

# The Sharing Org

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## Ministry to the Adult Foster Care Community

March 2013

### Ministry Moment:

#### *I call him The Brain*

The Brain loves to exercise his excellent mental prowess by announcing the number of the next song before I do (I always add seven to the number of the last song to keep us rotating through our musical selections on a regular basis). He takes delight in being able to do addition, and it is super fun to watch him flex his mental muscles and perform his ability in front of the group. I delight in his joy with his every smile as I announce that he was again correct.

I have known The Brain since 2004, and it has been my pleasure to play this game with him. Sometimes I wrestle with myself as I consider that, short of a miracle, this game is the best the Brain will ever likely hope to accomplish in his life. My heart aches for him, but yet he does not ache for himself. He is happy, he is joyful, and he is always happy to perform his mental magic for everyone.

#### *I call him Brahms*

Brahms is new to our group, and he is exceptionally talented. His ability to listen to a song and then pick up the guitar and own the melody astounds me. Brahms, like The Brain, loves the attention that his talents afford him. Brahms used to play at his church for years, but since his mental illness has set in, he resides at the group home full time and can bless only us with his musical gift.

#### *We call him Lord*

It might just be for 1 hour a week, but when I am with The Brain and Brahms both, we assume a posture of thanksgiving for Jesus our Savior. I have been asked about how limited mental ability affects the salvation of the people whom I serve. It is true that the majority of people I serve do not fully understand the doctrine of the Holy Trinity, the endless depths of pure grace, or even how exactly Jesus never leaves them nor forsakes them when He is seated at the right hand of the Father.

However, if I am honest, I will admit that I myself do not completely understand these concepts – not totally. But one thing that all of my friends in the home accept with complete childlike faith is that Jesus is madly in love with them.

And somehow I think that is good enough for our Lord.

~John

**Prayer Letter:**

Dear Andy & Sally,

I have so been looking forward to sharing with you what God is doing through your faithful prayer and financial support!

This past month I went into one of the homes. All the men were gone--the home was disbanded as the house was ripped apart and being repurposed. I was saddened to so suddenly lose touch with my friends like that, but I did find out where the majority had gone and have been able to go and say hello to them. In fact, some of them have gone into their own apartments, which has led me to pursue holding a weekly service with them in their new location.

Now, this next Monday, I am beginning a new service. This service is at an apartment complex that is home to many people who were at one time in the adult foster care community. The way I understand it, many of these people live alone and just report to a nurse who frequents each week. I am excited to begin this new service as it includes many people who I ministered to years ago in the traditional group homes, and there are a great many people I have not yet met. It is a new adventure for me, and I am looking forward to sharing the love of Jesus with them all!

I have been trying to figure out a fund raiser to afford new hymnals. I was going to have six pastors sit around a table with a dozen eggs in front of them - 11 hard boiled and 1 raw. The idea would have been to have people make donations in exchange for watching them play Russian roulette (*smashing the eggs on their foreheads*) until the last man is clean. It would have been great fun, but I could not find the proper venue for such an event. ☹️ However, since that idea has fallen through, one of our prayer partners has come to me with a great idea. She is donating her pop can returns each month! (It's a Michigan 10-cent deposit thing.) So if you want to help raise the money for the new hymnals and you have a lot of returnable cans, please consider donating that return to us so that we can get some new hymnals and retire the ones that need to rest. They are rather grubby and are literally falling apart after years of use!

Please be in prayer with us about these things, and I will close with this. I have expressed in the past that one of my favorite things is to witness people who are gone from their minds come back to themselves during times of praise and worship. One of the people who have been with us for a while has lost her mental faculties. This week she was showing me her baby (the doll that she carried) and told me that it was her job to care for the child. I noticed that during the music portion of our service she was singing along with the songs to her baby. It gives me hope to see that no matter what may happen with me mentally, there may always be a portion of me that remembers the gospel and the peace of my Savior.

Until next month!

Blessings,



John