes three counts of felonious assault, including felonious assault with the intent to murder and with intent to maim, two of which were against police officers.

Coleman likely had no reservations about possibly killing Seiter that night. It seems Officer Seiter owes his life to this unidentified hero.

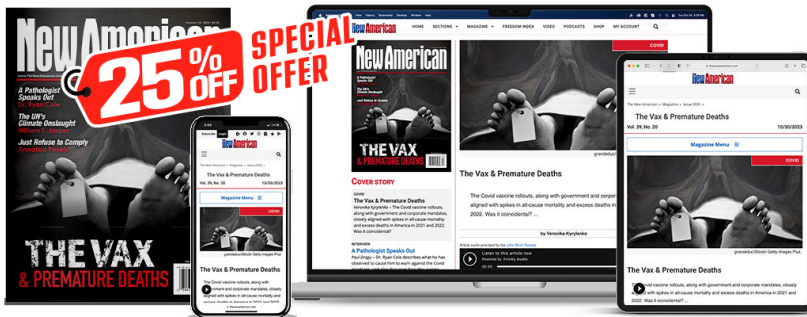


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