

The Sharing Org

Ministry to the Adult Foster Care Community

OCTOBER 2016

Ministry Moment...

Do you know who Don Quixote was? If you don't, Google him and read the Wikipedia article. Quickly though, he's a fictional character, and whether it is true or not, I have heard that only the Bible has been published more than the book Don Quixote.

The reason I bring this up is because I have been thinking about the vision that is on my heart for this ministry. The vision that sees churches ministering to the needs of people who live in the nursing care community. But as I really think about it, I feel like my life's ambition is nothing but a pipe dream. The task makes me feel small and incapable. And worse, it's true. I *am* smaller than the task, I am certainly not capable, but yet still my gut tells me that this is what God would have me to pursue with my life. I very often feel like a madman trying to be a valiant knight who will surely fail. I often feel that giving up would be the best way to save my dignity, and I continuously ask myself if I am just in a self-delusional fantasy like Quixote was.

A friend of mine¹ reminded me this week that while Quixote may indeed have been a senile old man who was delusional in his quests, his story still has four very large ideas that are well worth remembering.

1. A beautiful dream is worth believing in, even when others think you are crazy.
2. A beautiful dream is worth fighting for, even when you lose.
3. A beautiful dream is worth pursuing, even if it never comes true.
4. The possibility remains that your beautiful dream might turn out to be folly.

I am reminded that I see a God-sized vision of our world that is way better than it presently is, and the vision I see is a beautiful one, even when I am beating my head against the wall.

I am so very thankful to you for being with me. Do you envision a world where the body of Jesus Christ activates to reach out with the love and gospel of Christ in order to love those among us who are marginalized? It's a beautiful vision, and one that really is worth pursuing; even if turns out to be folly.

Thank you for partnering with us as home-by-individual-home we realize this impossible dream for the honor of Christ who shed His blood for us all.

~John

"Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord." Psalm 31:24

¹ Roy H Williams – The Wizard of Ads: <http://bit.ly/2cwA35o>

Prayer Letter...

Dear Prayer Partner,

Has your September gone as fast as mine has?

This has been a fun month. I have been doing a campaign to all the churches in Macomb County. My goal is to inform these churches of the ministry opportunities at the many nursing care homes in our county. I have sent out two of six monthly mailings to them, and so far I am happy with the responses.

1. The first response was from a woman who has an online TV show interviewing local Christian authors. She interviewed me last week, and the 30-minute show is available for viewing online. I am praying for 500 people to learn the message of the ministry to the nursing care community by it. **I have placed a link to the interview on our website.**
2. The second response is from a church that asked to publish one of our Ministry Moments in their church's bulletin. The congregation is very small, but again, I am happy for even just a few more people learning of the opportunity.
3. Finally, the last one is a larger church in the area that has contacted me. I am looking forward to making their acquaintance and sharing the message with them.

Please pray with me as I make connections with area pastors and other leaders, that I would be able to effectively communicate about our ministry and help them to reach out in their own neighborhoods.

October is the official month for us to fill shoeboxes with the residents. Thank you for all of your gifts toward this project. We have raised enough funds to fill some 50 shoeboxes and are excited to once again reach out to the world with the help of the residents. Please keep us, and the entire distribution network, in prayer as we have this opportunity to share gifts and the story of Jesus with the most desperate children in our world.

And please continue to pray for us as a ministry, and all of the some 90 residents we serve each week. I cannot express to you how much I covet your prayers, for I know that nothing of lasting value for God's kingdom can be of any real value without it. Also, please remember that I do pray for you every day. I ask God to encourage your soul at odd times during your day. My hope is that when this happens you will know that it is because you are being prayed for.

Would you like a mid-month email with our current prayer needs? Please sign up at <http://thesharing.org/mailchimp.html> OR at <http://bit.ly/2d4O39u>.

Thank you for praying with and for us, as well as for your financial support of our work. I doubt that any of us will know this side of glory the blessing that is truly happening in the lives of the people we serve with the Gospel of our Savior. Thank you for being with us.

Be blessed my friend,



John

Matthew 25 - ^{37b} 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?' ³⁸ 'When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you?' ³⁹ 'When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' ^{40b} 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'