

The Sharing Org

Ministry to the Nursing Care Community

February 2008

Dear Prayer,

If you have not visited the Sharing Org website I invite you to do so. We've revamped the whole site and added a "For Our Prayer Partners" section where you will find a "Thank You" video starring a *thank you card* that the residents have signed for you. Please feel free to send us feed-back about the new site.



The CD players that we have been using for the music portion of the worship services have become unreliable and leave us singing while they decide to take a break or skip around. Because of this we are attempting to put together a digital set-up for the music by using an iPod and a travel sized speaker system. If you have received a new iPod for Christmas and have an old one sitting in a drawer someplace, we would love to acquire it. If not, *please pray* that God would provide us with the appropriate set-up.

We've had the opportunity to share with the residents our 2008 objective for filling 100 shoeboxes. They are excited at the opportunity to pray throughout the year for the children and the shoeboxes we will be filling. We are really excited about this year's shoeboxes as we will be filling them with some very cool stuff. For instance, not only will we be including the standard bar of soap, washcloth, toothbrush and toothpaste, but we are also including a flash light that does not need batteries! What good is a flashlight to a poor child when the batteries die? Instead, the flashlight that we are sending is charged by a built-in generator that is cranked by hand. If you want to see a close-up of the flashlight that we have, simply go to Amazon.com and search for "Garrity crank light". You can find more information at our website about the shoebox program as well.



One of our other goals for 2008 is to recruit 100 new Prayer Partners. This objective should be quickly realized if you will help me by introducing the Sharing Org to someone you know and inviting them to partner with the Sharing Org as a Prayer Partner. I've included a couple of my business cards so that you have something to hand the people that you talk to.

At the turn of the New Year we introduced the "8 for 08" program where people can support the Sharing Org mission with a modest monthly contribution of \$8. If you would like to but as of yet do not support our work financially, this is a perfect opportunity for you to begin. Simply fill out the response section below and return it in the pre-addressed envelope provided with this letter.

As I close I want to ask that you would *pray* that I am able to clearly communicate the Gospel of God to those who I minister to this year. I desire that God would become noticeably present among us and that the lives of the people that I serve would be enriched because of Him. I am hoping that as I help the residents focus on the shoebox program this year that they would be filled with God's Holy Spirit as in this way they too serve others. As I close this letter, I do so with a short story of what a shoebox gift has done in the life of a child who has received one.

THAILAND:

Chadathip was impressed with the change in her daughter after she participated in the Operation Christmas Child discipleship program and accepted Jesus Christ as her Savior. "She learned to be responsible and her grades went up, and the teachers like her. Then I asked her what makes her different, and she said God changed her life. She said she prays and asks God to help her, and God listens to her prayers," said Chadathip. "So now I'm interested in wanting to know God. ... I'm very pleased to know that God cares for me and I want to know Him."

By His grace,
John

www.thesharing.org

PO Box 73 · Armada, MI 48005 · (586) 949-6885

It is the MISSION of the Sharing Org to share the love of God and to build relationships with residents of care facilities by providing them with weekly interdenominational Christian worship services.

I would like to partner with the Sharing Org and serve the residents of care facilities by giving them the love of God through the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

I would like to partner with the Sharing Org by making a **monthly contribution** of: \$50.00 \$25.00 \$15.00 **\$8.00 for 2008** \$_____ Other

I would like to support the Sharing Org by making a **one time donation** of: \$500.00 \$250.00 \$100.00 \$75.00 \$_____ Other

#0607030.5

Prayer Partner

12345 Anywhere St.

Your Town, MI 48---

Thank you for partnering with us as together we share the Love of God with the residents of care facilities.

You've pledged \$0 per month to support the Sharing Org.

Your gifts for 2008 have totaled \$0

Please make checks payable to: **The Sharing Org**
Please mail to: PO Box 73
Armada, MI 48005

Ministry Moments

In January of 2006 I began writing a correspondence series titled *Ministry Moments* for the monthly supporters of the Sharing Org. In Ministry Moments I highlighted key moments that happened in the ministry and my own reactions to those moments. I've since received so many positive comments concerning that series that I have decided to begin adding it to each newsletter. These Ministry Moments that I share are my most personal thoughts about what I've experienced in the previous month. My words are not always flowery or politically correct but they come straight from the heart – the heart that is ever being challenged and changed by our God who seems to surprise me every time I turn around.

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Danielle is a mentally handicapped woman who comes faithfully to our worship service. She loves to sing and loves to help collect the songbooks after the singing is finished. I was thinking about her story the other day and this is how it went.

Danielle used to live with her mom and dad. Then about ten years ago her mother suddenly died on Christmas day leaving her and her father to fend for themselves. But then a few months later her father died leaving her all alone. That was when Danielle entered the adult foster care system. As I thought about her I realized that her family must have been somewhat religious because Danielle knows the Lord's Prayer. I imagine that they worked with Danielle to teach her the Christian faith much like Megan and I work with our own daughter.

I continued to think about Danielle and my weekly visit to her home, and it dawned on me that my work was filling in where Danielle's parents had so suddenly left off. I thought about my own daughter and how if she were in the same situation I would want someone to do for her what I am doing for Danielle.

As I continued to ponder Danielle, I realized that I am overjoyed to have been chosen to serve her and the many other people whose stories I don't even know yet.

~ John