

The First Day in the Park

*Inspired by an experience on the first day of his mission –
Veli Darwin Rasmussen*

Verse 1)

Fresh off the plane, the air was sharp and new
In the city of Oulu,
beneath a sky of northern blue
I was standing with my brother,
Veli Scharman was his name
In Heinätorinpuisto, where the quiet spirits came

I listened to his stories of the people he had met
A green missionary dreaming of the souls we hadn't found yet
When a long dark green car pulled up beside the curb
And a silence settled over us, not a single spoken word.

(Chorus)

And I wondered that morning, would it always be like this?
A life of sudden wonders and a Heav'nly Father's kiss?
He guides us by the hand through the small and simple things
To the heart that has been searching for the peace the Spirit brings
From the very first hour to the setting of the sun
He's preparing the way before the work has even begun.

(Verse 2)

The roof was darker green, a landau style and sleek
A man stepped to the sidewalk, and he began to speak
He didn't ask our names, or where we'd spent our youth
He simply said, "You have something for me—the words of truth"
Veli Scharman reached inside his coat, pulled the blue book out
Before he could even ask a word or voice a single doubt
The man said, "That's the one! I saw it in a dream
Standing in this very park, just like a movie scene."

(Bridge)

He'd driven a hundred and fifty kilometers that day
Because missionaries never seemed to travel out his way
He saw our faces in the night, he saw the time and place

He followed a dream across the miles to find a saving grace
Then just as quickly as he came, he turned and he was gone
Leaving two young men standing there in the middle of the dawn.

(Chorus)

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A life of sudden wonders and a Heav'nly Father's kiss?
He guides us by the hand through the small and simple things
To the heart that has been searching for the peace the Spirit brings
From the very first hour to the setting of the sun
He's preparing the way before the work has even begun.

(Outro) Now I look back on the years and the miles that I have trod
And I see the fingerprints of a loving, watchful God
He led me through the miracles, the large ones and the small
And I realize that first day... it really said it all.

Just a sidewalk in Oulu. My first miracle.