

The Sharing Org

Ministry to the Adult Foster Care Community

NOVEMBER 2015

Ministry Moment...

On September 7th 2003 four of us went into a nursing home to begin Sunday morning worship services for the residents there. When we started I believed that the people who lived there would not be there by the next year. This assumption was wrong. In fact, there are a number of people in the homes who have been with us from that very first day.

One is Miss Gina. Miss Gina greeted me on the very first day by name as we entered her home. She was excited to have a weekly worship service to be a part of again. I got to know her then and was please to take communion to her at special times.

Today, Miss Gina is still alive. Just over 12 years later she still lives in the home and does not appear to be going anywhere anytime soon. She still comes to the services and greets me by name.

Twelve years...

I wish I had the ability to grasp this. I am not sure what Miss Gina makes of the fact that she has lived in the nursing care community for 12 whole years. Her mind may not enable her to live on her own, but I believe she is aware that she shares her home with a bunch of people who rotate in and out of her life. She is always cordial and polite, but she only sees me as a visitor to her home. I wonder if she gets tired of always being in a group setting. Maybe it's just me; maybe I am just projecting my own discomfort at the thought.

This year makes the 13th Christmas that Miss Gina will have been in the home with me. Maybe this year I will do a little something extra for her. I'm not sure what yet but I think I will start probing to see what her tastes and hobbies are.

Miss Gina has been in my life a little longer than even my eldest daughter; I think I will make big deal of her this year.

Be devoted to one another. Honor one another above yourselves.

Romans 12:10 (NIV)

Prayer Letter...

Dear Prayer Partner,

Booo!

As I write this I am in the thick of the spooky season. I have been asked by a number of people this year about my thoughts on this pagan season of Halloween. My answer never varies: "I love candy!"

How's that for a theological position?

This month has been a busy one of getting the Shoebox items together. It is a blessing to have gathered everything that we needed this year. Thank you to the many who donated and bought books to support this year's program. This is the one missional project that the residents get to participate in each year, and it is my pleasure to provide such a simple service to the residents. Please pray with us as we get the boxes put together with the residents and sent out to the children overseas. Our prayer is that it is not only a blessing to the residents who fill the boxes but to the children who receive them. We pray that the love of Jesus is evident and prevalent to each child and their families.

The next step in our year is Thanksgiving and then flu season. I state that in jest, but unfortunately it is too true. Please pray for good health for our family as winter approaches. I pray that you have a blessed Thanksgiving season with your friends and family. I pray that you will be able to remember the many blessings of our lives amidst the hustle and bustle of the season.

Until next month, may you know and show the love of Jesus in your life.

Blessings,



John

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good.

His love endures forever.

² **Give thanks to the God of gods.**

His love endures forever.

³ **Give thanks to the Lord of lords:**

His love endures forever.

Psalm 136:1-3 (NIV)