

Dear United Methodist Women of Richmond,

THE MINISTRY MOMENT:

by: Jenn Davies

New Missionaries' First Month...

As the new missionaries for The Sharing Org, our first month got off to a bumpy start. We've found some problems in the communication between House Managers and the caretakers regarding our Sunday arrival times, but we are confident that schedules have been smoothed out and we are settling into our groove of things. It just wouldn't be the "normal way of life" if things always went smoothly, would it? But seriously, we have found that even when we hit snags in our visitation schedule, the joy we feel and the need for these folks to feel the love of Jesus is ever present.

When we joined this ministry, bringing the Gospel to these three homes, we were not sure what to expect. We have past experience helping those with physical disabilities, mental illness and with elderly folks, but we were not sure how the residents would take to outsiders bringing "Church" into their homes. Although unsure of how each individual would accept us, we both believed very strongly that the work that John has been doing, was both very important and part of God's plan. Also feeling absolutely led to this ministry, we knew that God would not lead us to do something that He would not equip us for.

In the very first home we visited, the very first resident we had the pleasure of meeting was a man we'll call "Omar". Omar is a friendly, vocal fellow and the

moment we shook his hand and told him why we were there, he blurted out "oh thank goodness! You came at the right time. We really need Jesus in this place!" That was enough to put permanent smiles on our faces and we realized the confirmation that God had given us. We are right where He wants us to be!

Before entering every home, we pray that our Heavenly Father fills us with the love to share with these folks. We imagine that most people would be amazed at how simple it is to show love to another human being. To intentionally talk to them as they are your equal, to share a smile and show genuine compassion can make such a difference to these people who may rarely get a visit from a loved one. Seeing the smiles on the faces of the Lord's sometimes forgotten children, hearing their voices sing in praise and watching them focus in on God's spoken Word, makes us know that we are receiving something wonderful as well.

There's something greatly satisfying when walking in to see Omar's smiling face every week and hearing "I KNEW you guys would be back!" "Yes Omar," we say. "We will be back for as long as you want us to be!" It is a promise definitely worth keeping. ☺

Thank you for your prayers and continued support as we ask God to increase our capacity to love and to grow in this ministry.

~ Drew and Jenn Davies

PRAYER LETTER

FROM: The Davies

We'd like to thank you for praying for us, as new missionaries in this wonderful ministry!

As John mentioned in last month's letter, he has set four goals for 2014. We would like to add two more to the list:

5. Increase the number of homes we serve – Yes, since we have joined the ministry, there are now three more homes being visited in Macomb County on a weekly

basis, but we would like to increase that number over the next year. Maybe even into Oakland County!

6. Reach out and obtain more church partnership – To effectively share the love of Christ, our ministry must grow. The most successful way to do that is to get more involvement from other churches in our area.

So, please be in prayer that God would guide us to those who are able and willing to answer the call to love the residents and to support our mission. Join us in

praying for God to lead us to opportunities to share His love to more residents.

Drew and I have been fortunate to build a friendship with a Pastor in Lahore, Pakistan. Pastor Suba has a ministry there, sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which can be a challenge in a country that is mostly Muslim and Hindu. He has asked to be our Prayer Partner. He has shared with us many stories of healings in Jesus' name and conversions to Christianity. He has also told us that children are taught the Muslim religion in schools in Pakistan, so he has started Sunday school for the children to teach them about Jesus. Please be in

prayer for the continued success of his ministry, the safety of his family, and for the children that he is trying to lead to Jesus.

How can we pray for you? Praying is the most powerful thing one can do for another Christian. Please do not hesitate to let us know how we can pray for you. Email us at jenn@thesharing.org

We pray that you are blessed and that God is doing wonders in your life!

Jenn Davies

PRAYER LETTER

FROM: The Rocks

This has been a great month for me as I had the extreme pleasure of assisting the Davies as they started three new weekly services to new AFC homes. The people in these locations are happy that they are coming and we continue to pray for Jenn and Drew as they get acclimated to their new roles and responsibilities. They have already had a request from another AFC home out in Waterford, MI, (70 miles round trip) so please be in prayer with us that we might be sensitive to God's direction for us and this home.

Well, Megan is past the first trimester and she is feeling better. We have an appointment for an ultrasound in a couple weeks where we will learn the gender of our child. This is the first time that we will be learning the gender before the birth, so all of us are pretty excited!

There has been a lot of illness around here this year; personally I have had the stomach flu twice since

November, and everyone in our family except our son has been so as well. Please pray for our health as the illnesses have been extra hard on Megan.

Please be in prayer for the residents whom I serve. Last week I talked about some practical applications of redemption and how it is that God redeems not just our souls but also those often tormenting skeletons in our closets. The responses of people tell me that the concept touched a nerve. It was good to see that God was speaking to so many people as they consider their past lives and their current redemptions.

And as always, we pray for and thank all of you as you help us to take this mission of grace and love to an often overlooked community within our community.

Blessings!
John

“When God redeems, He takes what is not and makes it so:

- He takes what is formless and void and creates in it light and life
- He takes a group of slaves and makes them into a great nation
- He takes He who was dead and makes Him alive
- He takes what is ugly and makes it beautiful
- He takes we who were hopeless and gives us hope
- He takes our skeletons and forms them into great testimony about who we were and who we have now become.

We have faith in a God who redeemed us from the very pit of eternity.”

Psalm 40:1-3

I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry. He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure. He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord