



## The SHARinG Org

DECEMBER 2004

Dear Prayer Partners,

Did you have a "Happy Thanksgiving"? I sure hope so.

For Thanksgiving this year Megan and I were especially thankful for being able to spend it with our daughter who is now a little over 9 months old. We found ourselves thankful for a lot of reasons and one of those reasons was you. Megan and I are thankful to all of you for lifting us up in prayer each month and for supporting us in this ministry to the care facilities.

This past month we participated with Samaritan's Purse in *Operation Christmas Child*. We worked with a group of residents to fill shoe boxes with items to be given to children all over the world as a way of sharing the gospel of Jesus with them and their communities. I thank the many of you who contributed to the effort. Many of you sent money to help us purchase the items to be packed in the boxes. We were able to put items like soap, toothpaste, toys, dolls, pens, pencils, paper, and even a solar calculator into each shoe box. Then there were many of you who came to help the residents fill the boxes. In the end we filled 32 shoe boxes! After we completed the packing we watched the video of the children who receive the boxes and then we prayed for them and their families. The residents we worked with expressed their gratefulness for being able to do this for the children. It means a lot to them to have the opportunity to reach out into the world and make a difference in the life of a needy child this coming Christmas season.

Speaking of the Christmas season leads me into the next topic - Advent. Starting the Sunday after Thanksgiving we began observing Advent in our time of worship. For those of us who did not grow up observing the Advent season, it was a new concept. However, Brad grew up in the Lutheran tradition and was accustomed to the liturgy, and he was eager to guide us through the process. Many of the residents have appreciated being a part of the liturgy that leads up to the celebration of the birth of our Lord. Every week we will be singing Christmas hymns and lighting another candle on the Advent wreath as we joyfully anticipate the blessing of Christmas Day.

Again we thank all of you for partnering with us in prayer. Although most of us share different locations on the map, we are still working together (side-by-side) in this ministry. As you enter into this Christmas season we pray that you will have a very merry Christmas and that the Joy of our Savior's birth will bury itself deep within your heart.

Merry Christmas & God bless,  
John Rock on behalf of The SHARinG Org Team

(John, Megan, Sela, Brad, & Melissa)

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