

The Sharing Org

Ministry to the Adult Foster Care Community

December 1, 2010

Ministry Moment(s)...

There is always that somebody who becomes special to you even though you did not notice it. Herb was one of those people.

Herb was a man of self-professed faith. I met him about 5 years ago when he moved into one of the homes that I serve. Herb immediately began inviting his family members to join us for church and quite frequently they would. I got to know his family slowly, but as time progressed I started visiting his family if they were hospitalized. Then, one of his children became ill and came to live at the same facility as Herb. I began serving two generations of the same family which was not at all what I expected when I started this ministry. Eventually Herb's offspring moved to another facility because as Herb said "I love that child but he drives me nuts at times. We do much better living apart." (*Heh, heh, I think I have heard that from my own mother.*)

After a few months Herb's son died and I was called upon to officiate the funeral services and deliver the flowers to Herb as he was not well enough to attend the funeral. He wept with deep anguish over the loss of His child. For many of the months that followed, he would tell me (as if I did not know) how his son had passed and was "with God" and each time I would console him by reassuring him that our Lord is worthy of our trust.

Just this week I talked to Herb at our weekly service and he informed me about his church membership and affiliation. He told me that he played the organ at his church, "the organ with foot pedals." In my mind's eye I could remember (*or am I imagining it?*) the organist from the church when I was a little kid playing her organ "with the foot pedals" just left of center of the pulpit. There was a bit of nostalgia in the report. A couple days later I received a phone call. Would I officiate Herb's funeral? Herb had passed away suddenly a day after I had just spoke with him.

Every now and then someone becomes special to you without your notice. And when you realize that it has happened, it is a bittersweet tear indeed.

~John

Prayer...

Dear Prayer Partner,

Merry Christmas!!! The Advent Season has begun as we prepare our hearts and minds to truly receive the Christ Child this Christmas morning. Join me in being mindful of the celebration as we get all of the details of life together for our family get-togethers this season.

Please notice the Christmas picture of our family in the envelope. Please pray for us every time you see it as we take the love of Jesus to the residents that we serve in the AFC Homes. Your prayer and

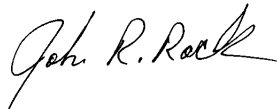
consideration is what makes our work possible and successful. This picture has also been posted on the website so others might see that we've had an addition to the family since the 2007 photo. ;-)

As some of you know, our family worships at another church as of a couple of months ago. The transition has been a great blessing as we are sure that we are where God would have us be and we have (in addition) been fellowshiping with people like we had not at our previous church - That's been very nice. This past week one of the pastors from our new church (VOX Church – *Google it*) assisted me with my afternoon services to three of the AFC homes. It is the first time that a pastor has been interested enough in what I do to actually check it out (this was a direct answer to one of Megan's prayers as we considered finding a new church home). He reported that while he appreciated what I had told him about the ministry, his experience with the residents themselves has made a lasting impression on him. It was good to have him – thanks, Pastor Matt.

In December I have a meeting with the pastor from the Memphis Free Methodist Church (Pastor Steve). We will be talking about that church's desire to be more involved with ministering to the residents of AFC homes in their community. Please pray that I would be able to encourage Pastor Steve and the people at Memphis Free Methodist to move forward with the call of God on their hearts to share the love of Jesus in a way that we, alone, cannot.

Thank you for the many ways that you have supported my family and the residents whom I serve this past year. I cannot express how much you mean to us all and how great your monthly sacrifice is to us and for the name of Jesus. Thank you.

Merry Christmas,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John R. Rock". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name "John".

John

PS. Please pray for my health as I have begun a Vitamin D regimen. For too many years I have lived with chronic leg pain. I thought that it was just the MS but it seems that I have noticed considerable relief from the extra D. Apparently I am Vitamin D deficient - I will let you know later how it goes, Thx.