

The Sharing Org

Ministry to the Adult Foster Care Community

DECEMBER, 2014

MINISTRY MOMENT:

BY: John Rock

“When we preach the historical facts of the life and death of our Lord as they are conveyed in the New Testament, our words are made sacred. God uses these words, on the basis of His redemption, to create something in those who listen which otherwise could never have been created.” -Oswald Chambers

The above quote is from November 9th's *My Utmost for His Highest*. (Google it) When I read the words I was reminded of the purpose for which I am sent to the nursing care community. The sentences immediately following the quote are *“If we simply preach the effects of redemption in the human life instead of the revealed, divine truth regarding Jesus Himself, the result is not new birth in those who listen. The result is a refined religious lifestyle, and the Spirit of God cannot witness to it...”*

That was the part that stuck in my craw. *“The result is a refined religious lifestyle.”*

I know that I will often miss the mark of actually being the vessel that God has called me to be, but I do desire that people not just “act the part” because they think they have a religious duty to act or speak a certain way when I am around. I do desire that when I share from the scripture that the Holy Spirit of God

does what only He can do to change the hearts of the people I speak to.

Too often though, I just don't know.

This month I learned that a couple of the younger residents whom I serve passed away - Different homes and different circumstances. One has been with me since 2004 and the other since 2007. Both were relatively young – under 60.

I think back on the many weeks that I had the pleasure of being with them both. It is beyond my station to pass judgment upon either of them, but I hope and I pray that somewhere along the way my words were made sacred based on His redemption and that He created something in them both that only He could.

As I ponder this, I know that Jesus was victorious by His Cross, that Jesus loves the residents much more than I could even pretend to, and that if He spoke through a dumb animal (Numbers 22:21-38) that He is more than capable of speaking through me to the residents.

~John

And oh, Oswald Chambers' November was excellent in *My Utmost for His Highest* this month. (Google it)

PRAYER LETTER:

FROM: The Rocks

If you ever think that God does not provide, I am here to assure you that He most certainly does. Last month I shared how our family was under a very real spiritual attack, and I asked for prayer to this effect. This past month you must have been praying, because the generosity cork was taken out of the jug-o-blessings this month. Not only have you prayed, but you sent money. Not only did you send money, but people have brought food – *lots of food*. Not only did people bring food (and winter boots and hats for our kids), but they gave money. Not only did they give money, but as the dust settled around here, God has helped us out of some of our monthly financial obligations. Not only were we let out of some of our monthly financial obligations, but our family is spiritually stronger than it has ever been as we all have seen the miraculous blessings of God because of our situation. So while I would not have chosen our particular situation, I must admit that I would not have known this level of the reality of our God without it. Thank you all (and many more as well) for praying and allowing God to use you to reach into our lives at this time - Thank you.

Please continue to pray that God would send someone to take over the lease on our car. Because we do not want to find ourselves having to pay the deductible to have any repairs made, we are not driving the car. We would be grateful to no longer have a monthly payment for a vehicle we aren't driving.

This month I pray for you as we enter into this Christmas season. It is a time of family, crazy schedules, and stress - a lot of stress. And I pray that as you maneuver through your month that you see the God who is revealed to us through the Christ Child and the Cross. The Cross you ask? Yes, the Cross. For the Christ is finally revealed to us through

the brutally victorious Cross.

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. (*God with us*) (Isaiah 7:14 ESV)

But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. (Isaiah 53:5 ESV)

God bless you and please have a very merry Christmas!

Blessings,



John Rock