

The Sharing Org

Ministry to the Nursing Care Community

APRIL 2009

Dear Prayer,

HAPPY SPRING! I sure hope you are enjoying this nice weather. I have predicted that we (in Michigan) are due for a final ice storm in April but I sure hope that I get proven wrong – we'll see.

Life has been pretty hectic this past month. With the newborn there is a lot of adjustment going on but I would have to say (everything considered) that it is going quite well. Praise God that both Mom and Gemma are healthy. Megan has been such a blessing as she learns to manage both of our older children, the newborn, and me. I give her what help that I can but hey! I'm a guy – 'nough said?

March has been a *great* blessing to us both as we were actually able to be in attendance at the Lifelink Elders Conference in Grand Rapids. We did not think that we would be able to go this year, because of expecting the new baby, but because the baby came a few days early, Megan said that she felt good enough and really wanted to go. This conference is always a blessing to us as we are able to fellowship with our fellow workers in ministry and be encouraged by the prayers of our fellow ministry partners. It's like church camp for us adults.

God is always very faithful to me and my family. For the past four years Megan and I have been making a little extra income by cleaning for an apartment complex. This worked very well so long as my health—and the children—cooperated. But now, with the new baby here and my body protesting the physical nature of the work, I have been able to set aside the cleaning job for another. The income is a wash, but now I am doing the books for a small company out of Akron, and I ache quite a bit less than before. *This was answered prayer for sure.*



Many of the residents are saving their pocket change in order to raise money for this year's Christmas Shoebox program. It is a real blessing to see them prepare for this mission effort. Many of them have expressed to me how much they enjoy the opportunity to share the gospel and gifts with the children who have nothing and have likely never heard the gospel message. Many people have joined us in saving their own pocket change by adopting a Pig. You can too by going to www.thesharing.org, clicking on the piggy face, and following the instructions to print your own piggy-face and make your own piggy-bank from a milk jug.

There are also a couple of other ways that *you can help us* raise the money that we need for the Shoebox program this year. First, on the website is a link called "Books For Sale." These are Christian academic books that I have donated for this cause. I invite you to peruse the list of books and see if there are any that you would like. Second, Cathy Rock (yep, that's my mom) will be hosting a rummage sale and donating all the proceeds toward the Shoebox program. She invites anyone who would like to donate items to the sale to do so. The sale will take place at the end of June so if you are interested, please contact me and I will set up the pick-up of the items from you.

That about does it for this month's news. Please continue to pray for Megan and me as we learn our new rolls as parents of three. And please continue to pray for the residents as they prepare for the Christmas Shoebox program.

Blessings,
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.*

Ministry Moment

John 16:33 – "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

I really enjoyed sharing these words of Jesus with the residents this past month. When I emphasized that Jesus said "In this world you *will* have trouble" (emphasis mine), I could see their heads bob in agreement. The residents understand (if nothing else) trouble in this world. They understand (especially) bodies that don't function like they should, minds that forget all too easily, worlds that have reduced their individual independence to a collective dependence upon others. Each resident, just like us all, knows what it is like to have the circumstances of this world mistreat them and push them to seek comfort and peace.

In the quest to obtain comfort and peace in this painful world, the residents (again like us all) have sought for it in things such as drugs, alcohol, television, shopping, or bad relationships. Even the elderly ladies that are as sweet as bunnies have all sought peace in something that this world offered – even if that was just trips to Disney World.

Instead, Jesus said, "In me you may have peace" or as the Septuagint states it – *shalom*.

As I talked with the residents about the reality that this world does not smell like roses most of the time (but more like the manure used to fertilize those roses), I saw a collective nod of understanding that it is only *in* Jesus that we may have the peace which passes all understanding.

As I was shaking hands and greeting the residents an elderly lady who never has much to say held my hand and thanked me for this message. I do not know how it effected her but I thought I could see relief in her eyes as if for the first time she understood that it was in Christ that she could find the shalom that she was looking for. This may or may not be the implications of her thanks but I know that somehow, and in some way, God touched her in a spot that until now had never been touched... It is the times like this that really make me feel useful in God's call in my life.

~ John

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 **\$9.00 for 2009** \$_____ 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 2009 have totaled \$0

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