

# The Sharing Org

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## Ministry to the Adult Foster Care Community

SEPTEMBER, 2015

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### Ministry Moment...

I did something this week that I had not done in a while. I simply spent time with a resident: One-on-one, doing something that the resident enjoys doing, and just spending *time* with this person. It was peaceful, like a breath of fresh air.

Earlier this month I was reading a business book on marketing, and the author stated something that hit me square in the pre-frontal cortex of the brain. He wrote that we need to “*Speak to the people, in the language of the people, about what is important to the people.*” ‘Of course,’ I thought, ‘I’ve been speaking to the residents, in the language of academia, about what is important to the church. Somewhere I missed the point of my communications with the residents.’

While singing “Crown Him with Many Crowns” there is a line that reads “The lamb upon His throne...” After we finished singing I asked the residents if anyone knew what it meant when we sang about “the Lamb.” Only one or two knew; most everyone else was clueless. What bothers me is that I have been singing this song with residents for years and not once had I realized that no one knew what this meant.

I think what we have here is a failure to communicate. I’ve been speaking to the residents, in the jargon of the school, about what is important to the church. And in doing so I think I have simply failed and glossed over the communicative needs of the people where Jesus is concerned.

Now, I’m going to begin to be more explanatory of the meanings of phrases that I typically use when I talk. And I am hoping that by slowly becoming more intentional about spending time with the residents that they will feel freer to ask me what something actually means if they don’t already know. I’m guessing that as I do this that I will begin to again communicate the gospel of Jesus better to the people whom we serve.

“To the residents, in the language of the residents, about what is important to the residents.”

~John

*<sup>11</sup>When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” <sup>12</sup>On hearing this, Jesus said, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. <sup>13</sup>But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”*

*Matthew 9:11-13*

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## Prayer Letter...

Dear Prayer Partner,

518. This month my book was published and is now for sale on Amazon.com! And I only need to sell 518 books to meet this year's budget for Shoeboxes. ☺ It's a daunting number for sure! I suggest that you buy a dozen and gift them to every pastor and elder that you know - Or else maybe just one extra and share it with them. ☺ Anyway, the book is done, and I could not be more excited to finally have that "goal" checked off!

This month I received some great news from Jenn over on the Moravian Corridor. While I was covering services for Kayla during her bed-rest, one of the three homes no longer required Christian services as nobody was interested. So I had just cancelled that home and dropped it from our service list. When Jenn moved back to Michigan and took over the "Moravian" homes again, she visited that home and met some new residents who desired for her to come and spend time with them. So we are once again up to a total of 11 homes being served. Each week Jenn and I are providing services and sharing the love of Jesus with about 100 people who otherwise would not be spiritually fed. We are grateful that our Lord is allowing us this opportunity and that you are with us as we go.

September is the month that I go shopping for all the items that we need for our annual Operation Christmas Child Shoebox program. I have included a packing list of items for this year's boxes. If you would like to donate some items, you can see on the list what is needed. Or if you would like to donate cash, that would be appreciated as well. Or remember, we need to sell just 518 books and we will have it covered. ☺

This month I will be at two book signings. The first is at the ECCO Family Bookstore in New Baltimore and the second is at Dave's Pizza Shop in Chesterfield. Dave's Pizza Shop is formally Stevi B's Pizza. We have held fundraisers at Stevi B's in the past, and I have received requests from people that we do it again, so it made sense to us to combine the pizza fundraiser with the book signing event as we raise money for the Shoeboxes. Remember, just 518 books, and we'll have it made. (Please see insert for details.)

And finally, please pray with us as we will be busy with the book signings and the shoeboxes this next month. I have included our latest prayer photo for you to hang on your fridge, on your bathroom mirror, or maybe even set as your computer's background photo so that when you see it you will remember to pray for us. We certainly appreciate it!

Blessings to you,



John

*...The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.*

(James 5:16b)

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## NOTE:

There is a community of people who live in our cities and towns, and this community quite often does not have the attention of the church. This community lives in our local nursing and adult foster care homes. My prayer is that this book will help us all to more effectively love our neighbors as ourselves.

~John Rock

*“For the love of  
Jesus compels us...”*

2 Corinthians 5:14a



To order the book:

**Visit our website**

[www.thesharing.org](http://www.thesharing.org)

**Search Google or Amazon**

“rock forgotten church”

**type the link below into your URL...**

<http://amzn.to/1hny1an>

## The Forgotten Church

10 Years of Ministry

“Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress...”

James 1:27 NIV

## Book Signings...

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### September 12 (Saturday) 10am - 1pm

**ECCO Family Bookstore**  
51117 Washington St.  
New Baltimore, MI 48047  
(586) 725-2022

[www.eccofamilybookstore.com](http://www.eccofamilybookstore.com)  
(Find them on Facebook, too.)

On the morning of September 12th I will be available to sign books at the ECCO Family Bookstore in beautiful downtown New Baltimore. If you have already purchased my book on Amazon, please bring it for me to sign. If you need one, I will have some on hand for purchase.

The New Baltimore Historical Society is also hosting a fair in the downtown on this day, so there will be plenty to see and do. Their website indicates that the museum will be open at noon, and during the fair there will be a fishing tournament, a car show, 50's movies at the Rec Center, vendors, and more.

### September 21 (Monday) 4pm - 8pm

**Dave's Pizza Shop**  
*(Formerly Stevi B's)*  
50670 Waterside Dr.  
Chesterfield, MI 48051  
(586) 948-1350

On the evening of September 21st, I will be available to sign books at Dave's Pizza Shop in the Waterside Marketplace plaza in Chesterfield. If you have already purchased my book on Amazon, please bring it for me to sign. If you need one, I will have some on hand for purchase.

The book signing at Dave's Pizza Shop also doubles as a fundraiser for The Sharing Org's annual Shoebox program with Operation Christmas Child. If you buy your dinner at Dave's, The Sharing Org will receive a percentage of your total purchase.

### Shoebboxes!!!

Shoebboxes are the reason for all of it. All proceeds of the book and from the pizza fundraiser go exclusively to funding the 2015 Operation Christmas Child Shoebox program.

We need to sell 518 books in order to cover the entire cost of the Shoebox program. So please, feel free to buy a few hundred books and give them to all of your friends. :-)

If you are unfamiliar with Operation Christmas Child, please Google "OCC shoebboxes."

If you are not interested in a book but want to support the shoebox outreach, please consider making a donation at:

[www.thesharing.org](http://www.thesharing.org)

The Sharing Organization  
2015 Shoebox Budget List

ITEM #	GOAL	ITEM	BUDGET	BUDGET	COLLECTED
1	30	BOX	\$ 0.30	\$ 9.00	
2	30	Tee-Shirt	\$ 5.00	\$ 150.00	
3	30	Socks	\$ 0.50	\$ 15.00	
4	30	Wash-Cloth	\$ 0.50	\$ 15.00	
5	30	Bar Soap	\$ 0.50	\$ 15.00	COLLECTED
6	30	Soap Containers	\$ 1.00	\$ 30.00	
7	30	Tooth Brush	\$ 0.50	\$ 15.00	
8	30	Hair Comb	\$ 0.50	\$ 15.00	
9	30	Tooth Paste (FULL)	\$ 1.00	\$ 30.00	
10	30	LED Flashlights	\$ 8.00	\$ 240.00	COLLECTED
11	30	Pencils	\$ 1.00	\$ 30.00	
12	30	Pens	\$ 1.00	\$ 30.00	
13	30	Eraser	\$ 1.00	\$ 30.00	
14	30	Solar Calculator	\$ 5.00	\$ 150.00	
15	30	Crayola Crayons	\$ 1.00	\$ 30.00	
16	30	Writing Pads	\$ 1.00	\$ 30.00	
17	30	Bag of Assorted Candy	\$ 1.00	\$ 30.00	
18	30	Toy	\$ 1.00	\$ 30.00	
19	30	Pencil Sharpener	\$ 2.00	\$ 60.00	
20	30	Shipping	\$ 7.00	\$ 210.00	
21	130	Shipping from Last Year*	\$ 7.00	\$ 910.00	
			<b>\$ 45.80</b>	<b>\$ 2,074.00</b>	

\* The shipping from last year was not paid and will be paid with any funds that exceed this year's project.