Dear Mrs. Jones, September 25, 1973

I hope that this letter finds you well, and that you are not working too hard. I have been thinking a lot about the time that I tried to snatch your handbag. I feel very ashamed. During that time of my life, I was very selfish and had nobody watching over me. If our lives had not intersected, I do not know where I would be today. I truly feel that you “saved” me. In fact, if I had tried to steal from anyone else, I am sure I would have ended up paying a much higher price. For this reason, I would like to express my gratitude to you for the lessons that you shared with me.

As soon as we parted ways after the incident, I began to think not only about what you did to help me. At first, I was embarrassed that a young, strong man (or so I thought), could not keep up with an older woman (no offense). I could not get the advice you gave me out of my head, “shoes got by devilish ways will burn your feet.” As I started to look around at the people in my life, I could see that this was so true. The people, who were not living in an honest way, were suffering in so many ways in their life. In other words, “what goes around comes around.” From that moment on, I decided to change my ways. I also took your other advice, and started to ask for what I want. In school, I would ask questions, demanding the education that I knew I deserved. Then, I asked my neighbor for a job, and got it. I started doing well in school, earning money, and before I knew it, I was graduating and ready to go to college. Now, I am a happy and successful man with a family of my own. I will strive to teach my children the lessons that you taught me when I had nobody else to look after me. In order to remind me of the impact you have had in my life, I have named my children after you. Louella, my daughter is 4 years old, and my son, Washington, was born last month.

Again, I am forever indebted to you for showing me another way to live.

Sincerely,

Roger