

The Sharing Org

Ministry to the Adult Foster Care Community

February 2013

Ministry Moment,

Love is in the air at the homes that I visit...

A gentleman that I have known for nine of the last ten years – *let's call him Romeo* – has always made it a point to befriend and be in some fifth-grade going-steady sort of relationship with one of the women in his home. The other day I chuckled to myself as I saw this sweet blossoming expression of affection between Romeo and the lady that his fancy has landed on this quarter.

I chuckle as one might chuckle at young children who take a shower, gussy themselves up, and brush their hair and teeth for their first infatuation. It is sweet to see Romeo find satisfaction in the relationships that surround him in his home. I take notice only because Romeo comes to service at the behest of the lady that he is courting at the time. And I am reminded that I need to continue to pray for Romeo as I have been nearly 10 years in his life and I don't believe that he has grasped the reality of Jesus in his life. I don't mean to say that I can know his heart in this matter, but I am aware that I never see him in services until he has a new love interest who is in attendance.

I also experienced another couple who were new to me and to their home this month. They were both young and attractive. It only made sense that they connected and were quite elated in their relationship with one another. I was happy to see them in services this month, and I pray that the gospel words of Jesus will stay with them as they will surely be moving on to another location. Will they remain together, or will it end like most ships that pass in the night? I can only venture a guess, but my prayer for each of them is that they will always remember that God loves them through Christ their Lord, regardless of the status of their earthly relationships.

When I began this ministry in 2003, I never expected to deal with people who were involved in romantic relationships. Some will never be anything more than innocent childlike infatuations and others could be quite serious. Either way, when love is expressed in any human relationship, then true love is more readily grasped and received from a Holy God. I find great hope for the future of the residents whom I serve.

~John

Prayer Letter:

Dear Prayer Partner,

The results are in for the 2012 fiscal year. The budget for 2012 was \$26,500 and our actual contributions were \$29,439 – An 11% increase. The increase was due to an increase in the Shoebox revenues. For 2013 the budget is \$33,000 which is an 11% increase from the 2012 actual revenues. This increase anticipates higher revenue for the annual Shoebox giving (\$1,500 in 2012 to \$3,000 in 2012) and for the first time a \$2,500 expected expense for my family's medical and dental expense. This will be the first time that the ministry hopes to help meet the medical/dental needs of our family (we don't have insurance and have never had a medical expenses fund). Please pray with me that God would meet the needs of the ministry and my family.

Last month I forgot to mention a goal for 2012 in the prayer letter so I have added it now. *Please see item #2 on the goal list below.* I am budgeting \$500 for this project, so please pray with us that God would provide if this really be something that we need. (*Heh, heh, I think there is a need, but I could be wrong.*) Anyway, here are our goals for 2012:

1. To continue with our mission: *WE SHARE THE GOSPEL WITH THE ADULT FOSTER CARE COMMUNITY. WITH YOUR SUPPORT IF WE MAY, ALONE IF WE MUST, BUT ALWAYS WITH THE COMPASSION OF CHRIST.*
2. **To print 100 new hymnals for the ministry this year.**
3. To do 100 shoeboxes this year with the residents we serve.
4. To write and publish a 10th year anniversary book about the ministry.
5. To make this year's annual budget of \$33,000.

Please continue to be in prayer with us about all of our goals. Please pray that Jesus would reveal Himself to us all as He provides for each of our needs.

Again, please be in prayer for my family. My wife will soon be going in for a surgical procedure which is not supposed to be serious, but still we seek God's grace – *or better yet, His miraculous healing.* Of course we know what we want, but ultimately it is "Thy will" that we seek.

Thank you for praying with and for us!

30In His Service!



John