

# The Sharing Org

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Ministry to the Adult Foster Care Community

NOVEMBER 2016

## Ministry Moment...

There is a woman who comes into the home to visit with her father, and she is often present in our services. I have gotten to know her over time and I have learned that her husband is a minister at a church in another county.

I've also been on this kick recently where I've been eager to tell people who they **are** in Christ; how when we come to faith in Jesus, the "old has gone and the new has come." Personally I've grown weary of always being reminded that I **am** just a "sinner, saved by grace" rather than being encouraged about my present status as *Child of God* and *co-heir with Christ*.

The other day I talked about how the Israelites were slaves in Egypt for 400 years, and how God sent Moses to lead them out of their slavery; into the Promised Land. It's interesting that once God redeemed the Israelites from their slavery, they were never again referred to as *slaves* but rather as the *Children of Israel; the Children of God*. However, we Christians, who *were* at one time slaves to sin and death, have also been redeemed, but we have a habit of referring to ourselves as "sinners, saved by grace." We **were** slaves to sin and death at one time, but **now** we are not, and we need to accept the edict of our God because in Christ we **ARE** now new creations. Miraculously, the old has gone! I am convinced that this is a matter of Christian identity, about moving forward and not continually stopping to look back like Lot's wife did.

Afterward, the woman who visits with her father told me that she had never heard this before, that she had never been told who she **was** as a Christian and that she was going to leave that day with a spring in her step.

There are often times that God gives me something to talk about with the residents that don't make sense to me, but I am learning that sometimes the words I have been given might not be for whom I think they are.

Kind of cool, I think.

~John

**"So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"**

**(1 Corinthians 5:16-17)**

## Prayer Letter...

Dear Prayer Partner Suzie,

October is always a fun month as it is the month that we fill Shoeboxes. We love shoeboxes! Not only do poor children get valuable gifts, and the story of Jesus for Christmas, but the residents that we serve are enabled to reach outside their four walls in this annual missionary effort. This is now the 13<sup>th</sup> year that we have participated in the Shoebox program, and I love that our little ministry has had the opportunity for world-wide missions.

Our family has been very blessed, though busy. The children's schooling is time consuming. We homeschool, and I have the privilege of teaching two classes to our 5<sup>th</sup> grader, Evan: 3-D Printing and Electronics. Please pray for us as Megan and I often struggle because we sometimes feel out of our leagues.

On November 1<sup>st</sup> my second book was released. Please pray that this effort might be successful for us. The goal isn't to get rich and famous but rather to increase my ability to be an influence in the lives of others as a follower of Jesus. However, I have added a shameless plug of a bookmark in case you wanted to get a copy (or ten) of the new book. ;-)

Please pray for our mailing efforts to Macomb County churches. The results, so far, have been promising, and there are a final three mailings yet to be done. Pray that God would give me the words that will connect in a most significant way with just the right people. This mailing effort is in connection with our vision to match up the churches in Michigan with the nursing care homes in Michigan. It's a big vision but one that is certainly worthy of our work.

And finally, as always, please pray that God would provide for all our needs in this ministry. As the Chief Financial Officer I have a finger on the pulse of the budget. And while God has never once let us fall, I tend to get antsy when things are not as planned. Please pray for me to relax and trust in whatever it is that God has for us.

Have a GREAT November and Thanksgiving time!

Blessings,



John

**“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.”**

**(1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)**

PS. If you would like to receive our mid-month email informing you of our current prayer needs during the month, please contact me and I will get you on this list. Call or email me.