

The Sharing Org

Ministry to the Adult Foster Care Community

AUGUST 2014

A MINISTRY MOMENT: by: Jenn Davies

In our conversations with these residents, and as we visit them weekly with music and a biblical message, we're learning that a popular topic is how excited they are to meet Jesus. We, of course, find ourselves in agreement in those thoughts, but we are also finding that they are clinging to the hope we have in Him and the promises He has given us.

One of the residents that we have become very close to is more aware of his surroundings and is a resident only because of his advanced stage of Muscular Dystrophy.

We've had many conversations about how much God loves him and is sending us to remind him and the others of this very fact! The God of the universe, the One who makes the sun shine and the Earth spin in orbit, the very same being that made over 300 species of trees just in a 2 ½ acre area of the rainforest, is the very same One who loves him and the other residents enough to send folks like us to visit and remind him of the depth of His love. What a wonderful Father we have!

We're finding that he, like many of the others, find much joy in being reminded that our momentary troubles are

only temporary and cannot be compared to the wonderful things that are promised to those who love Jesus! In fact, and more specifically, Jim likes to remind us that "there are no wheelchairs in Heaven!" We confirm his statement with scripture in 1 Corinthians chapter 15, where Paul teaches us that when we get to go to Heaven, we will be changed in a twinkling of an eye and will have new strong bodies. Praise God for His promises!

On behalf of all of us in this ministry, we'd like to thank you for every prayer and donation, that helps put gas in our car and get us out to these homes so that we can continue to bring the peace of the Gospel to those who are shut in and away from most of what could remind them of God's love. Feeling that love through us, and the Spirit He graces us with, gives these residents hope and reminds them that they are not forsaken or forgotten and that God's promises still ring true today. Thank you, from the bottom of our hearts, for we are blessed to be able to see Him work, shining onto the faces and in the smiles of the people in these homes.

Praying for blessings for you and your families,

~ Jenn

A MINISTRY MOMENT: by: John Rock

I am so not aware of the very real spiritual warfare of the world that I exist in. Seriously, it's pathetic. Maybe this shows my real naivety or just plain incompetence but whatever it is I still can't tell the difference between a real physical mental illness and a pure demonic possession. There is just something in me that accepts surface situations as they come without much analyzation.

As of late I have had a tough time meeting the demands of my afternoon schedules. It's a health thing but the fact has been that something, anything, has been threatening my afternoon attendance at services. I once fell asleep in my car on the side of the road in the 15 minutes between a couple of my services and completely missed both services that followed. This past Monday I was between my 4th and 5th services and I spotted a porta-potty in a park along the way. Since the doctor has put me on a water pill this past week I was urgent to turn around and visit it. When I was finished I jumped in my car and headed for the service. As I did, I backed my car up and this crazy car eating pole came running from out of nowhere and smashed my uni-panel. Yes, the uni-panel, the one that is bigger and more expensive than what once used to be known as a quarter panel. And yes, I did just get this car on lease as of June 24th, and yes I was completely bummed out. I wanted to just go home and sulk, and I even contemplated just calling the next home and

canceling the service for the afternoon. However, for some reason I got over it quickly and I went anyway.

I arrived at the home and was greeted as usual by the usual group of people. But there was one woman who was not herself, I suspect she was in a depressed stage of her condition. For she joined us as usual but I felt her doing so was a reluctant action. Then we began a little differently than usual by playing special music to prepare our hearts and minds to worship. During this song she simply planted her face down on the table in a defeated, nose mashed flat, position. Although I cannot say when there came a point when she started singing with us and even audibly giving an amen and an applause. Her countenance had changed during the singing and I realized that she really needed me to be there that day and hear the gospel of Jesus proclaimed.

I thought about the \$4k of damage to my new car and how I was almost did not go. Then I wondered if this was not In fact spiritual warfare as I seriously wanted to sulk over the damage to my car.

While I write this I am still not positive but it makes me feel better to accept it as so. The song? It was Great is thy Faithfulness and you can hear this new rendition by Battle Victorious posted at our website - www.thesharing.org.

~John

PRAYER LETTER

There has been a lot going on around here this week. The Davies are in it up to their armpits with busy this week as Drew's travel schedule for work is increasing and they are going out of town to Kansas City to do work with a church out there. Please keep them in prayer as they travel so much



Of course, Megan and I are in the thick of it as well since the new baby arrived. We are happy to announce the arrival of Ian Peter Rock who was born on July 2nd weighing 9 lbs. 3 oz. and was 21 inches long. The labor was a hard one for Megan but all is well and both mom and baby are doing fine.

We ask that you pray for us (actually for Megan more than me) as sound sleep is one of those things that has become rare around here. Pray that Megan will be able to function as she needs to while meeting the demands of her new charge.

Thank you again for helping us to meet the demands of the ministry through your prayers and financial giving.

Blessings,

John

Please note that I take full blame for any and all typos and grammatical errors. My editor is busy feeding baby. ;-)

State of the Ministry Report

7/23/2014

Dear Prayer Partners,

I think it has literally been years since I last offered a ministry update like I am writing now. I'm not hiding anything, but there really has not been anything new to report - so I just didn't take the time. However, this year is different. There is much change afoot, and it is my pleasure to share with you what is going on.

As most of you know, we welcomed Drew & Jenn Davies to the Sharing Org team as local missionaries back in January. They have been serving what I call the "Moravian Corridor" since that time. These are three homes that I had on my list that requested spiritual services which I was unlikely to be able to add to my schedule due to their distance from our home. The Davies have developed the relationships necessary in those homes and are meeting with the residents weekly, and Megan and I are thrilled to have them on the team. We thank God for their encouragement and desire to serve with us.

In 2003, we and another couple started serving in a few local nursing home facilities on a completely volunteer basis. Since that time, our partnering couple moved on, and we filed all of the paperwork and became a non-profit organization in 2006. It was in that year that Megan and I went full time in the ministry and started accepting donations and living off those donations. We had many frugal years as our family kept growing and the ministry was never really able to support us adequately. However, God provided other work for me to subsidize our needs, and He has always been faithful to provide.

This year, in 2014, I have started a new business (yeah, I know, me and my businesses). But unlike all the other businesses that I have created, this one is actually earning enough money to support our family. So, now the ministry does not need to pay me, and the ministry budget can take on new missionaries in order to expand our outreach. (More on that in a bit.)

There is significance with this new business and the new income for my family. For a few months I've been sensing that God has been calling me to fall back from doing the field work of the ministry. I wish I could say that I have heard Him say this to me in the still small voice of my soul during times of prayer, but the truth is that my physical mobility has been on the decline as of late, and it takes much more energy to walk these days. It has become apparent that I need to position myself and the well-being of the ministry so that I can fall back while the ministry is poised to move forward and expand. The new income is making the loss of my mobility a little easier to handle, and the change happening in the ministry is that of growth rather than a decline. And with the Davies newly on board, I am seeing that this is the direction that God is leading us.

Therefore, as of August, I will be drastically changing my field ministry schedule and focusing more on doing the work of finding and enabling new local missionaries to go into one or two adult foster care homes in their local areas. In this process, I have had to make the hard decision to refocus on our core purpose of providing ministry to those homes where the shut-in residents have no other options for Christian worship. This requires that I cancel some homes that I serve since those residents are able to go to church on their own or have other Christian services provided. I didn't like doing this, but I am convicted that there are too many other AFC homes where the residents don't even get a visit from a church choir at Christmas.

These changes have reduced my field time by some 40% and have allowed me to move all of the homes that I will still serve to morning-only services (no afternoons). This change was necessary as my physical stamina is best before noon but just about gone after lunch.

The plan of expansion is simple. We will offer a “missionary” a \$50 stipend per home that they serve. I have never thought it proper to pass a plate in the homes that I serve. It may be fine for others to do so, but I have never wanted to be suspected of pilfering money from the elderly or mentally ill, so I have refrained from accepting money from the residents. I want to keep it as a standard for the Sharing Org missionaries to not pass a plate, and so I believe that the \$50 stipend from the ministry adequately covers the missionaries’ costs associated with doing the work.

I do not expect that finding people to serve as missionaries will be difficult under this plan. I suspect the most difficult part will be finding missionaries who are okay with not expecting the people they serve to become the missionaries’ particular denomination of Christian. I also have found that it can be difficult to be welcomed into AFC homes as they are suspicious (and rightfully so) of “Christians” who desire to “serve” their residents spiritually. I wish it were not the case, but the title of “Christian” is often a detriment to actually serving Christ in this country. But I am convinced that God will provide missionaries and grant us access wherever He desires us to be.

So this is where we stand as a ministry. For the first time in over 10 years, we are poised to begin advancing toward our vision of seeing every adult foster care resident in Michigan served with the gospel on a regular basis. I am thrilled to be here, and I am looking forward to seeing what exactly God will do with us in the future. My prayer is that we will begin to gain influence with people and that the Sharing Org will become known as a valuable part of the nursing care community. Thank you for being with us and supporting this work with your prayers and your monetary donations.

And please, if you know of someone who would consider joining our team to take the gospel into an adult foster care home in their own community, tell them to give me a call or send an e-mail.

With the blessings of Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John R. Rock". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

John Rock
President
The Sharing Organization Ministries, INC