

The Sharing Org

Ministry to the Adult Foster Care Community

OCTOBER, 2015

Ministry Moment...

If I were an artist I would draw a picture. I would frame it from the point of view of my seat in my nursing home. I would sketch the foam cup of water that sits to my right on the table next to me. From my seat I can see it but my hands cannot grasp it to get a drink.

I would draw the room directly in front of me, filled with people sitting four to five around four-person tables. I would draw the men and women in their own Geri Chairs reading, eating, or drinking water from their own cups. But my cup - that I would draw in focus.

I would draw my words, I would draw my indistinct words, my interruptive words, my words requesting help to get a drink. But how would that look? How could the picture I draw communicate my incomprehensible words? But that cup to the right of me would always be in focus and drawing the attention of the person who viewed my art.

I would draw my hands on my lap. My hands which twist up on themselves and are useless for doing anything more than just lying there. My hands which are unable to reach out and get the cup that is always in my focus. The hands that I mourn as once having been functional but are no longer.

I would draw my picture in greys from my own point of view to express the sadness of my world. My world used to have color but now it seems grey to me. Except, there would be a few splashes of color in it. I would use color pencils and add the toddler in the yellow dress barely able to walk. And I would add the child with the red balloon bouncing it with all of us in our Geri Chairs. I would use color for this part. And I would use a hint of color to express the feeling of the hand that held mine as we listened to music sung by the group of children at Christmas last year. That part would certainly demand color.

(sigh)

But, alas, I am not an artist, I cannot draw in greys nor colors, in focus or out: I simply would like a drink of water.

"And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward."

Matthew 10:42

Prayer Letter...

Dear Prayer Partner,

477! That is the number of books that still need to be sold for this year's Shoebox program ☺. And if you have not yet made a direct donation to this program and would like to, it's not too late.

God has blessed as we have gained almost enough donations and book sales to cover this year's Shoebox program. We only need to sell some more books and all will be good for this year. I have an idea: what if we all bought a copy of the book **The Forgotten Church** at *Amazon.com* and gave it to our pastors as a gift? You did know that October is Pastor Appreciation Month, right? My goal with the book is to shed light on a forgotten segment of our Christian community and give churches a vision for reaching out to the marginalized in their own neighborhoods.

Well, September 2015 is a month that we have written off around the Rock household. We had a stomach virus that put each of the kids down for about a week. It took three whole weeks before we were clean. Thankfully Megan and I were not infected, but we had our share of cleaning up the results of each child's sickness. Thankfully it was nothing more serious. Please pray for a healthy winter for us all!

October is when we begin to fill shoeboxes. Please pray for my physical stamina as I take all the shoebox items in for the residents to pack the boxes. Also pray for the residents as they are again reminded of their own worth and ability to be of value in the world around them. This program is such a blessing to their spiritual lives.

Finally, I am developing something new for The Sharing Org ministry. I'm working on a family discipleship program. Why? Because there is a need. I am getting pretty excited about the project--a small group setting that encourages participation of the entire family, equipping families to grow in Christ – TOGETHER! Please pray for me as I see this as something that is necessary in today's culture where families spend much of their time in age segregated groups.

Have a great month and be careful this Halloween (or Harvest season if you are so inclined). I guess I couldn't give two-hoots about Halloween, but because they give me candy, I am (ahem) happy to help my children. ;-)

In His service,



John

“Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.”

James 1:22-25