

The Sharing Org

Loving God by Loving Others



JUNE 2005

Dear Prayer Partners,

Thanks to all of you that responded to my request for ideas about expanding the ministry. Please keep this in your prayers as we will continue to wait on the Lord to open up the opportunity for us to move forward with our plans.

This past month was full of encouragement. I was privileged to be in attendance at the Lifelink Midwest regional presbytery meeting in Grand Rapids. I met many of the pastors and was able to join them in discussions about the Church and the need to teach the individual members of the Church to turn away from an individualistic mindset and to embrace the community as a whole—God's people through Christ in the Church. I was greatly encouraged at this meeting as I learned about the other ministries of which the Sharing Org is a part.

After the regional presbytery, Brad and I spent three days at the Sermon Seminar at Rochester College. Here we learned about the Gospel of Mark and how we might be able to employ it as we attempt to preach this Gospel. The keynote speaker was Fred Craddock (in case you don't know, Craddock is a seasoned and well-regarded preacher whose books on preaching have earned him our due respect), and Brad and I were greatly blessed to learn from his many years of faithful service and preaching for our Lord.

This past week, one of our prayer partners asked me to verbalize one thing that I have learned because of our ministry. Without much hesitation I responded that I've learned that ministry is about genuinely loving people. Our team serves a variety of people, from all walks of life and religious traditions, and the one thing that I am impressed with time and again is that people tend to be less petty about the details of faith as they age. The only thing that our people actually seem to care about is whether they can trust God when they meet with Him someday. They simply desire to know that God loves them and that Jesus can be trusted. It was a good question, because it reminds me of what we are here for and why we are doing what we do. God loves people enough to send His only son to endure the shame of the cross for us. In the words of Uncle Screwtape – "...He actually loves the little creatures." It is easy to forget what it is all about as I plan and strategize for the future, and sometimes it takes one of you to remind me what is what.

On July 9th, Megan, Sela, and I will be participating in an event at the Detroit Zoo called the "Strollerthon" where we will be walking on behalf of Michigan SAFE KIDS to raise money to provide car seats and age-appropriate booster seats for low-income families throughout Michigan. Ever since we were expecting Sela, Megan has spent quite a bit of time learning about car seat safety, and she wants to help provide proper car seats and information to other parents. This event will allow The Sharing Org to reach into greater Detroit with a gift that could save children's lives. If you can help sponsor The Sharing Org team as we "stroll," please send donations to The Sharing Org before July 1st. Make checks payable to **Michigan SAFE KIDS**, not The Sharing Org. All contributions are tax-deductible.

Once again, I am reminded of how much we appreciate all of you for your prayers. I know that our work will only be effective through your support and prayers - and for that I am very grateful.

God bless,

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

www.thesharing.org

PO Box 73 · Armada, MI 48005 · (586)784-4174