

The Sharing Org

Ministry to the Adult Foster Care Community

SEPTEMBER, 2013

Ministry Moment:

I do not trust God: Not really...

As I presented a more technical concept of doctrinal theology I realized this shortfall in my life. What I mean is that a portion of Mark that we were reading presents a piece of Christology that is pretty heavy. I debated about even broaching the subject because there are many people whom I serve who suffer from dementia and Alzheimer's disease. I wondered if they could even understand it. I struggled through my day presenting the material when it finally dawned on me that the topic of Christology is no more technical than the simple plain truth of the love of Jesus – for each reality requires the inspiration of the Holy Spirit in the lives of us all. As I pondered this, I struggled with my own limited (and likely wrong) knowledge of people. Of course I always present material in a way that makes sense to me but this is always based off my own understanding of the abilities of others. If I conclude that a person is not capable of understanding a certain thing then I change how I present it - or scrap it all together.

Now, I do understand that everyone must do this sort of thing to communicate effectively. But the problem is that I am more apt to trust in my own understanding than in the Holy Spirit's ability to take the mess of my own intelligible and garbled words and make them intelligible to people – no matter what I think their mental abilities may or may not be in my own estimation. It was not that I was trying my best to communicate effectively but rather that I was trying to decide if my communication could be at all appreciated by certain minds. Not only was I ignoring the Holy Spirit factor but I was being arrogant in my estimation of my own abilities to communicate ideas of God apart from His Holy Spirit. Like I said, I did not trust in God but instead I trusted in myself.

Wow. This September marks 10 full years of doing this ministry, and I am just beginning to scratch the surface of my own inadequacies. It's not pretty, but it is most certainly necessary.

~John

PS: Lest you think I am being down on myself for this, please know that I like when I discover my own weaknesses, wrong attitudes, and wicked motives, for in each one that I discover, I know that there are a million more to contend with. And I do want to be purified and transformed more and more into the likeness of my Lord. ☺

Prayer Letter:

Dear Prayer Partner,

Before anything else, I want to say welcome to Sheri. Sheri has volunteered to read to a group of residents for me. Every other week she drives from her home in Sterling Heights to go in and read aloud to a group of women who have weaker eyes and who especially love the visits. Thank you, Sheri, for sharing your time and communicating the love of Jesus to these ladies in your own unique way.

Thank you for everyone who has donated to the shoebox program! We are currently at 58% of our fundraising goal, so if you have not donated toward this year's project (with a monetary gift or by purchasing and donating items we still need) and you want to, there is still time. September is when we purchase all of the materials for the 100 boxes and schedule all the packing parties for October. Please pray with us that everything goes well and that each of us recognizes the love of Jesus through this effort.

Well, the manuscript of the 10 year ministry anniversary book has been mailed to the editor. It is in the second step of a five-step editing process, and then the distribution process. I was planning a September publishing date but I think it is more realistic to hope for later October at this point. So please pray with me that all goes smoothly with all the processes.

Finally, please pray for me as God is directing me to work with a certain group of people in a very specific way. Basically I will be inviting them to become active in our worship services rather than the normal passive participation that we all have learned in our more formative years in church. This makes me nervous because this new direction takes me quite a ways out of my comfort zone. Please pray that I will trust God. The first step in this process will be to invite them to join me in this journey of faith. It is possible that many will choose not to agree, but it is important that each of us affirms (or reaffirms) our trust in God. The task is to invite each person to begin sharing with the group (our congregation) their own unique gifts from God so that we all might be encouraged in our faith (Ephesian 3:8-10 & 1 Peter 2:5-9). Please pray that the people will be receptive and excited on this leg of our faith journey.

May the Lord richly use us!

Until next month,



John