

# The Sharing Org

Ministry to the Nursing Care Community

May 2008

Dear Prayer,

Last month I told you that I was "spontaneously erupting with the Doxology" because of the answers to prayer that I have been seeing God do among us: A baptism, additions to our ranks of prayer partners, and the opportunities that have come about. This past month has been no different, I am still singing the Doxology because God has been so faithfully answering our prayers!

At the beginning of the New Year I not only began praying for revival among the people that I serve but also direction for the ministry as a whole. I was watching as our finances dwindled and I knew that if something did not happen I would likely have to abandon the ministry to seek full time employment before the year's end. My heart was breaking at the prospect and I was pleading with God to show me if He really wanted me to continue with this work. Well, this past month God showed me that He indeed wanted the work to continue because He provided a few out-of-the-ordinary donations (one of which was quite significant) to make sure that we would be able to survive the rest of the year with the regular monthly donations that we have. I am a little embarrassed by how much I struggled with this because I should have known that God would not let a work that He has begun falter.

I've been watching for revival among the residents and I noticed a couple of things in our services that I have never seen before. First, it can sometimes take a few minutes between worship songs as we get everyone's pages turned to the right page. During this time, at one of our services, a woman simply broke out with a spontaneous song. She sang out a cappella and passionately as the Spirit led her to sing a special solo song to the Lord. It was quite moving to see this woman so freely and publicly enjoy our Lord – the other residents cheered in celebration. Second, I recently talked with the residents about the sacrificial nature of love. I talked about how in my own marriage I can sometimes be difficult and start an argument (yes, yes, it is hard to believe but it's true, I can be a real booger). I talked about how during these times Megan will often come to me and apologize even though it was *my fault* and I was to blame for the argument. Essentially, Megan would sacrificially do for me in our marriage what Jesus had done for her in her life: Sacrificially take the blame. In one of the meetings a person interrupted the service to publicly apologize and make amends with someone else about whatever problem they had been having. I was moved. I had never seen any of the residents take such initiative to enact whatever God was laying on their hearts. If I am to be completely honest, I often doubt that people ever really listen to my feeble attempts at sermonizing. ☺

I am happy to report that I have had the privilege of adding four new families (or individuals) to the monthly prayer letter list in April. 12 down and only 88 more to go for the 2008 goal of 100 new prayer partners! **Please continue to pray** that God would provide more prayer partners to join our work each month in prayer.

I am still working at our goal for 100 shoeboxes this year. The residents are excited to be able to participate with this as I have one man who has even been giving me a little bit of money each week so that he can pay for his own box. **Please remember to pray for the residents** as they prepare to reach out to poor children throughout our world.

Thank you again for your continued prayers and support as together we serve our God by reaching the residents in the nursing and adult foster care homes with the love and gospel of our God.

With many blessings,  
John

[www.thesharing.org](http://www.thesharing.org)

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*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.

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

Your gifts for 2008 have totaled \$30

# 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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## MAY 2008

I went to visit a man who had just returned home from the hospital. He had gone in due to congestive heart failure and stayed there quite a few weeks. From what I was told the man was not doing all that well and it looked as though he would soon be passing from this life. Due to my own illness (The Cold) I was not able to visit the man while he was hospitalized. I was sorry that I could not be there for him but it was just the way that it happened. After I had gotten better from The Cold I returned to my duties at the homes and lo-and-behold who do you think that I saw? Yep! It was the man with the congestive heart failure. He was alive and did come home looking good. I was happy to see him, and I apologized to him for not getting to the hospital to see him, and he just waved me off. He told me that it was a wonderful trip to the hospital – that he had not seen some of his grandchildren for years and they all came to see him there. He was as happy as I had ever seen him.

As I left the home that day I thought about the irony of it all. A man is in the adult foster care home for years and years but it is not until an illness sends the man to the hospital with a threat of death that his family comes to see him. The irony is that I am like that. I get busy and so easily think that I will see whatever loved one soon. It made me wonder if there are any people in my life who would like to see me but who are just waiting for the deadly illness to bring me running?

Though I concluded that I am doing pretty good with my visits to loved ones, I did not want to take any chances so I went to visit my mother. ☺

~ John