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THE MINISTRY MOMENT:  
by: John Rock

I entered his home that day and was greeted by a dozen people but I didn't see him. "Huh, he must not be feeling well today" I thought. Then I said "where's Roy?" And I was informed that Roy has gone to the hospital and he passed on a message that I give him a call as I was handed a card with the phone number to the hospital on it. So I stuck the card in my wallet and began our service remembering to pray for Roy as we began.

The following week I entered the home and was greeted by the same dozen people. "Crud" I thought to myself "I forgot to call Roy." As I settled in I was informed that Roy was still at hospital and I was again informed that he wanted me to call him. I made excuses about how I was busy and blathered on about the hectic life finally admitting that I had just plain forgotten. I took out my handheld right then and set a reminder to call him the very next day.

The next day my handheld started buzzing to remind me to call Roy, so I did.

When I called Roy, he answered on the first ring. His voice was weak and crackly; I really could not understand the mumbles. I told him so and he adjusted a few things on his end and was clearer.

"Roy!" I said by way of greeting with enthusiasm. "John Rock." After a couple of seconds I clarified "Reverend John?" Although I am referred to as Reverend John, Father, Pastor, and the sort I have always introduced myself as just plain John. The clarification worked and he greeted me with gratefulness for calling. I asked him what was going on and he explained to me his current illness. We talked about it for a bit but then he confided in me that he was being moved to a new facility on the other side

of Detroit. His voice got weak again and he said "John, I'm confused and scared. They are moving me again, I have no choice, and everything that I own, all of my keepsakes and personal possessions will be thrown away." I asked him for clarification, and he told me that his personal items have never managed to catch up with him after other moves.

As I talked with him I could not get his words out of my head: "I am confused and scared."

I am confused and scared...

I imagined the confusion comes from being subject to a system that *he* did not trust. Whether his lack of trust was real or imagined, the reality is that *he* did not trust it. From his point of view, he has been moved around and has had to start over getting new possessions so many times that *he* did not trust the system at this juncture. His words struck me for some reason. To be confused like this conjured up for me an image of a child who is subject to the decisions of an errant parent. Then when he admitted to being scared it sparked a compassion in me for him that I'm not used to feeling. I often talk with people who are unhappy with their situation in their homes and have a half dozen complaints, but no one had ever voiced to me that they were scared before.

As we wound up our conversation, I told Roy that I would see what I could do about getting his things for him, and we prayed. I encouraged him to cling on to his faith and that as things may seem dark, God would be with him through this whole ordeal. I think that my words of faith were of little value to him, but he certainly became hopeful when I promised to try to track down his things for him.

~ John

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PRAYER LETTER

FROM: The Davies

Friends, please pray for a few of the residents who have been hospitalized recently with health issues. As you can imagine, it must be a very scary ordeal, especially for people with any kind of mental illness. Please pray for their comfort, peace and quick recovery.

We'd like to thank you for your continued prayers for this ministry and pray for you and your family as well. As God's children, we are all faced with daily struggles. We

pray that we are always encouraging one another and practice walking in love, because we never know the battles that the next person is facing.

2 John 1:6 "As you have heard from the beginning, His command is that you walk in love."

We pray that this letter finds you in a season of blessings and that in your joy your gratitude reaches the heavens and also outwardly to share those blessings with others, as God has intended.

Jesus said Mark 12:30-31 that the two most important commandments are to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

Because God's ways and thoughts are higher than our own, it is hard to understand sometimes when we do go through trials and tribulations. It is sometimes difficult to see His relentless love and presence through the storms of life. We pray that in those times of difficulty, you press into Him and draw on the strength He provides. It is through the valleys that, as followers of Christ, we truly feel God's presence.

2 Chronicles 16:9 "For the eyes of the LORD range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him."

Whether you're going through a time of great joy or a time of difficulty or somewhere in between, we pray that you always remember Romans chapter 8, in which the Apostle Paul reminds us that NOTHING can ever separate us from the love of Christ. He is the source of every good

thing. He is your strength in weakness and shelter in the storm, and we pray that you always reach for Him first, as this world can only offer cheap substitutes for comfort, strength and guidance. Know that He will reward your faith.

Hebrews 11:6 "And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that He exists and that *He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.*"

Can we pray for something more specific 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](mailto:jenn@thesharing.org)

If you would like to be taken off of this Prayer Partner list and no longer receive these monthly letters, please email us at [info@thesharing.org](mailto:info@thesharing.org) and let us know.

Thank you and May God bless you and your family.

Drew and Jenn Davies

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## PRAYER LETTER

FROM: The Rocks

Yes, this prayer letter is a little early. As Megan is due on July 7<sup>th</sup> and she is hoping for an early delivery we decided it would be best to get this done now.

So obviously I ask that you would pray for our family as we have the joy of meeting our son in just a couple of weeks. Megan's mom will be here soon, the bedroom arrangements between the children have been adjusted, and now we just need the baby to come and take center stage in our lives for the next few months. Please pray that our family adjusts well to the newcomer.

As of the past few months I have been sensing that God is directing me towards some changes in the ministry. All good, but change none-the-less. With the decline of my

physical ability and the addition of the Davies to the ministry, I am noticing the writing on the wall so-to-speak. I am sensing that God is pressing us to prioritize our mission of using our time and resources to focus on ministering in group homes that have no other options for Christian worship or fellowship. Please pray for clear direction as we move forward in this.

As always, I cannot begin to thank you enough for praying for and with us *and* for your financial support as we continue to share the love and gospel of Jesus Christ with so many marginalized people in our community.

Blessings,

John