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## **The Big Blue Van**

Denise Ouellette

**We had one of those old station wagons. The rust was the only thing holding it together. Once the luggage rack fell off as I drove down the highway. Now, however, the driveway was empty as the old car was once again in the shop for repair.**

A few weeks early we had gathered our kids together and outlined a plan to pray for a replacement. We cut a picture of a blue 15 passenger van out of a magazine. We wrote out what we wanted in our new van: cloth seats, stereo system, and air conditioning; none of which were in the old car. But we were willing to take anything that held all seven of us plus the extra kids that always tagged along.

After writing down our request we placed it on the refrigerator and prayed every day that the Lord would make a way. We knew how much we could put down and how much we could afford to pay each month. We checked every car dealer in the area and nothing matched our budget.

So I sat on the front steps frustrated, staring at the empty driveway, and prayed again for the new van. I even held up the picture we had cut. "Lord," I asked, "why is this taking so long? We need a car now."

Finally after months of praying and waiting we heard a rumor that a local Christian school was selling several vans. We piled everyone into the old station wagon and raced to the next town. I was thinking we would find beat up old vans or that they would be way out of our price range.

The administrator took us to see the vans and I was shocked to see they were all new blue 15 passenger vans, the exact same one as the picture on our fridge. The administrator explained that they replaced some every other year to keep a good maintenance contract. So he said, "Just pick one."

The kids ran around peeking in the windows, very excited, until they yelled out, "We found it! We found our van." As my husband and I walked up the kids were pointing to a sign in the van window that said, "God is the answer."

Need I also say that the down payment was exactly what we had saved, the monthly payment was what we had budgeted; there were cloth seats, a stereo system, and two air conditioners!

But the story doesn't end there. We used that van for ten years. During that time it was freely offered to the church to use whenever they needed it. Then we gave it to the church and they used it for another ten years. Then they gave it to a needy family who used it for years. It was the never ending blessing; the answer to our family prayer, the big blue van.