

The Sharing Org

Ministry to the Adult Foster Care Community

January 1, 2011

Ministry Moment(s)...

“ahhhugh, ahuhhhg” The other guy looks to the first guy and asks “What’s the matter with you?” The first guy says, “It’s either this sermon or indigestion - I hope it’s indigestion.” “Why?” inquires the second guy. “Because indigestion will get better.” (Adapted from the Muppet Show) Yes, yes, friends, it is as if “Statler and Waldorf” (the two old farts from the Muppet Show) actually exist - and I do believe they exist in one of my homes. I have two guys who are a hoot. Between every song, with every breath I take, and every time that I think they are hearing the message of the grace of God, they have a witty retort. And I must say I am enjoying it immensely.

There is a new gentleman in one of the homes. Let’s call him Statler. I don’t think he is used to coming to church though he comes faithfully each week. He seems to like me and despite his smart-alecky remarks he is hearing how much God adores him. He’s been quite chummy with another guy (I call him Waldorf) and the two of them are quite the team. It is nice to see the relationship between the two men, because it is rare that men in the homes actually make friends. They’re not like the ladies who meld into friendships so easily. But the men? Men seem too aloof and independent to form any real friendships. So, I am enjoying all of the jokes and comments that Statler can throw my way because it means that he is actually listening to the message of Grace and forming a real friendship with one of his housemates. I actually look forward to the next joke because I really loved those two Muppets.

Waldorf says to Statler, “I thought that sermon was great! I don’t care what you say.” Statler replies, “I thought it was dumb!” Waldorf ponders for a second and responds, “Maybe you’re right.” And both proceed to laugh hysterically as though I were not there. (Again, adapted from the Muppet Show) ;-)

~John

Prayer...

Dear Prayer Partner,

I hope your Christmas and New Year went well. Ours was very busy but it was very nice to see all our friends and family during the holiday season.

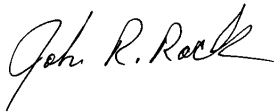
During December I was asked to bring a choir to the Christmas party at one of the homes. What I got? A couple of homeschool families (through my wife’s network) who came and played piano, violin, and flute, along with singing and helping with Christmas carols. It was a very blessed time, and I was so very thankful to the families that joined in. We are planning more times of blessing for residents as the families have expressed an interest in going to more homes and playing more music. Please pray that this plan would come to pass as there are certainly enough people in the homes who would be blessed and enjoy it.

Last month I asked you to pray about the possibility of a production company creating a documentary about the work that we do in the homes. The process is going slower than I had first hoped. Even though it was the production company that contacted me, I still have to write the application and try to describe how our ministry is interesting enough for a television audience and how easy it is for everyone to visit the AFC homes. Please continue to pray as I hope to have the final application written and sent in the next week.

Also, I mentioned that I began a Vitamin D regimen recently. This has been a great blessing to me and my family. For 3.5 years I have struggled with chronic leg pain. I thought it was just the MS, so I never sought any form of pain relief (Advil or bourbon notwithstanding). Megan just happened to read something about Vitamin D and how it can be associated with leg pain. After doing some research we discovered that I was likely D deficient, and so at the end of November I began taking a daily dose of D and within about 3 days, the leg pain subsided. It was absolutely amazing how significant the change was. While all my pain is not completely gone, because I still have aching muscle fatigue and weakness from the MS, I don't wake in the morning with the burning leg pain that I've known these last few years. This is an answer to prayer, especially for my wife who used to massage my legs a couple times a day in order to work the pain and kinks out and keep me moving, and one that is going down in the history books of the Rock clan. I look forward to doing some more walking with the kids this summer. Thank you for all of your prayers for my health.

Well, as 2011 rolls into motion, I pray that you will know the love of God in a very real and tangible way and that you will be forever changed into the likeness of Christ our Lord. Thank you for all that you mean to me, my family, and the residents we serve.

Happy New Year,

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

John