

The Sharing Org

Ministry to the Adult Foster Care Community

February 2012

Ministry Moment:

"Sometimes change stinks, especially when the changes are life-altering and permanent." I said that last month and now I am saying it again.

The person of faith whom I wrote about last month and whom I was looking forward to encouraging passed away this month. Since this person has passed and since HIPPA does not apply post-mortem I'm going to allow myself some liberty and not really care if you can guess who it is that I am writing of...

I was only able to see him twice and talk with him once. I know that God is control – *life and death prove that out* – but really, I wanted to spend some time with this man of God - For he was a minister some 30-40 years and he did not imagine that his life would end with a debilitating illness. I was looking forward to reminding him that the death of Jesus on the cross reminds us of God's unfailing love for each of us. I wanted to ask him about how he saw God move in his life through the dark situations of his own church congregant's lives. I wanted to talk shop and get his perspective of how I could improve the worship for the people who lived in the home day after day. I wanted to know if I was being respectful to the plights of people while talking about the grace and mercy of Jesus - *or am I missing the point somehow?* As I write this, I am realizing that I wanted to get from him just as much as I had hoped to give to him. But now that opportunity has changed forever.

In the same vain though, now that I think of it, I am happy that he has passed because now he is not in the anguish of his illness or this cruel world but rather he is in the hands of the loving savior who gave his life upon the cross for him. This month he has realized the value of the many years of what can often be a long and tedious faith. This month he has entered life – and indeed he has true life. I guess the more I consider it, some change is actually kind of wonderful...

~John

Prayer Letter:

Hi there... Every month when I plan to send this monthly prayer letter to you I am overwhelmed with a sense of gratefulness. I do not have words that can express to you my real appreciation for your prayers, your many kind words of encouragement or notes with meaningful scripture verses, and your financial support. I always feel like I fail in communicating this to you but then I am reminded to trust that the Holy Spirit of God can communicate to you what I am unable to do as a mere mortal. I know it is good to "hear it" so I try – I just ask for your indulgence as I know that I lack much in this task. That said: Thank you again for joining us in this mission that God has tasked us with. I really could not do it without you – *nor do I think that I would I want to.*

Last month I asked you to pray for me as I was going to begin a time of corporate prayer with the residents. It turned out much like I expected – but it also had some unexpected moments as well. You may know that my grandmother joins me on Monday mornings for the first two services - She was a great blessing during this prayer time as she brought a scripture to share as part of the service, and she joined in the corporate time of prayer demonstrating to many people who had never done this before how to jump in with their own prayers. She was a great blessing to me and us all and I was thrilled (per usual) to have this partner on this day. I was surprised by who prayed out-loud, and who did not. However, I was not surprised by some of the things that were prayed by some of the more vocal residents who are not in their right minds - This made me cringe and smile all at the same time. I really look forward to doing this again in February. Thanks for your prayers.

By this time you should have already received your 2011 tax-statement from me - If you have not please contact me and I will send you another statement. With this letter I have included an end of year report for the 2011 Shoebox program. Thanks to all of you who donated to that effort – please continue to pray that the children, the families, and the communities that received these boxes will be greatly blessed by the Gospel of God. Also, I have included a 2011 P&L Statement so that you might see how the finances that you so faithfully provide were used last year. Please look through this end-of-year report and continue to pray that God would not just provide more finances but continue to show me and my board how best to manage the funds that He has provided.

Thank you again for the many ways that the love and grace of God is displayed to us through you. Though I might lack the appropriate words, please know that I really am grateful to you.

By His Grace,



John



Shoebboxes!!!

Thank you for helping us to fill shoeboxes in 2011. Your contribution has helped 93 residents fill 30 shoebox gifts. And your donation did not stop there. Once the gifts were packed by our residents they were then air freighted to India where children in destitute communities received them in time for Christmas. Not only were they given these awesome gifts, but amongst all the clothes, hygiene items, candy, and toys, each child received a gospel booklet in their own language telling them the good news of Jesus Christ! Your donation has not just improved many lives but has impacted those lives throughout all of eternity.

Here is a breakdown of how the money worked this year...

There were not enough donations to be able to include all the items that I had originally planned to send this year, so I decided to leave the wrist watches out. The watches were more expensive than they had been in previous years, and there was simply not enough money to cover that cost. *(I assume all responsibility for not collecting the budgeted amount for this program, due to inadequate fundraising. I do have new plans for 2012 so I hope we will not run into this problem again.)*

However, despite the financial set-back, it was an excellent year as some new folks came out for the shoebox packing parties for the first time, and again the residents were blessed by being able to share their faith in Jesus outside of their four walls in this way.

Thank you so very much for helping this blessing be a reality to an uncountable number of lives. None of us will really know the blessing that it is this side of glory, but I do know that your kindness has touched at least 127 people.

Blessing to you and yours in 2012!

2011 Shoebox Report	
INCOME:	
\$ 89.47	GoodSearch.com
\$ 49.00	Residents
\$ 150.00	Care Facilities
\$ 739.00	Monthly Supporters
<u>\$ 214.00</u>	General Supporters
\$ 1,241.47	TOTAL GIFTS
EXPENSES:	
\$ 891.05	Items
\$ 210.00	Shipping
<u>\$ 226.30</u>	Mileage
\$ 1,327.35	TOTAL EXPENSES
NET: (\$85.88)	