

# The Sharing Org

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## Ministry to the Adult Foster Care Community

July 2012

### Ministry Moment:

It's been kind of fun lately as I think that some of the residents I serve are starting to understand that the salvation of our souls is about what Jesus has done and not about what we have done. It's about what His blood does and not about what we do. It's about God sending Jesus to die on the Cross long before we ever had a chance to think that such a plan could work. *"While we were still in our hopelessness, and when the time was right, Christ died for the ungodly."* (Romans 5:6, JRV) I kind of repeat myself with words that attempt to convey this message, but too often I think my words are drowned out by too many years of being taught that God is happy with us because *"we don't drink or chew or date girls that do."*

This past week I was talking to the residents about not allowing our national pride as Americans to pass into our faith. The gist was that while we Americans have a very natural *"pull yourself up by the boot straps"* mentality--which is made complete with a John Wayne swagger--we need to always remember that there was no *"pull yourself up by your bootstraps"* that could have released us from the sins of the world. We never signed the *"Declaration of Independence"* from our sins, but Jesus alone saved us from that oppression. Our American heritage has taught us that if we work hard we can succeed and secure even our own freedom - *if we will just fight hard enough for it.* So we think to ourselves that since we went to church, gave money, obeyed all the commands, and said our prayers that God is happy with us and will reward us for it. However much this may be true in our American culture, the fact is that our national pride mentality is nudging us into a personal-centrality of faith rather than one that focusses exclusively on Jesus alone.

And so I explained it by saying that it was as though Jesus ran a marathon and gave us the gold medal for *his* winning of the race. When I said these words I heard quite a few people gasp as though they finally got it, as though they understood "grace by faith" as opposed to a "grace by declaration." It was nice to share with the residents this gospel good news, and I pray that God would continue to use me to reach into the lives of people who are often at the mercy of their many traditions.

Each week I see small steps forward in many peoples' lives as our Lord's words reverberate among us: *"So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."* (John 8:36 NIV) and I am blessed to watch as people are relieved that they can simply accept their independence by His Victory through grace alone.

Happy Independence Day!

~John

**Prayer Letter:**

Dear Prayer Partner,

Well, this month we are hosting a Putt-Putt Fundraiser for our annual Operation Christmas Child shoebox program. In the past month God has put this fundraiser together, and He even provided us with a dear friend who has been invaluable to us as she has tirelessly gone to many businesses getting support from them. Our friend and prayer partner has filled the majority of our 17 Hole-in-One contests with sponsors and prizes. Please remember to pray with me for Liz as she continues to work so hard on this event!

The fundraiser is on Saturday, July 21<sup>st</sup> from 11am to 2pm at the *World's Finest Custard & Family Fun Center* here in Chesterfield. The details of the event are posted on our web site, but I will give some of the highlights here. We are offering 18 holes of putt-putt golf for either \$5 or \$10 a ticket. A \$5 ticket will get you all 18 holes of golf, a small custard cone, and make you eligible for various door prizes. A \$10 ticket will get you the same, but it will also make you eligible for each of the 17 Hole-in-One contests. The Hole-in-One contests will have prizes ranging from \$25 to \$500 in value. There are some \$1,300 in total prizes for these contests. Our goal is to raise \$5,200 which is necessary to help the residents fill 90 shoeboxes and send them to underprivileged children in time for Christmas. Please don't worry if you are unable to make it to the fundraiser. We are happy to accept direct donations for the Shoebox Project.

Please be in prayer for us and this event, and be sure to tell your youth group leaders, your pastors, your friends, your family, your local Lions Club, Elk's Club, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Little League, Softball teams (you get the point) to come out and be a blessing to some people – locally and internationally. Please pray that not only will people come out and give generously but also that the weather would cooperate.

Also, there are still a couple of holes to be sponsored if your church group, company, or even you as an individual want to sponsor one for the Hole-in-One contests. Please contact me if you are interested.

Next month I'll tell you how it turned out. ☺

By His Grace,



John

***PS: Please check the amount that is posted for your 2012 donations against your own records for accuracy. Please contact me if something seems amiss.***