

The Sharing Org

Ministry to the Adult Foster Care Community

FEBRUARY 2016

Ministry Moment...

I was looking at the 10 men in front of me as I shared with them the narrative of the Cross. While I was talking I was made aware of the uselessness of it all, trying to talk to people that really were not getting it. Terry waited until I inhaled and then he blurted out that his birthday was on such-and-such day.

Sigh. This is a really good message and all they seem to be thinking about is their next birthday card.

I continued along and wondered who was really listening.

I have this voice in my head that is always attempting to convince me that I am wasting my time coming here. I know it is a lie but still the voice persists. A few weeks ago in the middle of my proclamation that Jesus is faithful and trustworthy even when it appears otherwise to us, someone piped up with a question. They wondered if I knew that such-and-such political party was ordained by God Himself.

Sigh. Sometimes it is very hard to keep positive.

Then today as I was getting things packed up to leave, one of the guys asked me if he could ask me a question.

“Go ahead,” I said. “Shoot.”

“Do you remember last week when you said ‘blah-blah-blah?’”

“You remember that?” I asked with incredulity in my voice.

“Yeah. Anyway, I’ve been thinking about it.”

We commenced to talk about what I spoke about on the prior week, and I was impressed that he remembered what I had said because *I* couldn’t even remember what I said. As I was driving home it dawned on me that the voice in my head is a liar. I am not wasting my time and neither are you. People are hearing the message of Jesus’ love for them even when it seems to us that they are not. Discouragement is a lie, for as we continue to share the love and Gospel of Jesus, people are going to hear, as God proclaims His grace through us.

~John

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? (Romans 10:14)

Prayer Letter...

Dear Prayer Partner,

It is important for us to remember that our vision in this ministry is to encourage churches to adopt an AFC home in Michigan. The vision seems impossible to me but a worthy goal. Many churches do send in teams of people to minister to the residents and many more people do volunteer their time but nothing on the scale of what we envision. Are we wasting our time trying to see this vision realized? I really don't think so, but I honestly struggle to see the light at the end of the tunnel at times. Please pray for us all as we have dedicated ourselves to such a lofty vision as getting individual churches to minister to the many adult foster care homes. Sometimes I think this may be what Elijah felt like when he prayed for the little cloud far off amidst the drought. (See 1 Kings 18)

This month we begin preparations for the 2016 Shoeboxes program. I want to add personal notes to the boxes this year. The notes can be written to the children by adults or other children. I need 50 of them, so I decided that I will call on YOU, the partners, to help with this. Each of you has a church that you are involved with, so I ask that you would go to your church group to help. A Sunday school class, a youth group, or maybe a men or women's group can participate. All I ask is that you do. I want to get 50 hand-written letters to the pre-teen boys who need to hear that Jesus loves them and so do we. Will you do this for me? It does not matter that your group only has eight members in it; those eight will add to the other groups that only have eight and together they will add up to 50. Please sign your name to any letters you write, but do not include your contact information for privacy & security reasons. Also, I have slowly been collecting items for the packing list; I have posted the current list to the web if you want to see what is on it. You can go directly to the link (<http://bit.ly/1ZZO8ub>) or visit our website for a link.

A few months back I wrote of a small group that we were creating just for families. This week we are hosting the first four families as we test the method. Our prayer is that as we parents see ourselves as the ones who first disciple our children in the Christian faith, we as families will grow in practicing our faith in practical ways in our daily lives. Please pray for us as we are trying a small group model that is new to us and all the families involved.

Finally, our family is well; we've been blessed in so many ways and are constantly challenged in our lives along with all of you. Please remember to pray for us as we in turn pray for all of you.

By His Grace,



John

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. (James 1:22)