

The Sharing Org

Ministry to the Adult Foster Care Community

November 1, 2010

Ministry Moment(s)...

Frank is new to our services. In fact, at the time of this writing he has attended twice. He is new to the AFC home, but I suspect that his story is pretty much the boiler plate: Man grows elderly with all of his mental faculties and with no one to care for him so he is forced to move into an assisted care home. His eyelids are puffy and drooping away from his eyeballs from the weight of his years. Tired is the story written on his face. He seems content to live out his days without fight.

It was clear to see that Frank was suspicious of me - *likely because of the collar that I wear and he is protestant*. When I invited him to join us in worship he responded with the standard question: "What church are you with?" I replied with the ease of someone who has recited this line all too often: "The same one Jesus was." He visibly relaxed when he realized that Jesus was part of 'his' church so joining us for worship would not be wrong for him.

During the first service I could tell that Frank was a man who was accustomed to going to church on a regular basis. When we sang the songs he knew them in a way that only a choir member would. He sat attentively during the homily and greeted me with a grateful handshake. His appreciation was evident in the squeeze of his hand and the look in his tired eyes.

When I greeted him before the next week's service, I suspect that he did not remember me but apparently he recognized the collar and started to put two and two together because he joined us without grilling me as to what church I was with. After the service he held onto my hand to gain my attention and said to me, "Thank you, I miss going to church on Sundays."

It in these short and unexpected moments that I am again clearly reminded why I have been called to this mission field.

Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners.... (Hebrews 13:3a NIV)

~John

Prayer...

Dear Prayer Partner,

October completed the shoebox filling parties. I was privileged to assist 88 residents as they packed a shoebox, to pray with them over each shoebox (and for the children who will receive them for Christmas), and connect on a deeper level than just our standard worship service. Thanks to you for providing the financial ability for us to participate with Operation Christmas Child this year and praying for me and the residents as we filled the gift boxes for the children. Please continue to pray with us as the boxes will be sent on their long journeys overseas in mid-November.

For months now you have been reading about how we have been working with Jessica to create a new brochure and a plan to get out the word to churches about the mission of the Sharing Org and how they can be a part of it. We will begin to share the presentation that we have created with area churches beginning this next month. Please pray that...

1. God will open the doors to churches for us to present at
2. I am able to properly communicate the mission needs and opportunities to churches
3. You would be able to ask your own church leadership & mission board to schedule a presentation with me. (I'll bring snack and sodas because I am cool like that!)

This presentation to the churches is important because I have reached the limit of what I can personally do as far as weekly services in local group homes. But with the help of the local church, we will be able to reach into far more AFC homes and share the love of God through Jesus with many more people. Thank you for praying with us about this.

On a more personal note, please pray for my family's financial situation. We're not starving or anything like that, but this past month my wife interviewed for a position that we were thinking God wanted her to have. As it turns out, she was not given the position, so we are once again confirmed in the present circumstances that we are in. However, in order to make the money work in the ministry, we took a 35% pay reduction (at the beginning of the year) which worked well (at the beginning of the year) but we are now feeling a tight pinch on the family budget, and the ministry went into the red after August. No, we're not concerned for our home or our family's well-being at this point, and, yes, we have seen awesome blessings from God this year, but still, a lot of prayer never hurts.

Well, November has again come upon us. Please enjoy your Thanksgiving time with your friends and family and be sure to eat a piece of dark meat for me.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John R. Rock". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John