

The Sharing Org

Ministry to the Adult Foster Care Community

SEPTEMBER 2014

MINISTRY MOMENT:

by: John Rock

(The following is an excerpt from my book *A Forgotten Church – 10 Years of Ministry*)

Brother Samuel

Samuel epitomized the stereotypical old man—not in a crotchety, grumble-at-you way, but in a gentle, grandfatherly smile-at-you way. He was a believer in Jesus Christ and was happy to have a Christian worship service to attend. Samuel began each service with a public Scripture reading, and nearly every week he requested we sing his favorite song, “How Great Thou Art.”

After Samuel and I became friends, I would come into his room, bring him communion, and spend time talking with him. He and I would get into theological debates about what was more important: the birth or the resurrection of Jesus? Of course, I was right and he was wrong, but then, if he were writing this book, it would be he who was right and I who was wrong. Those discussions, however, were good fun and never deterred us from our commonality of brotherhood in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Samuel was married, and his wife came to visit him every Sunday afternoon with coffee and pie. He always looked forward to her visits. He and his bride celebrated their seventieth wedding anniversary together while he lived in the nursing home—seventy years, what an accomplishment! It was an amazing experience to see him interact with his wife and to see how they were still devoted to one another after all that time.

When I met Samuel, he lived in a private room in a memory loss facility, but eventually he went to a regular nursing home. His money dwindled, and he was concerned his wife might not have enough money to last through her years. After a year or two in the nursing home, his health began to really decline. I first noticed it when he would read for our little congregation. He began to have a tough time tracking the words with his eyes and remembering his place on the page. Eventually he had to stop participating in the services because he spent the last year of his life in bed.

When Samuel passed I was happy I had the privilege of becoming his friend. I still have a Bible of his in my file-cabinet; I cannot bring myself to part with it. Miss him as I may, however, I am ecstatic, as I am sure he is, he finally went Home to the blood-stained hands of the one he called Lord.

PRAYER LETTER

FROM: The Davies

Each day, it seems lately, we see reports of bad news going on in our communities and other parts of the country and world. It would seem to those who do not know Jesus as their savior that there is something new to fear every day. Those of us who DO know Jesus, know that the “Good News” far outweighs the temporary bad news that is on display in every news channel and paper. We are thankful for that and say a prayer of gratitude every chance we get.

Please say a prayer that we and the rest of the

followers of Christ, are given the boldness to proclaim the “Good News” to those who are lost, as we are commanded to in Matthew chapter 28, and that we continue to remind others of God’s promises, to those who may be bogged down with the bad news of this world.

With all of the strife going on in this world, it is more important, now more than ever, to remember that we must love each other. In 1 John chapter 4, we are reminded that we don’t have God, if we do not have love, because “God IS love”. Also, Apostle Paul states so eloquently, “If I have not love, I am nothing.” 1 Corinthians chapter 13.

Please pray that all of us have the strength to love one another, even in the dark times, even through our differences, even when it is *hard* to love. Loving God and one another is what makes us followers of Christ. "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:34

We have felt led to share these scriptures along with many others this week to those in the homes that we serve. You may wonder how the people in these homes can find ways to show love to one another, but God does not call ALL of His children to go feed the homeless or show love by donating a lot of money to charities. Love can be shown by bringing a smile to someone else, or showing patience and kindness to a fellow roommate, when they are having a rough day.

The residents seem to grasp the idea of tangible ways

to show love, even in their situation. If *they* can grasp it, I pray that many of us who are not in their situation can understand and let love manifest in their actions with our fellow brothers and sisters.

As always, we'd like to know if we can 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

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 and let us know.

Thank you and May God bless you and your family.

Drew and Jenn Davies

PRAYER LETTER

FROM: The Rocks

This month we begin the purchasing for our annual shoebox program. Due to the coming and arrival of our son we did not host a putt-putt golf fundraiser. So you can consider this my invitation for you to make a special donation to the shoebox project.

On Friday afternoon a friend of ours alerted us to a grant making program that was short of applicants and needed to give more money away – it is due today (2/31/2014). So I spent Friday getting a grant application package together for this year's project asking for a little less than half of this year's \$6,600.00 budget. Please pray that God provides through them and enough to complete the project. Last year we were able to fill 100 shoe boxes with the residents and this year we are going to increase and fill 125. This really is the best program as it touches not only the residents with the love of Jesus but helps destitute children as well. Please pray that all is provided for.

Since the new baby arrived our family has been trying to get back to normal but we realize that "normal" will have a new definition in our family's

dynamic. God is good and everyone is adjusting well but please pray for us in that regard.

The Children start school this Tuesday after Labor Day (*Oh, happy Labor Day by the way.*) and Megan is feverishly getting everything together in between the pleas for food from Ian. Please pray for us as we begin this new school year.

Finally, we have begun the process of assessing the spiritual needs of various Adult Foster Care facilities in communities by talking to them directly. We are trying to figure out what their needs are and then we will be going to the churches in those areas to see if we cannot facilitate the care of the homes in that community by the community. We have just started the process so there is nothing to report yet but we are praying that in this way all of the homes in Michigan can have their spiritual needs cared for. Please pray with us as we begin what feels very much like an uphill battle.

Until next month!

Blessings,

John

(In case you did not notice, my editor is still unavailable)