

The Sharing Org

Ministry to the Adult Foster Care Community

May 1, 2011

MINISTRY MOMENT

“I was told by my mother that all religious claims were elaborate hoaxes contrived to control the masses.” I was told this as I was leaving after the Easter service. Sounds a bit like Karl Marx doesn’t it?

Part of my Easter message was about how we can be at all assured of the validity of the claim that Jesus actually came back to life on the third day. In the message I pointed out how we all struggle with the question of believing this claim because it defies probability and leans precariously close to impossibility. I pointed out how if we did not question the reality of the claim then we were simply not thinking about it and we would likely be easy marks to buy swampland for a *fair price* in the desert. If, I pointed out, the claim was true then there is no reason we should fear asking the question – besides God isn’t afraid of the question either.

Engaged, I stopped and asked him. “So what do you think?”

“I don’t know.”

“You know that I cannot mix anything up in a test-tube to prove it to you - It is a matter of faith. What is your heart telling you?”

“I’m not sure.”

“Well, you pray about it over the next week and we’ll talk more when I come again. In the meantime I will be praying that God will give you some clarity, and I want you to be asking God to do the same. Will you do that?”

“Yeah.”

“Alright, see you next week.”

When I climbed into my car to go home, I was again made aware of the purpose of providing weekly worship services to the residents who live in care facilities. I remembered the call that God placed on my life to take His message of grace through Jesus to the many residents who could not get out of their homes to attend a local church. I was affirmed in the mandate of this mission and so very thankful for the handful of people that have partnered with The Sharing Org ministries to ensure that the grace and gospel of Jesus Christ is provided in the homes that I serve every week.

While I drove home, I shut off the radio and took the drive-time to pray that God would reveal His resurrected self to the man's eyes of faith and dispel the whole notion of "hoax" for him once and for all. Now, I can't wait to see Him actually do it.

~John

PRAYER

In mid-April, VOX Church sent a service team to one of the homes that we serve. It was part of VOX's Second Saturday program, and they enjoyed a time of music and worship with the residents. The team was delighted to see a few of the residents participate in the music with their own instruments and talent. After the time of worship the team went outside and began to rake up and clean the grounds. Many of the residents joined them in the clean-up, and the team got to converse with them while everyone worked. It was a treat for both the residents and the VOX service team.

Last month I asked for general prayer for me and my family that God might knock us out of our rut. You can stop praying now – *thanks*. Although I won't elaborate how God has answered this prayer, rest assured that He has answered like He does when you pray for patience. 😊

This month, please pray for Mr. Elliot who struggles with his faith. He tells me that he is having a difficult time believing that Jesus could forgive him of his many past sins. The issue here (it seems to me) is that Mr. Elliot struggles with Schizophrenia so there is much more at play than just the regular faith struggle. He is bombarded with everything that he sees on the television, hears on the radio, reads in the Jehovah's Witnesses magazines, *and experiences with the tweaking of his meds*. I seem to catch glimpses of clarity in his countenance but these moments are fleeting and most of the time he seems to just be far off in another world. Please pray for him as he desires to trust in Jesus but cannot seem to get to a point where he can surrender all of his fears and concerns.

Thank you again for partnering with us for another month. I cannot express how important you are to the work that we do and how much your partnership means to me personally. I pray God's best for you and yours.

Blessings,
John

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John R. Rock". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J".