

The Sharing Org

Ministry to the Nursing Care Community

JULY 2008

Dear Prayer,

I pray that you are well. I am happy to have this chance to share with you what has been happening with me and our ministry this past month as well as what is in the works in the coming months.

I am happy to announce that I am once again serving ALL 12 of the facilities that I was serving last year before I broke my knee! Last year at the end of June I broke my knee and it was about three and a half months before I was able to resume services again. However, my schedule changed drastically as I was no longer doing services on Sundays, which meant it took some time (11 months) before I was able to get a schedule that worked for all the facilities again. Well, at the beginning of June I was blessed as I was able to resume services to the *last* waiting facility. The residents were as happy to see me as I was them! I really missed them, and now that I am back we are reestablishing our friendships. Praise God that I am once again serving at the capacity that I was at before my accident.

As we've just passed the end of June I have assessed the progress of our 2008 goals. I would like to share with you what the goals are and the progress that has been made these first 6 months.

- The Budget:** Thanks to our regular monthly partners and a very generous and unexpected gift from a couple of months ago, the budget looks very good as we are slightly over what our projected needs were for the first half of the year. I am very pleased with this! As things progress throughout the rest of the year, I ask you to be praying with me that God would provide just as He has throughout this first part of the year and that we could continue to meet budget.
- Prayer Partners Goal:** We began 2008 with an aggressive goal of recruiting 100 new prayer partners. So far we have attained about 10% of that goal with many more partners to recruit by year's end. If you know someone who would be willing to pray each month with us, please invite them to contact me (e-mail is fine!) so that I can get them signed up. And please continue to pray that God would provide people to pray with us.
- Shoebox Goal:** From the very first year of this ministry (2003) we have participated in *Operation Christmas Child* and helped residents to pack shoebox gifts for needy children for Christmas. This year our goal is to help 100 residents to pack 100 boxes. The residents are excited as they have been praying for the children and anticipating October when we will gather together to fill the shoeboxes. I have been collecting donations to pay for the items (and shipping), and I invite you to consider sending a gift that would allow a resident to fill a shoebox. The cost for each shoebox is \$50.00, and we are quite a ways away from having enough to fill 100 boxes. Please pray that God will provide the means to fill the boxes, and I ask that you would consider making an *extra special* gift and sponsor a resident or two this year. I know that many of you fill a shoebox for Operation Christmas Child at Christmas time but instead of simply blessing a poor child alone for Christmas, you could also bless one of the residents that we serve in the process. Also, if you are interested in helping during one of the box filling parties at one of the facilities, please contact me and we can discuss scheduling – I could use your help and the residents always love to meet new people.

All in all I am very happy with how our goals have been progressing. I've seen God's hand in the ebb-&-flow of our work as well as His grace in my life and the lives of the residents. Speaking of God's grace, I almost forgot to inform you that Megan and I just learned that we are expecting our *third child*! We could not be more excited! (Okay, to be honest we were more giddy at the news of the first pregnancy, but we are still pretty pumped about this one!) Please pray for our family as we begin to make arrangements for the newest member of our family to arrive in February.

That's it from here. I hope your summer is going along well and that it hasn't gotten away from you before you've had a chance to enjoy it. Remember, we're just 6 short months away from 2009.

Blessings to you,
John

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.

Your gifts for 2008 have totaled \$30

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.

JULY 2008

They say that you should never pray for “patience” because when you do God will put the most annoying person you can imagine in your life. Well, I don't know why I did it, but one morning before starting off to my first facility I asked God's Holy Spirit to fill me and allow me to really connect with the residents. It was nothing short of divine intervention how the day progressed.

During the first service I was about five minutes from finishing when I was informed that I had an *urgent* phone call – *could I take it?* “Um, well, yeah of course.” So I stopped right then and received the phone call. It was someone from another home - *would I please come and counsel with a resident who was having notions of self harm?* “Was it urgent enough that I needed to cancel my next service”, I asked, “or was the situation ok for the next hour?” I learned that things could wait an hour so I continued on with the service.

As I was on my way out the door from that service I was bidding the residents farewell and one of the residents asked if I had a minute. “Well, um, yeah I got a minute”. So I sat down while the resident explained to me how he did not belong in that home and that there was a mistake. The resident proceeded to explain to me their life's history and asked me to help them get out of there. I gingerly weaseled my way out of any promise to help *spring* the resident and I again headed out the door to my next service. Before I got out, however, yet another resident began talking with me and explaining the various ailments that he would be going to the doctor's for that day – and all the worries of his soul. After a 10 minute monologue I was able to get out and off to my next service where I would be 10 minutes late.

After that second service I was then able to make it to my counseling session with the resident who was having thoughts of hurting herself. As I sat and talked with this resident (for an hour and a half) the resident became increasingly less depressed. After our time together I was thanked profusely and headed off to my next service.

As I drove off I contemplated the events of the first four hours of my day and I remembered my earlier prayer. I realized that God had actually answered my prayer as He did allow me to connect with many of the residents that day... And what did it take?

Just a “*minute*” and a listening ear.

~ John