

The Sharing Org

Ministry to the Nursing Care Community

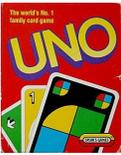
December, 2009

Dear Prayer,

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas! I trust that you survived "Black Friday".

As I end this year of ministry I have reflected on what God has in store for us in the New Year. I have been struggling between being satisfied with the present condition of things and the possibility that God is going use us to do something far beyond my imagination to impact the eternities of residents of Nursing Care facilities. Of course I pray that we will be able to touch the lives of many more people with the love and gospel of Jesus, and I ask that you **pray with me** that God would use us to open the doors for residents to be served with the blessings of God everywhere.

This past month I sent off a Letter of Intent to Seek Funding from **The Hagen Family Foundation** (http://www.hagenfamilyfoundation.org/about_thff.htm) for the 2010 Shoebox program. **Please be in prayer** about this opportunity for funding.



Speaking of the 2010 Shoebox program, I will be attempting to raise funds through some UNO tournaments. You've heard of Euchre Tournaments – those, however, do not include entire families. Your children and grandchildren can participate in an UNO tournament because they know how to play, *and are usually better than we adults*, at UNO! **Please be in prayer** for me as I work at getting these events developed and organized.

I have noticed lately a bit of a change in one of the homes that I serve. I have noticed that a couple faces that usually come in late because they are dropped off by the bus from their workshop are with us from the beginning. I noticed this and inquired about it. I was told that a few residents have no more funding to continue to go to workshop during the day. I admit that I am not privy to what all the details are but my suspicion is that the balancing of the Michigan budget means that certain social programs had to be cut. I could be mistaken in this but it is my gut-feeling that this is the case. **Please pray for** those mentally handicapped residents who are no longer allowed to go to their workshops because of funding. I am glad to have them joining us in the worship services but my heart does not feel right about them joining us because of this reason.

This past month I was approached by one of the owners of a home and informed that the services that I offer are needed in more locations. This owner has one home located next to a church that took interest in the residents and getting them involved with their community (which is great!). However, there were some misunderstandings and the situation did not turn out so well. The residents have been banned from that church and vice-versa. As I am unable to take on anymore services at this point, the group-home owner and I discussed the possibility of finding transportation for some of his homes that do not have services in order to join us at homes that currently do. **Please pray that** this gentleman is able to organize the necessary transportation needs so that more residents are able to benefit from a weekly worship service

Finally, as I close, I wanted to make a request to you to consider your end of year giving plans and whether you could make an end of year gift to the Sharing Org. Your gift will be *100% tax deductible and directly provide weekly worship services* to so many people who currently have no other options to worship God and to hear about Grace through Jesus our Lord. Thank you for your prayer and consideration in this matter.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!

With humble gratitude,
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

You can really see how serious a person is by the habits that they change in their lives to impact their futures. We hear all the time the testimonies of people who heard the gospel message of Jesus Christ and how their lives went from being self-focused to being others-focused. Testimonies like these are what a minister is in the ministry for: *changed lives*. This past month I received a sort of testimony like this.

When I arrived for the weekly worship service I was setting up and passing out the song books. As I was going along I was greeting people when I came to a woman that I had not seen in a couple of months. She informed me that from now on she would be regularly attending the worship service. You see, the reason that she was absent was because our worship service coincided with the exact time of her weekly manicure. She informed me that she was going to give up her weekly manicure appointment in order to be in worship service.

I was floored! Give up the weekly manicure? That is huge. That's like me saying that I was going to give up my morning cup of coffee or someone else giving up watching their weekly television show. No, it is bigger because I can wait to have coffee a little later and the television show can be recorded and watched later, however, the weekly manicure cannot be rescheduled because it only happens once a week for this home. What else is there when you are in a nursing care facility – breakfast, manicure, hair appointment, lunch, bingo, and dinner. (All right, so maybe I am being a little dramatic, but truly the ladies do so look forward to getting their hair and nails done every week!)

As I considered this woman's sacrifice to take part in our weekly worship service I was very powerfully reminded of the reason that I sacrifice to be there for them each and every week. Her sacrifice reminded me why the call to the ministry is so great.

~ John