

The Sharing Org

Ministry to the Adult Foster Care Community

JANUARY, 2015

MINISTRY MOMENT:

The New Year has come and I've been barraged with regrets from many people this past week. A young woman lamented 2014 and all of the sorrows that she knew. She lamented that this care giver moved on to another job, or that a certain person in their family has passed, or even that they are not on a time schedule that allows them the leisure that they prefer. Another wonders if God could possibly forgive him all the sins of his past, and still another looks to the new year with foreboding and fear. As I respond to them with words of encouragement I know that my words are likely shallow and no better than the pat answers that they so often know in their lives. I struggle with the reality that though they desire to know God in a real and evident way, the reality is their day-in-and-day-out lives are filled with doubt, wonder, and fear. Typical for us all.

As I have thought about the reality of the day-in-and-day-out lives of the residents, I remember that this is why I am here. This is why this ministry exists. The whole point of the work is to remind them each week that the Christian reality is one of faith which is in a spiritual realm beyond the limits of our five physical senses. I explain the sixth sense which the ancient Greeks called the *pneuma* and the ancient Latin expressed as God realized in the physical via *sacramentum*. I know the concept confuses most of them because I barely grasp its science fiction explanation myself. So each week I find I simply relate to them that God loves them as expressed in the Cross of our Lord: Another concept that baffles them. To be honest, the miracle of the Cross is not easily understood even by me. However, this is a spiritual matter, is it not? And in reality I need not comprehend it fully for the Spirit of God to infuse it and make it meaningful to my life and soul. It seems audacious to me to think that somehow a person's intellectual ability is what makes the cross of Jesus effectual. It seems further audacious of me to think that I actually understand the wonderfulness of the reality of Jesus and His Cross, for I am just a

man of this physical world who has merely been given a glimpse of the reality of the spiritual one.

Yes, there have been a lot of regrets and laments from people this past week as we enter into the New Year, and I simply tell them to hold to the Hope that we have in the future: The hope that yesterday is gone, the Hope that tomorrow is sure, and the Hope of now. For now is exactly the time to focus on the Child that was born on Christmas morning and who went to the Cross for us. For now the Cross informs us that the Spirit of God has come and guides us through today. Now we have the privilege to love our neighbors as ourselves and to pick up our cross and follow Him and love people.

What does 2015 have in store? I do not know. But because of the work that God has privileged me to do, I am able to be with the residents in the now and tell them that yesterday is gone and tomorrow will come, so now they need to take comfort in the Hope that the Cross of the Savior has provided.

I will do this during 2015 as many times as God allows me, and I will trust that the supernatural reality of God will take care of all the things that I do not understand in the Now.

~John

PRAYER LETTER:

Well, I'm not sure how to express it.

In November I informed you that our family was undergoing a spiritual attack. That a business that I had started went down the drain and took a lot of money with it. At the time of that writing, I was positive that God would provide, but I was having a tough time getting my guts to understand it.

Well, here we are two months later, and I cannot believe the blessings that we have experienced. The fall out has ended and the dust has pretty much settled. We've seen God work in our lives in the most fantastic of ways, through family, you, friends, and strangers: Yes, even those who are strangers to us. We've kept a list of the individual blessings and are overcome by them. It really is something when we count our many blessings, naming them one by one. The whole experience has caused me to feel like I just found Zuzu's petals in my pocket.

So I want to say Thank You for all that you have given; your prayers, your gifts of money, your gifts of food, and your words of encouragement and support. I personally am overwhelmed by the out-pouring of love. While things are not as financially stable as they were before the ordeal, they are much better than they have ever been in so many other ways. The spiritual education has been phenomenal and actually worth all of the hardship. Would I ever have chosen it? Of course not. Does a man choose the flame of the martyr's pole? But since we went through the past couple of months, I must admit that I am glad that the fire got lit. Anyway, thank you all for your many kind supports to us.

This month I ask that you would pray for us as January is an especially busy month for me

personally due to ministry tax reporting and other work, but also our family has been led to expand the Gospel outside of the ministry. We started the process over Christmas of sharing the Good News of Jesus on our own street, among our neighbors--most of whom we have never met before (there is a high turnover rate in our neighborhood). We are excited to see the Spirit of God move among us, and we ask that you would pray for us as we take on this new challenge.

I pray for you, and if there is ever anything that we can do for you, please drop us a line.

Blessing in Christ,



John Rock