

The Sharing Org

Ministry to the Nursing Care Community

January 29, 2010

Dear Partner,

Blessings to you in the name of our Lord. Thank you for standing with us for yet another month. Each month more and more people become aware of the spiritual need in the nursing care facilities, each month more and more people learn just how abundant their own neighborhoods are with the nursing care facilities. My vision for the future is that all Christians would recognize the real need and then respond in a Haiti-style manner as one community despite denominational commitments or personal biases. I envision a day when all able-bodied Christians give the same spiritual consideration to the mentally ill and the elderly in our communities as they do a well-publicized disaster or other need. I see this day on the horizon, and each partnership to this ministry brings us closer to that day. Thank you for being part of my dream.

In January we hosted an Uno & Pizza Tournament joint fund-raiser with the Juarez Mission Team. Thanks to all of you who joined us for an evening of fellowship, pizza, and Uno. The final tally was \$224.04 which we are happy to split with the Juarez Mission Team. Congratulations to Jacob who was the grand-prize winner of the Uno Tournament and also to Mitch who was the *biggest loser*. Both dominated their respective games and walked away as victors in their own rights.

Thanks to all of you who donated to my wife's birthday wish on Facebook. Megan asked that people would make donations to The Sharing Org for her birthday on January 25th, and quite a few of you responded with gifts. Thank you all, and thank you, Megan, for such a creative way of supporting the ministry.

I praise God this month as I have been able to once again begin serving at one of the homes that my schedule had forced me to abandon several months ago. When I started my training for the tax season, I had to give up some services. Because building relationships with the residents is the *core value* of my work, I was convicted about this and was able to figure out a way to resume worship services with a group of residents. I cannot begin to tell you how happy I am about this, and I invite you to echo my joy with a hearty "Amen!"

If you have not visited our website in a while, I invite you to go there and check things out. We've added a link called "BLOG/PODCAST" and also a link to RESOURCES. The Blog will cover a variety of topics from Ministry Moments to personal reflections to this monthly Prayer Letter to videos that I create about the ministry. Please check it out and refer your friends, family, and pastors to it so that they can learn about the ministry. Under the Resources link you will find a map of Macomb county showing the location of 200 AFC and Nursing Homes in the Sharing Org service area. Check it out, and I bet you a Shoebox that you will be surprised to learn just how many homes there are in this small area. (*Please let me know if I owe a Shoebox ☺*)

Blessings,
John



Ministry Moments

Hi there,

This month I have been wrestling with trying to develop a creed of service for the ministry. I have the basics of what I want said, but I am struggling with the flow of the words, the melodic meter, and the feel of the actual recitation experience. So, I decided that I should ask you (the partners) to help.

Here is what I have so far:

TSO Creed of Service:

*We trust in the Grace of God, through the gift of Jesus Christ.
We always value people, because Jesus values them.
We always value relationships, because Jesus values them.
We look to Jesus and trust in him to work God's grace in his own time.*

I am not necessarily married to my format or words per se, but I am married to the ideas of:

1. We trust in God through Jesus Christ
2. We value people
3. We value relationships
4. We value God's sovereign timing in all we do

The idea behind the creed is to make it *sticky* in the minds of people with a sort of verbal jingle by speaking to their hearts. The Apostles' Creed speaks of what "We Believe" but I am trying to develop a creed that speaks of "What We Do" as a result of what we believe.

My plan is to develop this for video on the blog and YouTube in order to promote the vision to a larger audience and as inexpensively as possible.

If you have some suggestions, ideas, edits, or any constructive critiques, please e-mail me or give me a call so that we can get together on this.

With my greatest appreciation,
~John

The Sharing Org
PO Box 73
Armada, MI 48005
586-949-6885

jrock@thesharing.org
www.thesharing.org