

# The Sharing Org

Ministry to the Nursing Care Community

OCTOBER 2008

Dear Prayer,

Blessings to you. I have been eagerly waiting to be able to write this month's prayer letter to you because it means that I get to toot our horn and invite you to celebrate 5 YEARS OF MINISTRY with me. On September 7, 2003, my wife and I and six other people conducted our very first worship services as the Sharing Org. 5 Years! While our organizational formation has adjusted (a lot) in that time, our mission has never varied – *to share the love of God with residents of nursing and adult foster care homes by providing weekly interdenominational Christian worship services.* We started by providing just 3 facilities (about 50 people) with a weekly worship service and now, 5 years later, we are serving 12 facilities (about 120 people)!



I am thankful to God for His consistent blessings to this ministry, and I am very thankful for YOU. For you have allowed God to use your prayers, talents, and finances to sustain the weekly blessing of a Christian worship service going into the facilities that we serve. And it is not just me but the residents themselves that are grateful as well. Each week when the residents thank me, they are thanking you vicariously through me. Please don't think for one second that your involvement with this work is ever overlooked. In fact, your participation is so important that without you I could not do what I do, and the majority of those 120 residents would have NO Christian service at all – and though I am prone to it, I am not exaggerating. You really are that vital to our mission – Thank you for your efforts.

This past month I have had the great pleasure of purchasing and organizing all of the items in preparation to fill 100 shoeboxes with the residents. The boxes look great this year and the items are very nice. Please visit our website to see a picture of one of the box's contents displayed. Thank you for praying for and donating to help us reach this year's shoebox goal. Your participation in this year's effort is a great blessing to me, the residents, and 100 poor children somewhere around the world. I will keep you posted with results of this missionary effort.

Last month I asked you to pray for Megan and Sela as they began the home-school classes. Everything is going very well, Megan is showing a great amount of patience, and Sela is liking and excelling in her lessons so far. Megan has learned that it works best when they role-play their parts as student and teacher - Megan has been dubbed "Mrs. Jones" and Sela calls herself "Emily." Megan reports that Sela is really taking to the basics and begs to do more school. Thank you for your prayers.



Through October the residents and I will be meeting together to pack the shoeboxes. The Armada United Methodist Ladies and the Community Baptist Church of Richmond's youth group have volunteered to help me with the "packing parties" at a couple of the larger facilities that I cannot handle alone. **Please pray** for me, the ladies, the youth, and all of the residents as we spend this time packing, praying, and fellowshiping.

As I close I want to remind you that I pray for you each month. I pray that God will bless you and cause you to reach the goals that He has called you to. As you and I serve together to bless the lives of the residents, we need also to remember that God is working in our own lives to bless us for His glory and honor.

Serving our Lord with you,  
John

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

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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.

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## OCTOBER 2008

I was asked, this passed month, how it was that I came to be a minister serving the residents of nursing homes. I thought about answering how a study of the demographics in my area lead me to the conclusion that the residents in the nursing care facilities were a *niche-market* that was not being adequately served and how I thought that this was a splendid opportunity. I thought about answering that after applying to many churches I was never called for so much as an interview and I was really left with no choice. And I thought about answering how a class at school showed me how to write a business plan and the idea of ministering to the residents of nursing homes fit well with the criteria of an assignment.

While there are many ways that I could have answered, I realized later that there was only ever one reason that I am doing the work that I am doing – *God called me*. In 1994, as I sat in a boarding house room just a few blocks from the famous Stone Pony nightclub, I bowed my knee to God by faith in the resurrection of Jesus. While I confessed my sins to my new Lord, I told him how even though I wanted to be a Christian, I wanted to be a “cool” Christian. I did not want to give up smoking, I did not want to give up drinking, I did not want to be one of those go-door-to-door types, I did not want to become a minister, etc., etc., etc. Within the next few months I had given up the smoking, given up the alcoholism, joyfully did the door-to-door thing, and was nothing like what I thought was “cool.” And one night, about four years later, God called me to enter into the full-time ministry, a call I eagerly desired to accept.

As I consider the question of how it came to be that I am serving the residents of nursing care facilities with the good news of God through faith in Jesus Christ our Lord, I realize that the answer is simply that I was called – *from the very beginning*. It might sound a little funny, and quite a bit mystical, but that is the answer.

I am happy to be serving in my call in life, I am happy for all the people that God has provided to make it possible for me to do so, I am happy for the many residents that I have the privilege to tell each week that God, through Christ our Lord, loves them. I am thankful for everything that has transpired these past 5 years, and I am eagerly waiting to see what is going to happen in the next.

~ John