

Topic: Turn

## Was it a Wise Turn?

by Liz Gibbons

A week ago Friday I had a scary experience which leaves me wondering if a turn I made was unwise or one that saved me from a worse outcome. Because of construction on I-25 I had traveled on US 287 to an appointment in Fort Collins. Heading home in late afternoon, as I approached Loveland I saw a sign indicating a road ahead to I-25 and decided to chance that this would place me south of most of the construction, as 287 is so slow. I misjudged. Traffic was barely creeping through the construction area. Once traffic began to speed up slightly, I did so and then when it was necessary to slow down I found my brakes were not working. The pedal went clear to the floor. *Help, how do I safely stop?* I silently asked. I was in the right hand lane and saw an exit ahead. I put on my blinkers and when I felt safe I let the car gradually slow down. I exited and to fully stop the car before the end of the exit ramp, I had to put the transmission in park. Fortunately, I was enough off the road to be safe. I called AAA and they arranged for a wrecker to come and take the car to be repaired in a town nearby. However, because of covid I was informed I could not ride in the wrecker. It was suggested I arrange a taxi. My mind said this is not satisfactory, and I just sort of saw that I would be able to ride in the wrecker and gave it no more thought. The wrecker arrived in probably 30-40 minutes. When the driver got out of the cab I saw he was not wearing a mask. *Good sign*, I thought. He inquired about the problem and then asked where I lived. When I said Windsor Gardens in Denver he said he knew it well as he had grown up in Aurora. He then said since AAA allowed towing up to 100 miles, instead of taking my car to his shop, why not take it to the shop in Denver where I get it serviced, and then he would take me home. Now what are the chances of getting this particular wrecker driver to come rescue me? He was interesting to talk to on the long ride. I gave him a good tip.

On Monday the auto shop called to get more information as the brakes were working. On further examination the front brake pads were scorched and after another day the shop figured out that a blockage in the back brakes caused them to quit functioning and put all the braking on the front brakes resulting in them overheating. As I had just two months ago replaced the front brake pads, they were still under warranty which paid for their replacement. The brake system was bled and flushed and the back brakes reset. I wondered how much of a bill I was accruing, but it all came to \$250.12.

If the brakes had gone out when I was going at a fast speed and I had to brake suddenly for a traffic light or other situation the results could have been horrific. Was I guided to that turn to lessen the possible consequences of brake failure and for the perfect wrecker driver to come to my aid? I will never know, but I feel sure that God or the angels were looking out for me.