

The Sharing Org

Ministry to the Adult Foster Care Community

February 1, 2011

Ministry Moment(s)...

“So what church are you with?” she asked. “The same one that Jesus is.” I replied with my well-rehearsed standard answer to avoid discussions of denominational issues. “No, that’s not what I mean. Who pays for this, you coming every week?” I then informed her that it was through the generous gifts from people across many denominational faiths that I am able to come to her each week. “Do you mean to tell me that just regular old people make your coming possible?” She asked while the light was slowing starting to brighten and understanding came to her. “Why would they do that?”

I almost jokingly told her “For the tax deduction” but quickly checked myself. What I said was “Because the people who send me to you want you to know how desperately God loves you.” She had no more questions for me but it was interesting to watch her as she realized that people are actually giving their hard-earned livelihood so that she can go to church.

It is hard to ever know what goes on in the mind of a person. I usually have a grand imagination that contains wild stories worthy of novels when I think about them. Our pastor said something that sort of jolted me this last month. He said that people will often resist telling their friends and family about the good news (gospel) of Jesus Christ for the fear of this or for the fear that, but that *God has already gone before us* and began the work that only He can do long before we thought of going. It sort of jolted me, because it had been a long time since I thought about God going before me to prepare the hearts and the minds of the people to receive the message of His love for them. It reminds me that I don’t need to know what is going on in the mind of a person, I need only have faith that He is already there working it out.

It is comforting to know that I am not alone in this ministry. All too often I get to a home and feel like this is the “John Show” or something, but then I look at the checks (\$5.00 from this person, \$200.00 from that person, \$100.00 from a local church) and I am reminded that I go with the full support of about 20 partners each week - people who believe that God has gone to the residents in the AFC homes well before I get there.

For those of you who have partnered with us, I want you to know just how much I appreciate your support. I know that I am not the best at saying “thank-you” or reminding you of the importance of our mission –for that I am sorry. But I sincerely hope that you somehow know how much I appreciate your personal sacrifice. God is using your monthly generosity to provide for my family and send me to the residents in the AFC homes who really have no other hope of hearing about Jesus’ sacrificial death for them. It is because of you that I am able to get there each week and that it is not just God who cares for them but that there are many other people just like you who care for them too. I pray that in your heart-of-hearts you understand just how important you are to this ministry and how mightily God is using you.

I also met with a man this week for a counseling session, and he asked me if I thought that God had caused our paths to cross because he really needed to hear what I said to him. I told him that I indeed

believe that God caused our paths to cross. And then I thanked the man for reminding me how abundantly God is working in the lives of people and through me.

I am thankful to God that your path has crossed through mine.

~John

Prayer...

Dear Prayer Partner

Hello, welcome to the second month of 2011!


We were planning an evening of corporate worship for several of the AFC homes, however, the logistics of transporting the residents to a single location was too cost prohibitive. I'm not giving up on the idea; I just need another idea about how to do it. Please pray that I will be able to figure it out so that the residents will be able to meet together under one roof for a special time fellowship and worship.

This last month I was able to go to a home to play cards with a group of 7 guys. They were very appreciative as they were able to win Bibles, coffee cups, and various edibles. For less than \$20.00 and 2 hours of my time, I was able to share some fun with these guys and build real relationship with them. Please pray that churches would *hear* how easy and inexpensive that it is to do the same sort of thing with residents in their own neighborhoods. I am convinced that when the churches get on board that many people who are presently overlooked today will then be significantly cared for.

At this point I am not sure where we stand with the PBS documentary. I sent the application and have heard nothing. I will be contacting someone in February if I have still heard nothing so please pray that things have been received well by them.

Finally, please pray for me as one of the things that I need to do this year is increase the number of churches that will financially support our work each month and let us help them to get involved in their own neighborhood's AFC home(s). Often we (universal we) are asked what it is that we might attempt to do if we knew that we would not fail. This question has been posited to me from a different angle – *What would I do even if I knew that I would not succeed?* Taking the question from this point of view forces me to wonder what mountain I would climb even if I knew that I would never reach the summit. As I continue to think about this I realize that trying to get every church in the United States to care and to act for the sake of the AFC residents is one of those things that will likely never happen in my lifetime – but it is worth aspiring to all the same. As a friend of mine has pointed out, you really don't want to reach the summit because that means the movie is over, so just enjoy the journey while you are there. (*Thanks for reminding me, Roy.*)

Happy Valentine's Day,



John