

The Sharing Org

Ministry to the Adult Foster Care Community

MAY 2012

Ministry Moment:

We were supposed to be doing a service at one of the facilities in February 2004 but instead of doing the service we were at the hospital having our firstborn. Our partners in the ministry were doing the service at 9:30 a.m., and all prayers were for the new child that was coming into the world. In fact, that very hour our oldest child was born. The following week we took our newborn baby into the nursing home and let the residents hold her and meet her - They were thrilled! Some hadn't held a baby in decades.

Sela has grown up in the various homes – the residents love her and she loves them. Being there is as natural for her as breathing, and to this day she will often go with me on Monday mornings to be a part of the services. At one of the locations I will often lose her, but I don't panic because I know that she is down in Miss Donna's room visiting. Sela and Miss Donna have a special relationship; they are friends and they both enjoy one another. Occasionally Miss Donna would give her gifts, and I would tell Miss Donna that she should not spoil the child – She would tell me that it is her prerogative and to butt out. (Alright, the butt-out part is all my interpretation – Miss Donna is too polite to actually say it.)

Earlier this month Sela asked me to take her to see Miss Donna. Sela knew she had not been well and she wanted to visit with her. When we got there we were informed that Miss Donna had passed away about 30 minutes before we arrived... In Sela's life many residents that she knew have passed, even her Great-grandma McMacken had passed, but this was something altogether different for her - Her *friend* had passed, and she is finally at that age when she felt the very real sting of the lost relationship. Sela and I went out to lunch where she shed many tears and we were able to talk about her feelings and thoughts.

As I processed and prayed about this, I was reminded that I want to build real relationships with the residents so that it really is a loss to me when the people I serve leave this world. When I started in this ministry, I really only thought about myself and never actually thought about the next generation.

Sela is home-schooled, and on Monday mornings our home-school group gets a gymnasium for all the kids to have sports class. Sela asked if she could skip sports class to go to services with me on Mondays because she wants to make a new friend... I think I might have found my successor.

~John

Prayer Letter:

Dear Prayer Partner,

Hi there, Welcome to May! I trust you're enjoying the tulips because I know that we are. The flowers remind me of God's creation, redemption, and regeneration. Aww heck, I just love Spring – don't you?

This month I received a great blessing. I received in the mail a \$20.00 bill from a group of young siblings who donated a portion of their allowance to help raise money for the shoebox program this year. I am always encouraged by the generosity of children to help other people, and children do so love shoeboxes. Thanks to Charis, Tobin, Arden, Kenna, Lucan, and Zaden for helping us toward our goal of 100 shoeboxes!

Speaking of the shoebox program, please pray for me as I need to get the details of the Rocket Pocket shoeboxes fundraiser together. It has been brought to my attention that I need someone to come along and take over this project for me so if you have any interest in spearheading a fund-raiser and would like to talk about what may be involved please contact me and we will talk. Thanks.

Also this week I received a \$20 donation in honor of Terry's retirement! Yeah!!! And the best part is that Terry is now going to services with me! She is a blessing to me and the residents. Thank you, Terry, and Happy Retirement!

Please pray for me this month as I have been invited by the Mt. Clemens Rotary Club to speak to them about Anchor Bay Roasts and the Sharing Org. This is a bit of a big deal for me as I get to share with some 80 businesses in the Mt. Clemens area about The Sharing Org, our shoebox program, and the coffee that I roast to raise the funds. I admit that I don't have any leading from God yet about how exactly to present the idea that we are looking for grants and sponsorships for the shoebox program, so I am getting a little nervous about it. I still have until the end of the month to be prepared, but I already feel like I am behind the eight-ball on this.

Well, that about does it for this month. Please be sure to pray for all the residents who will hear the good news that God indeed loves them through Christ our Lord and that no matter what - They are never alone.

By His grace,



John

PS: Please check the amount that I have for your 2011 donations against your own records for accuracy.