

The Sharing Org

Loving God by Loving Others



MARCH 2005

Dear Prayer Partners,

Spring is almost here! (Almost, that is.) I hope your winter has not been dragging on too long - we've only got another six or so weeks to go so hold in there. The changing of the seasons is a constant reminder for us that life goes through cycles: life and death and all things in between. Although my favorite season is the Fall, I love the sounds and smell of the Spring. The sounds of the creek thawing, then flowing, and the smell of the fresh green waking and budding always excite me. It reminds me to shrug off my winter overclothes and enjoy the outdoors again. But then the mosquitoes wake-up and I hide out in my air conditioned apartment. Ah well, we humans are fickle, and I am as fickle as the next guy. ☺

I begin this letter on a rather sad note. In September I wrote that we were able to make a contribution towards helping a young lady who was battling cancer get to Texas to ride in the "Ride for the Roses" with Lance Armstrong. Her name was Katie and she trained hard to be ready for the ride. Late last year Katie traveled to Texas and completed the ride. We learned this past month that Katie has passed away at the young age of 21, just five days after her wedding. Her battle was difficult and she fought valiantly, always remaining faithful to God. We mourn with Katie's family and friends and we are very happy that we were able to touch her life in this very small way. Thank all of you for your support that allowed us to make this contribution to touch Katie's life. You can learn more about Katie at <http://www.katiekirkpatrick.com>.

In February we were able to celebrate Sela's first birthday with some of the residents. Most of the residents had held her just one week after she was born and have watched her grow week after week. It was a great pleasure for us to share this time with all of them. The staff and residents lavished on Sela many gifts that have shown us just how much they have grown to love her during this past year. We are thankful for the many friendships that we have gained and relationships that have formed through this ministry. It is amazing to me that we have the extreme pleasure to serve this group of individuals each and every Sunday. Our ministry here has been the single most satisfying (and fulfilling) thing that I have personally experienced since I began to follow Jesus in 1994. Thank you for supporting this mission.

Since the beginning of the year our team has been doing a Bible study about prayer. It has been a meaningful time for us all as it has spurred our conversation with each other and inspired us to remember the importance of praying - both individually and as a group. Please continue to pray for us as our team continues to strengthen our faith-walks together.

All is well at the various facilities that we visit each week. It seems that all of them had some form of illnesses that they were dealing with during February, but it has past and we are back to normal again. Thank you for your prayers concerning this matter.

Now as we all anticipate the coming of Spring, and the new life that it represents, I pray that all of you will be reminded and encouraged that we will have an ultimate renewal when our Lord welcomes us into his glory.

God bless,
John Rock on behalf of The Sharing Org Team
(John, Megan, Sela, Brad, & Melissa)

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