

# The Sharing Org

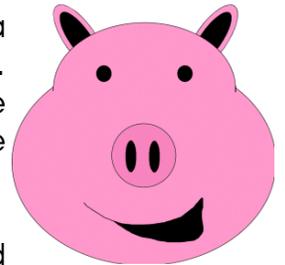
Ministry to the Nursing Care Community

June 2009

Hi there! Welcome to June! Can you believe that we are beginning the 6th month of 2009 already! The time keeps marching on and the harvest is indeed ripe. Thank you for your continued support as together we work to reap the harvest that God has in store for us...

This past month we had the great honor of being invited to one of the resident's 98th birthday party. This resident was in our very first day of services back in 2003, he held my eldest daughter just one week after she was born, and in his better health he was instrumental as an integral part of our weekly worship service. To have our family invited to be a part of his family's personal birthday celebration for him was indeed an honor that only could have come about because of my work with the residents these many years. The residents anticipate our services every week, and often their families know about my weekly visits as well.

At the end of this month Cathy Rock (yep, that's my mommy) will be conducting a yard sale, and all of the proceeds will be going toward this year's shoebox program. If you have any items that you would like to get rid of from around your house, please consider contributing it to her sale for the shoeboxes. Please contact me if you have anything to contribute, and I will come pick it up.



This past month I experienced a blessing in my health. Through talking with a friend and discussion with my doctor, I have started taking Ritalin (you know, that drug they put hyper kids on?). Although the drug is not meant for people with MS, it has been used to help with "brain fog" in patients with certain types of closed head brain injuries. This past month I have been using it in very limited dosages, and praise be to God, it has been wonderful. Not only is my head clearer and words more readily at the tip of my tongue, but it also helps with the chronic fatigue. And as an added bonus, my wife says that I am a nicer, more cheerful person. It has truly been a win-win-win situation. Thanks to all of you who continue to pray for my health situation.

In June we will be visiting our church family in Lansing and having a dedication service for our daughter Gemma. We do so enjoy spending this time with our brothers and sisters, making this commitment to raise our children in the ways of God. Please pray for Megan and me as we continue to seek how best to raise all of our children in the ways of our Savior.

That's about it for now. I pray that the grace of our Lord will consume you and continue to use you as a mighty vessel in his hand.

With His mighty love,  
John

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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*

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I've been loosely following the church calendar as I share the weekly message with the residents. The other week we discussed the ascension of Jesus as he went to the Right Hand of the Father and the disciples waited for God to give them the gift of the Holy Spirit. One of the points that I made was that the ascension was (in essence) the disciples' Graduation Day. The disciples had just spent 3 years as Jesus' students, and now was the day for them to go out and put into practice all that He had taught them. The point that I tried to hit home was that the disciples were to "wait" until the Spirit was given them, and then they were to be witnesses of Christ for God's Kingdom.

I worried that trying to relate this to people who are nearing the end of their lives would be poorly received as none of them really expect to ever be a mighty witness for Jesus again. For the residents who have their minds, they know that their days will be spent in their present abode until the last hour of their lives. So they are not easily encouraged with fanciful ideals about how God can still use them.

However, at one of the facilities the residents responded positively. I explained how none of us have the experience of seeing the physical Jesus after the resurrection but how we all have a witness about the resurrected Jesus somewhere in our lives. I explained that there are a few instances in my own life that I can point to and say: "That was the resurrected Jesus who worked so powerfully in my life." And that they too have a point (or points) in their own lives that they can point to as a witness to the resurrection of Jesus as well. And even in their homes with their limited exposure to others, they can use that testimony as a witness to encourage people and lead them to Jesus.

The positive result in the one home was that people started sharing their testimonies with everyone else in the group, telling about how they had seen the resurrected Jesus in their own lives. It was a great time of unexpected sharing unlike I had ever experienced before with residents in this ministry. It was nice to see the residents display their faith so openly and honestly as a true witness of our Lord and Savior.

Blessings,

~ John