



NEWS

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CONTACT: MARION MACKENZIE/JIM SMART
MTA MEDIA RELATIONS
(213) 922-5621/922-2700
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MTA MECHANIC MICHAEL STANGE DUBBED ANGEL IN DISGUISE

Ever hear of a mechanic who gave away his time and services for free? Enter MTA's Michael Stange just when our faith needed a shot in the arm.

Hired in 1975 as a division mechanic by the Southern California Rapid Transit District, Stange won the respect of all who worked with him. Today he is the equipment maintenance manager at the MTA and known by his church members as the 'Angel Mechanic.'

Michael Stange started attending the Vineyard Christian Church in La Habra eight years ago where he sporadically began providing free mechanical assistance to members' automobiles. Word of his skill spread rapidly and Stange saw that the need was great, especially among single mothers who had neither the resources to pay nor the defenses to fight unscrupulous mechanics.

Stange began making his services available every other month in the Vineyard parking lot using his own equipment and providing free parts, when he could get them. He's still there today.

"I check tire pressure, leaks, air filters, fluid levels, drive belts, pretty much all aspects of an automobile engine," he explains. "When the problems are too big for the tools I have with me, I call around for the best deal, send my clients to that shop and advise them how much they should be charged."

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The church recognized the value of Stange's contribution and two years ago began the Single Mothers Auto Care Program, providing funds for single mothers who cannot afford to pay for repairs. Today, if Stange sends someone to a shop, he can arrange for a church check to cover the costs.

The 'Angel Mechanic's' kindness and honesty is very much appreciated, especially among the women he's helped, but this soft spoken MTA maintenance manager doesn't like all the fuss.

"I am not angelic," he says. I'm just an individual who has a passion to help with the Single Mother's Ministry."

However, Mike Stange's simple passion has not just restored people's faith in kindness and honesty, it's also helped make their world a better place to live. Isn't that what angels are supposed to do?

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