

The Sharing Org

Ministry to the Adult Foster Care Community

SEPTEMBER 2016

Ministry Moment...

I was tired and sore when my alarm went off on Monday morning. Like many, I couldn't locate the snooze button fast enough. I got up, showered, drank some coffee, and grabbed the phone to begin calling in and cancelling my Monday morning services. Yeah, I was hurting pretty good. As I held the phone deciding who I was going to call first my finger hovered above the touch pad as I thought that I really *needed* to go. The voice in my head that sounds like John Wayne was telling me to wipe my tears, blow my nose, and get my rear out the door. *I did.*

On the way there I received a message that one of the ladies who serves with me on Mondays wouldn't be going because she had overslept. *I knew I should have called off.*

When I arrived at the first care facility, the other lady who serves with me on Mondays told me that she was very tempted to call in herself that morning in order to cancel. *The confirmation was clear.*

But since we were there we went in per usual.

There was a new resident attending our service that morning. She was largely deaf and not at all happy about being there-- *at the service or her living arrangement.*

"I worked hard all my life for a good retirement and they stick me in here!" and "They sold my home and everything that I worked my entire life for!" And there were many other complaints as she vented her frustration. The fact that she was deaf meant that she was quite loud and not picking up on the fact that we were beginning the service. However, after a five minute vent sessions she quieted down and we began.

During the singing God impressed on my heart that we needed to address her hurt. So after we finished with worship, I took a seat next to her and yelled into her ear that I could not do anything to change her situation but that we could pray for her. So, I took her hand and prayed a short prayer that Jesus would comfort her there and now. Nothing grand, nothing majestic, nothing super spirit-filled; just a simple 60-second prayer that Jesus would comfort her in her situation. Then I got up and completed the service.

On the way out I mentioned to the other volunteer that I was really glad that we showed up that day, because I believe that we were really needed -- *if for only that one lady.* We figured that the devil seriously didn't want us there that day, but that Jesus really knows what is needed and when, even when we do not.

~John

Prayer Letter...

Dear Prayer Partner,

Hi there, welcome to September! I love this time of year.

I have a lot of things to tell you and ask you to pray about this month.

1. Updated Website
 - a. We have updated our website (for the first time in too many years)! Please take a look – it now looks good on a phone or tablet! (www.thesharing.org)
2. New Prayer Email
 - a. We've been asked to begin sending out a mid-month email about current prayer requests. I've let the old list lapse into disuse, so this will be a completely new one. This list is specifically for anyone who wants current information for prayer purposes.
 - b. This is a private email that we are offering only to our current prayer and financial supporters. To find the sign-up form, please visit our website, go to the CONNECT menu option, and choose PARTNER. Click on the image of the RED HEART and you will be directed to the sign-up form.
3. Letters to Macomb County Churches
 - a. This month I sent 203 letters to churches in Macomb County seeking to inspire them to join the work of ministering to the nursing care homes. Please pray that these letters reach just the right people whom God might have been prompting about this.
4. Meeting with a professional fundraiser
 - a. It was suggested to me that I meet with a professional fundraiser for next year's Shoebox program. Please pray for this meeting that I might learn something – because I really don't like (and am not good at) fundraising.
5. Our Family
 - a. Please pray for us as we hope to visit every church on our prayer partner list. We believe that we need to be more intentional about forming relationships with them. Some are a few hundred miles away, so planning and travel will be involved. Please pray that God provide the means.
 - b. It appears that the greatest portion of my income-producing work outside the ministry is going away, so I will no longer be collecting that income. This work pays a specific bill, so please pray that God will provide for us as He always does – *pray more that we will be ok waiting on Him.*
 - c. School begins – please pray for us as we begin our 9th year of homeschooling, and I will be doing three classes with the older kids (that'll be new and interesting).

And as always, I pray for you every day. May the blessing of God be your peace which passes all understanding -- Amen.

Thank you for your love,

John

The Lord delights in those who are awed by Him, who wait on His unfailing love. Psalm 147:11