

The Sharing Org

Ministry to the Nursing Care Community

June 2009

Dear Prayer Partner,

Can you believe that it is July already? I am simply amazed as the time continues to whip by and I keep neglecting to do all the things that I know I will be sorry that I did not make the time to do when I am at death's door. Let me encourage us all to be vigilant and make time this month to slow down and enjoy time with our loved ones as we all know that our time in this world will prove to be too short.



The yard sale to raise money for the shoeboxes took place at the end of June, and \$530.00 was raised!. I want to thank all of you for the donations that you made to make the sale a success. I especially thank Cathy Rock for coordinating the sale and the many of you who donated items for sale and time to help make the sale a success. Thank you!

Many of the residents continue to collect their change for this year's shoebox program. It is starting to add up quite nicely. It is nice to see the residents so excited to be a part of this project and have the opportunity to reach past their four walls with the love and Gospel of God.

"Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should." Colossians 4:2-4

I was taken this month with the Apostle Paul's request for prayer to the church in Colosse. I was taken because I realized that I have not made a plea to you for prayer like this in quite sometime. I have asked you to pray for specific items of request lately, but I have not asked you to pray specifically that I might be able to *present the truth of God's love and grace as shown in Jesus Christ* clearly to the residents and that God would open doors to me that I might have the opportunity to share his gospel with the people that I come into contact with each day. I was also challenged because I realized that I do not think to regularly pray for the ministers and pastors in my own life. I wondered what would happen if I began to remember to pray like this for my pastors and fellow ministers. So while I ask you to pray specifically for me and my ministry to the residents, I encourage you to remember to pray for your own pastors as well.

Until next month, I will be praying that you will know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ in your life and that you will show the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ to the people in your life as well.

By His grace,
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

I cannot help but feel like I am the little kid who throws the basketball across the court when the buzzer sounds to announce the end of the game – *and it goes in the basket to win the game.*

“If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear.” (Mark 4:23)

I was called upon to meet with a lady who was passing. Most times when I am called on, I meet with people who are not aware of what is happening to them. However, this time it was different. This particular woman, though she could not speak, showed in her eyes that she was very aware that she was dying. And in her eyes I saw what I believed to be fear. When I approached the woman's bed she lay in a semi-fetal position and worked very hard to get her hand by me so we could hold hands. I talked to her, she made some grunting sounds in an attempt to talk, but I could not understand what she was trying to communicate. I asked her if she would like me to read her some scriptures and she indicated with a struggled nod that she would – so I did.

I had learned that the woman was not a woman of faith in her life, but now, in her final moments she called for a minister. I spoke to her about God's great love for her and how Jesus died on the cross and cleansed her from her sins. I told her that it was a matter of faith and when she passed that she would meet our Lord face to face. I told her that she could trust in the Grace of God which is found in Jesus Christ who died upon the cross for us all.

Not long after our meeting the woman passed from this life, and I am again reminded that God is using our little mission to reach into lives that otherwise would have nobody to give them this final opportunity to have peace with God. What we are doing might not mean much to the world, but I am going to bet that what we are doing meant the world to this one woman who passed.

I love the account of the thief on the cross.

Blessings,
~ John