

The Sharing Org

Ministry to the Adult Foster Care Community

July 28, 2010

Ministry Moment(s)...

I have been asked to briefly describe a ministry day for me so here it is...

Monday Morning; 9am to 9:45am – Service #1

I walk in a little early and the residents are running late with breakfast. I chit chat a little and get set up. There is a new person who is unsure about this “reverend” who has come to do church. It is pretty customary for me to get this reaction from new people, and I don’t mind because I act the same way when someone comes to me claiming to be a person of God.

Monday Morning; 10am to 10:45am – Service #2 (a different facility across town)

I walk in and get set up, saying “hello” to the few people who are there. After a few minutes I realize that the regulars are no where to be found and the staff is kind of disinterested in me. That is when I realize that this is the third Monday of the month and today I am supposed to be at location #3 (same campus; different building) instead of location #2 – oops. I rush around like a mad man so that I can make it to location #3 without making the people who are waiting for me wait too much longer. (I provide services at three locations on this same campus on a rotating basis.)

Monday Noon; 11:30am to 1:00pm - Lunch

I head home, drink a cup of coffee, eat a bite, and do some paperwork and banking.

Monday Afternoon; 1:30pm – Service #3

I enter the third facility extremely tired from lunch – I fully understand the concept of the siesta. The residents also wish that they could have a nap but join me all the same for our weekly worship service.

Monday Afternoon; 2:30pm – Service #4

The service at this 4th facility requires that I go to the residents’ rooms as they are finishing their afternoon siestas and invite them to join me in the common room, and I am shuffling my feet as some other residents are just getting home from workshops. This service has to be the most precisely timed because I have the furthest to drive to get to the 3:30pm service.

Monday Afternoon; 3:30pm – Service #5

This is the last service of the day. The residents are antsy because supper is right after the 4pm smoking break. I have some regulars who are always with me but then there are some residents who have been waiting for that smoke and have a tough time concentrating. I am thankful for the people who regularly worship with me.

Monday Afternoon; 4:30pm – End of Day

On the way home I pray:

1. That the residents were able to worship
2. That the Holy Spirit was able to use my words to encourage the residents by the grace of God
3. That the residents were able to recognize the love of Jesus through the message of grace to them.
4. Lastly, I pray that I am not wasting the time allotted me with a frivolous effort – one of my constant internal fears.

This is my Monday. It is my fullest and busiest day of services. The rest of the week is not this packed or busy. I also do services on Thursdays but I only do two services in the morning before using the afternoon to prepare for the following week. In all I serve 9 facilities, conducting 7 services total per week. And every week I pray that my efforts glorify God and encourage the residents whom I serve.

Prayer...

Dear Prayer Partner,

I pray that you are well and experiencing the grace of God anew each day. Thank you if you are among those who are able to send donations to help fund the shoebox program this year. Please continue to pray that the grant request is approved so that all the homes will be able to participate in this year's program.

Also, please pray for me as I am experiencing another Multiple Sclerosis flair-up. I am blessed that it is not as bad as some of them have been in the past, but still I pray it passes on and lets me feel somewhat normal again.

I would like to offer a great big "PRAISE THE LORD" as God has provided for my family in astounding ways this past month or two. No, we are not in a position that allows us to not pray for our "daily bread," but God has provided in some very significant ways in our lives – thanks to all of you for continuing to pray with us for God's blessings and provisions for our family.

Until next month,
John