

The Sharing Org

Ministry to the Nursing Care Community

October 2009

Dear Prayer,

Oh my, Halloween is just around the corner and you know what that means – *it means that I have to take one for the team and test the kids' candy for bad candy.* Yep, it is a scary thing but I am up to the task... Here we are beginning the 10th month of 2009, time certainly did not move this quickly when I was a kid.

I want to thank all of you who have so generously given an extra blessing of money. These economic times are difficult and I am amazed at the generous outpouring of grace that you have given to us all. It truly is moving and exciting to see God provide for us and the work that He has called us to. ~Thank you~

This month I ask that you would **please be in prayer** for a fund raiser that we are having at Stevi B's Ultimate Pizza Buffet in Chesterfield. Stevi B's has generously offered to give us 20% of a total days sales. We are praying that this one event might help to fill the hole in the budget's fiscal deficit. If you are available, please refrain from making dinner that night and join us for salad, pizza, and more pizza. For those of you who are local, I have included some special informational business cards along with this letter so that you might help us and invite your friends, family, and churches. Thank you for your prayers and help with this.



This is the month that we count all of the change that we have collected this year for Operation Christmas Child and the Shoebox program. **Please pray** that the residents are blessed as they are able to, once again, be a part of a Christian mission outside their four walls. Boxes will be collected November 16 through 23 so there is no time to waste, I will update you about the packing parties in the next correspondence.

Please be in prayer as I had to cancel 2 of my regular homes. Because of the economic times I have decided to begin training to become an Enrolled Agent through the IRS so I can do taxes well. Unfortunately my training has forced me to adjust my schedule and cancel 2 homes that no longer fit. The only fortunate part is that these two homes still have monthly visits from area churches so they are not without any spiritual services. **Please remember to pray** that the residents at these facilities will always remember how much our God loves them through Christ our Lord. Also, **please pray** that I will be able to learn my studies and earn the income that would support my family and reduced the burden to the Sharing Org expenses.

This past month I received a treat at one of the homes. When I arrived, I learned that the normal service size had more than doubled as another group home was visiting. The visitors do not have spiritual services offered where they live so they were very happy to be in attendance for ours. It was a great service with much enthusiastic singing and many, many, smiles. My vision is that we would be able to meet the needs of homes that are not serviced at all and so I ask that you would continue to **pray with me** that the Sharing Org might grow and be able to provide the love and grace of God well beyond what we are currently doing.

Thank you for your continued grace to us,
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

This month I learned that one of the guys that attended services each week died in his sleep. I met him in 1993 and he always greeted me with a hand shake, while with his other hand placed on my upper arm, he would say "John, you a good fwiend."

He was a smallish Downs-Syndrome man who was orphaned in his late 30's or so. Just before Christmas one year his mother died and shortly there after his father died too. Having no family he was put into the Adult Foster Care system where he lived out his days.

As he had no family he did not receive visits from anyone, but he did have my weekly visit too look forward to - which explains why he called me a "good fwiend". He loved singing the hymns each week and he took extra pride at turning to the right pages himself and then reading the title of the song aloud when he found it. When he recited the Lord's Prayer it was mostly unintelligible but always recited with exuberance for the God who loves him.

I had the privilege of officiating a memorial service for the residents in his home. This is what I do, I tend to the spiritual needs of people who have nobody to care for them, I remember the deceased residents who have no one else to remember them, and I weep for the relationships lost when no one else had a relationship with them to lose.

And it is my honor to be able to do so.

~ John