

The Sharing Org

Ministry to the Adult Foster Care Community

AUGUST, 2013

Ministry Moment:

This last week I was asked to do a memorial for a person who passed away the week before. I don't know why but this one was different from the many other funerals that I have officiated for people whom I have never met. I struggled with this one and I prayed, "God, how do I offer people proper closure about this man? I do not know where to begin."

When I sat down to begin planning this memorial, God guided me, and I realized that since I do not know how to speak of a man whom I have never met, I must speak to the men whom I have. In speaking about those whom I know, I realized that I inadvertently speak about the man whom I have never met - *And so this is what I did.*

I spoke how all men were created in the image of God.

I spoke how mankind was created for relationship – *First with God and then with each other.*

I spoke how when Adam & Eve were banished because of their sin, mankind's relationship with God was severed and how that broken relationship grieved God just as the passing of our friends and loved ones grieves us.

I spoke how God sent his only son to die upon the cross to defeat sin and death in this world and how this is true for the deceased as well as us all.

I spoke how God so loved the world that he sacrificed his one and only son that through faith in him we might live. I spoke to the fact that all mankind struggles with the question about our deceased loved one's eternal souls but how our focus and trust needs to be in Jesus alone for this rather than coming to our own conclusions when we are simply not capable of making judgment of any man's soul.

It feels like this is a lesson that I have to learn, *re-learn, and re-re-learn again* every week or so. When I focus completely on Jesus, it is easier to speak to the many people whom He has come to redeem, whom I have never met, and to whom the reality of Christ is most meaningful.

~John

Prayer Letter:

Dear Prayer Partner,

Well, it has been a whirlwind of a month. We have hosted a table at New Baltimore's ECCO Bookstore's Community Day to promote the Putt-Putt Fundraiser for the shoeboxes and the ministry. Then the next weekend we hosted the 2nd annual Putt-Putt Fundraiser. At the time of this writing, this event raised \$733.00, but not everything is done yet, so I will wait to write the report. There were many businesses that sponsored a hole, so I want to alert you to them throughout the year so that you might frequent those businesses and tell them "Thank you for supporting The Sharing Org's Putt-Putt Fundraiser." By saying thank you we are encouraging those businesses to support a hole the next year. Local people, please see the insert.

Please be in prayer for us as we still have 66% of the funds to raise in order to fill the 100 shoeboxes.

Also, please pray as I am due to have a book written and published by September to honor The Sharing Org's 10th year anniversary. I actually have enough written to (I suspect) fill a couple of hundred pages, but now the editing part is hanging me up. I have been avoiding doing this partly because I am busy, partly because I would rather sleep at night, and partly because it is the work that I am not good at. I'll bet there are a dozen other reasons, too, if pressed, but please pray for me as this is my goal for August.

Spiritually speaking, I think we (you are included in this) are in a good position for the future. God has dealt with me on a couple issues and given me direction, so I am encouraged and looking forward to what he will do through our efforts together. If I have not expressed it lately, I do want to tell you how much I appreciate your participation in this ministry. God has placed on my heart a vision of the future where churches across the state pick up the gauntlet and minister to the residents of just one care facility in their own neighborhood. I admit, I have no idea how this will actually pan out, for it sounds like a Goliath of a task. But I know that together we will be able to fling the one stone that will defeat the monster that impedes this from happening.

Praying together for a David,



John

Andy & Sally your acct # is: 0907030040

Your 2013 donations are \$0 as of 7/30/2013.

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