

The Sharing Org

Ministry to the Adult Foster Care Community

AUGUST, 2015

Ministry Moment...

Jim told me that he finally understood what it meant to be “Born Again” because of something that I have said continually over the course of the last few years.

I’m sorry, but for the life of me I cannot now recall what it was that I said over the last few years that stuck with him. In fact, I am glad that I cannot or else I might think myself clever.

This week we are looking at Simeon, at the temple, when the baby Jesus was brought in. I have personally been praying that God would allow me a fresh revelation of Jesus Christ as I suspect that my passion for our Lord has turned a little less than passionate over the years. I have cooled on Jesus like newlyweds cool on their spouses over 17 years of marriage and children. Not that there is necessarily anything wrong with a marriage with cooled passions, but certainly this should not happen with the King of Creation, the Savior of Men, Emmanuel (God With Us). No, cooling is for relationships that have knowable parameters among men but certainly not with the Infinite Creator who is boundless among time and space, certainly not with the One who has no beginning and no end, and certainly not with the man who spilled his blood for me - yet while I was still His enemy. No, this relationship should not cool.

When I looked at Luke’s account of Simeon (Luke 2:25-35), I noticed that it was the Holy Spirit of God that allowed Simeon to recognize God’s Messiah, the Savior of Men. And when Simeon recognized who Jesus was, he took the infant Jesus in his arms and worshipped and praised God.

This is what I desire for myself, to be elated with Jesus and to worship God because of it.

While I am not sure what I said to Jim, I realize that it doesn’t matter because it was the Holy Spirit of God, not my words, that allowed Jim to recognize our Savior.

~John

“It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God...” (Luke 2:26-28a)

Prayer Letter...

Dear Drew & Jenn,

Thank you all for your prayers over the past months of Kayla on bed rest. The baby, Lilianna Noelle, came only one week early on July 14 weighing in at 7lbs. 10oz. and measuring 19 inches long. Beautiful, healthy, and happy! Mom and baby are doing great!

Last month I found out that Drew and Jenn were coming home from California as Drew's job there is ending. Jenn is ecstatic to be close to her family again. She is already here in Michigan, setting up their new home while Drew travels back and forth getting things wrapped up on that end. Jenn has already picked up doing the Sunday services on the Moravian Corridor. Please pray for them during this transition and as Jenn begins ministering to the residents again.

Life is good in the Rock household. We are extra busy trying to get a bucket list of about 70 things accomplished this summer. It's been a whirlwind but loads of fun. My health is ok but we can see decline. My strength is deteriorating as I have only so many hours of activity before I must rest. Walking is difficult and tiring, and if I am in the heat or the sun, I melt quickly. I'm resigned to trust that the Lord has my health in his hands, but I still covet your prayers.

I was contemplating you (the supporters of this ministry) the other day and am ever so grateful for your prayers and financial support. I am aware that there are thousands of good things in this world that you can support, yet despite the many phone calls each month asking for your contributions, you have not forsaken this work. Thank you, this truly humbles me. I have never been good at fundraising and always just left our financial support to God. This might be irresponsible of me, but I have always told God that so long as He provides for us then we will continue to do His work here. Thank you for allowing God to use you to impact our lives and the lives of those whom we serve with the Gospel of Christ.

Until next month,



John

“...It is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.” (Philippians 2:13)