

The Sharing Org

Ministry to the Adult Foster Care Community

MAY, 2015

Ministry Moment...

I do not usually make communion part of the services. I learned early on that this was just a bad idea with the variety of denominations represented at the homes. However, when someone asks me directly if I would bring communion to them I accommodate and do.

This month I was asked to bring communion to a person who is Roman Catholic in training. He crosses himself after every prayer and insists on saying the Hail Mary after each service. I explained that I was not Roman Catholic and therefore do not offer the sacrament as he has been taught it to be, that I only offer the elements as the remembrance that helps one to focus on the Lord Jesus Christ. He told me that he did not care, he just wanted to take communion and the elements. I promised to bring it the following week.

This is the first time that I've actually considered communion in a while. The man basically told me that he was not concerned with the formality which he has grown up with where the communion is concerned. His attitude was that what was important to him was that he could use the elements to focus on Jesus. I have had sharp disagreement with people about this sacrament, and I realize that it is usually the objections of younger people who have options about when and where to go in order to decide how to receive the elements of the Lord's Supper.

I love the people I worship with, because at the end of the day they are less interested in the many arguments that we younger people have about HOW to worship Jesus. They are at a point in their lives when what is most important to them is actually doing so. I love the honesty of a person of faith who does not have the many options that we have grown accustomed to. Thank you for enabling me to meet people right where they are in order to share with them the God who died for them quite apart from the pomp and fanfare that we younger folks have developed. It has been my privilege these many years to serve them, and I am eternally grateful that you have been right alongside me as well.

~John

“...and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith.”

Hebrew 12:1b-2a

Prayer Letter...

So every week that I go into the three homes that I serve on Sundays, they ask me, “How is Kayla?” I report that she is still on bed rest and we need to keep praying that the baby stays put and is born healthy. Some of the ladies will want technical details about how far along is she and when can the baby be safely born. I always answer that I don’t really know. (I mean, come on, if I did not have a wife reporting to me about my own children during their time in the womb, I wouldn’t have even known about them!) But the guys, they are better, they just ask how she is doing and then they get into a faux argument about who misses her more. “Tell her I miss her.” “Tell her I miss her more.” “No, tell her that I miss her most.” The guys are going to give me a complex and make me think that they can’t wait until I’m gone. ☺ So, as far as I know, Kayla and baby are fine but she is still on bed rest, and I ask you to continue to pray for her and baby, that they will go to term and have a healthy start to the little one’s new life.

Please be in prayer this month for a ministry book that I have been working on (since, ahem, 2013). The book is coming to completion. It will be a fundraiser for this year’s shoebox program. I just received the sample copy of the book, and there is a significant amount of changes that need to be made. I’m praying that these changes will happen without too much problem and the book will be ready for press by the end of the month. Please pray with us about this as it has been a terribly long process.

Have you ever thought that God doesn’t talk to us today? Well, I’m here to tell you that He most certainly does. While I want to keep the details private, I do want to share with you about how God spoke to us this past month. It has happened before, and would likely happen more often if we sought Him on more matters, but this past month Megan and I had a very specific need and we both went separately to God in prayer for a few days. Our goal was to come back and tell each other specifically what God had said to us individually. The stakes were high, because our requirement or “fleece” is that God must tell each of us specifically what He wants, and if there is not a unanimous match between what we each receive individually then we scrap the initial plan. It is amazing that God has spoken to us in the past this way, and with only one or two exceptions, we have always had complete unanimity. I would say about 95% of the time, we have both received a specific word from Him about matters that cause us to go to Him in the first place. This month was no different. It was really cool this time, because what we both received and brought to each other was crazy-specific, and both of us doubted that we had heard Him right. Well, we did, and it was pretty cool to know that it could only have been Him since neither of us thought that the direction we were being nudged was such a swift idea. So if you ever doubt that God speaks today, Megan and I are happy to tell you that He most absolutely indeed does.

Ok, I pray you are well, and I know I am not the only Michigander who is looking forward to the warmer weather of Spring.

Blessings to you,



John