

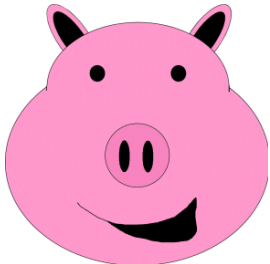
The Sharing Org

Ministry to the Nursing Care Community

May 2009

Dear Prayer,

Thank you for helping me share the good news of Jesus Christ with the people who are unable to get out of their homes in order to worship God in a local church. Without your prayers and support of my work, about 130 people would lose the opportunity to worship in a weekly service. Please do not underestimate how much of a blessing that you are to me – and to the residents whom I have the opportunity to serve.



This past month we received an anonymous box filled with **toothbrushes** for this year's shoebox program - *What a blessing!* I do not know who made this gift (or if it was anyone who will actually receive this letter) but thank you for your generosity!

I invite you to donate an item or two that can be sold at the **rummage sale** that Cathy Rock will be hosting this June in order to raise funds for the shoeboxes. Please contact me, and I will take care of the details.

We continue to collect money in the piggy-banks at some of the homes. It is such a blessing to see how the residents are working so hard to fill the shoeboxes for the children. If you would like to help our residents collect pocket change for the shoeboxes, simply go to our website and click on the piggy-face to learn how you too can make a piggy-bank.

I have been praying about, and considering, the possibility of finding another minister to join me in the effort to serve the residents who live in a care facility. While I have no definite leading from God that this is something that I should pursue, I am aware that the number of people who pray for and support this ministry have seemed to level off and if more residents are to be served by this ministry in the future, more people are needed to support the cause. As I have been considering this, I am aware that **YOU** are the greatest asset that this ministry has. **YOU** have friends, **YOU** have family, and **YOU** have churches that may appreciate being invited to pray with and support this work. If you appreciate the work that we do (and I know that you do) then please invite a friend, a co-worker, a family member, and your Church missions board to learn about The Sharing Org's ministry and **invite them to prayerfully consider joining us**. I am confident that as we get more people involved with our work, we will be able to expand the reaches of our ministry to more people who currently have no opportunity to worship God regularly. Thank you, in advance, for supporting our mission and vision in this way.

In closing, I want to thank all of you who sent cards and gifts to our new daughter. All of it was treasured and appreciated. We have had the opportunity to take the baby to a couple of the homes, and the residents thoroughly enjoyed holding the newborn. I wish I could say that my showing up week after week means as much as that few minutes of baby-holding, but I refuse to deceive myself. ☺

Until next month, may you know and show the grace of the Lord Jesus in your life.

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

“Heyyy! Why does *he* get special attention?” This is what was called across the room while I was greeting one of the gentlemen. “And it is not respectful that he calls you 'John-boy!'”

You might have thought that I had just argued for the NIV being God's only inspired translation or just played a contemporary worship song or something. But no, all I did was greet my *great uncle* who happens to live in that facility. I am a little more affectionate with him, which people understand when I tell them that he is my uncle, but for him to continue to call me “John-Boy” (a family nickname) seems to still be disrespectful (as if he should call me “Reverend John” or something).

What I learned through this is two things: First, the people in the Care Facility long for affection from me, and my time with them is successful in creating the relationships necessary for the love and grace of Jesus to be shared. And second, the residents really do consider me to be *their* minister. In order for people to be protective of how I am addressed, they must have taken ownership of my position among them.

This excites me because it means that they are hearing the good news of God through the words that I am speaking to them each week. Despite the fact that many residents have spent their whole lives hearing why “*such-and-such*” a church is the “*one-true-church*” or “*XYZ*” belief is the “*one-true-understanding*,” the simple message that God loves them (and has not forsaken them) is winning the day. The residents are becoming confident before God that Jesus is eagerly waiting to greet them when they leave this world.

Presumptuous? I don't really think so. “But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8) “Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation.” (Colossians 1:21-22) This message of Grace is Good News for the people whom I serve, and it is this faith that I have been entrusted to proclaim.

I really do have the greatest job in the world – God is allowing me to share grace with those in need.

Blessings,
~ 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