

A Weary Walk

When she saw him struggling, she hit record — and compassion went viral. Passenger Lacinda Thackeray was looking out of a window at John Wayne Airport in Orange County, California, when she saw an airport worker struggling to walk across the tarmac. She recorded a video of the man walking and posted it on TikTok asking viewers if they knew the man and inviting others to help him.

“Does anyone know this man at the John Wayne Airport?” Thackeray posted in the video. “Watching him work so hard. He could barely move. Truly broke my heart. I know there has to be a way we can help him retire.”

The worker was later identified as James Blair, a U.S. Navy veteran who worked as an aircraft mechanic for 10 years while in the service. For the last 20 years, he has been working at the airport refueling planes. Years of physically demanding work have taken a toll on his body, particularly his knees, Blair told CBS News.

As of June 5, 2026, the video of Blair had been viewed nearly 6 million times. Viewers began donating online to assist Blair with his medical expenses and other needs. A goal of \$200,000 set by Thackeray had been supported in the amount of over \$135,000 according to Fox News on June 5.

Blair said in an interview that the donations have changed his life and will help ease the financial burden from his medical challenges. *

There is Someone who sees us, and cares, and desires to help us. In fact, He wants to rescue us from the condition in which our sins have placed us, whether we recognize it or not. The condition is universal, “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). Our condition is fatal (Romans 6:23). But God sees us, loves us, and desires to save us and give us eternal life (John 3:16).

God loves us so much that He gave His one and only Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for our sins (Romans 5:8). When we accept His offer on His terms, He will cleanse us from our sins and give us eternal life (Ephesians 1:7; Romans 6:23).

God will save from sin and give eternal life to those who place their faith and trust in Jesus (Acts 16:30-31), turn from their sins in repentance (Acts 17:30-31), confess Jesus before men (Romans 10:9-10), and are baptized (immersed) into Christ for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38). Through the

atoning blood of Jesus, God will continue to cleanse from sin those who continue to walk in the light of His Word (1 John 1:7-9).

To those weary and weighed down by sin, Jesus issues this invitation: "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light" (Matthew 11:28-30).

Weary traveler, rest awaits. Accept the offer of the loving Savior through your trusting obedience.

-- David A. Sargent

* Information gleaned from "Military veteran's painful walk across airport tarmac sparks strangers to raise over \$135K" by Kelly McGreal of Fox News, www.foxnews.com.