

The Sharing Org

Ministry to the Adult Foster Care Community

APRIL 2012

Ministry Moment:

I took my 8-year-old to gymnastics this week - she was finishing up her session with the big "Ta-Dahhh!" and receiving her certificate of achievement. While my daughter and the other little girls were all taking their turns finishing with their big "Ta-Dahhhh!"s, there was a *little* little girl of about 3 years of age running in circles and throwing her arms high in the air and singing "Ta-Dahhh!"

I noticed this little girl first for her enthusiasm for her sport of running in circles, but then I noticed that she was a Down Syndrome child... Immediately I felt my eyes well with tears, and I enjoyed her just a little bit more.

She made me think of the people whom I have had the privilege to serve over these last many years with the love and grace of Jesus Christ. She made me think about how each person whom I serve was a child once: Full of hopes, dreams, and fears. She made me think that the people that I serve might vary in their age and illnesses, but all of them want to know that God still loves them – *just as, and right where, they are.*

Statistics inform us that it is likely that 2 of us (*5% nationally*) who are reading this Ministry Moment will get Alzheimer's disease. We also learn from statistics that some 70% of us will live past 80 years of age, and if you are a woman your chances are better than a man's that you will be in a nursing home someday.

Then I thought about how all of us are just like these residents whom I serve. Someday, most of us will become elderly, and then we will need someone to remind us that we are not forgotten and that we too are loved. In fact, I think we are much like the little girl with Down Syndrome - we all want to end our lives with a big "Ta-Dahhhh!" while our God looks on in approval.

~John

Prayer Letter:

Dear Prayer Partner,

Hi there, welcome to April! I pray your Easter plans are coming along well – *as well as your taxes*. ☺

Thank you for praying with and for us each month. You know as well as I do how hectic life can get, and mine is no different. This week I was running behind with message preparation, and so I threw together a sermonette on prayer the night before my service. To my delight, person after person thanked me for the words of direction and comfort as they are seeking God in prayer - at least now I know that they are struggling with praying. I attribute these times of special blessing in the ministry to the fact that I am not alone, as you are praying for me and the residents each week. Thank you!

So this month, please continue to be in prayer for the activities director at one of the homes. She is healing but still weak.

Many of you have made suggestions for how you can help raise funds for the shoebox project this year. Thank you for thinking and praying about how you can help. If you have not thought about it, you might be able to host a pancake breakfast or spaghetti dinner at your church for a donation in order to raise the funds – *just a thought*. Anyway, please continue to tell me your ideas.

My time away at the Lifelink Elder's Conference in March was more than beneficial. I was hoping for direction about the ministry, but instead it seems that God schooled me in how to be a better husband, father, and family member. While it is not what I was hoping for, it was good to hear from God and have the opportunity to adjust my actions for His purposes in my life. I guess when all is said and done, as my family life improves, my ability to minister will improve, too, right?

Oh yeah, almost forgot. I told you that I would say more about **Anchor Bay Roasts**. Well here's the skinny - I've started a small coffee roasting business. It happened when my coffee-loving pastor came over for dinner, and I roasted green coffee beans before his eyes and brewed him a fresh cup. Because of that, he declared that I was his new coffee provider, and he asked me to roast fresh coffee for the church each week. He suggested that it might be a way of helping to support the ministry. So, I got legal and hung a shingle – www.anchorbayroasts.com. If you want me to come and roast fresh coffee at your group function for a donation to this year's shoebox program, please let me know and we'll get it set up.

Until next month...

Blessings,



John