

# The Sharing Org

Loving God by Loving Others



APRIL 2006

Dear Megan & Steve,

Happy Spring! I trust everyone is enjoying the extra sunshine and the longer days. I actually saw snow the day after Spring came – I wonder what the ground hog thinks about that?

March was a spectacular month as we started three new services. I am enjoying getting to know the new residents, and I am told that they are enjoying me, too. Some of the residents are suspicious of a guy in a clerical collar who calls himself a Protestant. Who can blame them? However, I trust that as time goes along, and as they get to know me, that they will come to trust and appreciate me. And I never discount the Holy Spirit factor.

A couple of weeks ago I was speaking to the people about how Jesus was "willing" to touch the leper in Matthew 8. How the traditional religious system avoided the lepers and treated them as "untouchables." I emphasized how Jesus was more than willing to compassionately touch the leper and make him clean. I talked about how we are all untouchable and unclean because of sin but that Jesus was willing to go to the cross for us – He was willing to touch us and make us clean. Afterward, a gentlemen approached me and told me how people with mental illness have become today's "untouchable" people in our culture and that he was glad that Jesus is "willing" to touch even him. As I thought about this I was encouraged that the Sharing Org's ministry has a proper mission and vision.

Also, a couple of weeks ago, I had arrived at my first facility to lead worship on a Sunday morning and I learned that I did not have the music CD with me. I had to lead the music a cappella! Yeah, yeah, yeah, I know that I am not getting any sympathy from my Church of Christ brethren, but I grew up Baptist, for Pete's sake. To not have instrumental music accompanying me is like dropping me in the middle of a forest without a map on a cloudy day. Well, thankfully, one of the staff members helped me through the first three songs and everything was rosy, but then for the life of me I could not think of the melody for the fourth song. As I stood there sweating, it was suggested that we just sing "Joy To The World." All was well. I figured that I would pick up the spare CD when I swung by to pick up Megan and Sela and all would be swell. However, when I got to the next service and put the CD into the player we realized that I had grabbed the spare Christmas CD! Ahhh! But all was well because we had Brad and Melissa with us who have both spent time in the Church of Christ and are quite competent in the a cappella worship arena, so we were able to lead the last three services without a problem. That night I made a half dozen spare CDs and put one in each of our vehicles and gave two to Brad and Melissa for their vehicles so I will not be stuck like that again. Maybe, I should think about becoming comfortable in a cappella worship. What am I thinking? The Baptist in my veins runs a little too deep to consider that. ☺

This month I met with a group of college students who are using The Sharing Org for their Strategic Planning project. They asked me a bunch of questions about my plans and dreams for the future of the ministry. I am excited as I anticipate learning about the suggestions they come up with that may lead The Sharing Org to reaching more people who live in care facilities. Please pray for these students that God might lead them to a solid plan. For April I will be continuing to work on the tax package for the 501(c)(3) exemption status. Once I get the package in order I will ship it out to the IRS. Please pray that all will go well with this process.

Thanks to you all for your continued prayers and support.

Blessings,

John Rock on behalf of The Sharing Org Team

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*Our mission is to share the love of God and to build relationships with the residents of care facilities by providing them with weekly interdenominational Christian worship services.*