



The
Sharing
Org

The Sharing Organization

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JANUARY 2017

Ministry Moment...

When I arrived, just after Thanksgiving, I learned that Gerri had passed away. Gerri was a lot of fun because you were never really sure what she was going to say. Often I would be speaking and she would interrupt me to ask what I thought about the aliens that are in Area 51. She regularly attended the worship service and was a staple at them. I can't think of anything that would keep her away.

Gerri was a believer of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection from the very start. Granted, she had some odd things that she would say, but really, she only spoke aloud what many of us just think quietly to ourselves. When she found out I had MS she immediately called the group to gather around me to lay hands on me and ask for healing. It was refreshing to see that her faith so easily was put into action. She did this quite regularly at first and would make it a point to stick around after the service to ask for prayer, or just pray for me. It was nice.

Over time she deteriorated, and at times I wondered if she even remembered those moments. She became more lethargic and even went to the hospital a couple of times to have her meds adjusted. I was sorry to see her health wane, but this process is never unexpected.

Today, I remember Gerri as a godly woman of faith who has gone on into the hands of our Savior with joy. While I would never presume to make a judgment about the eternal condition of her soul, I am confident that her faith in the blood of Jesus will not disappoint and that she has found the true healing that His stripes bore for us all.

Farewell, my friend. You will be missed!

Blessings,

~John

But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. (Isaiah 53:5)

Prayer Letter...

Dear Prayer Partner,

Happy New Year! It's 2017 and our 14th year of doing ministry. Thanks to the many of you who have been with us from the beginning and thanks to you who may have just joined us in the past year. I am thrilled that all of you pray for and support us financially so faithfully. I am humbled as I recognize that the Holy Spirit inspires us all to minister in many ways. Thank you for ministering with us.

This year I plan to continue reaching out to the various churches in our county. Our vision is to realize all of the churches in Michigan ministering to the care homes in their own communities so I will continue to work first in our county to get them to join the effort, so please pray with me as I will do this for 2017.

I also want to get our prayer support to 100 prayer partners this year. Last year I thought I would easily accomplish this but I did not. This year we are just 40 partners away, so please pray with me as I endeavor to invite new people to join us in the effort of reaching out with the love of Jesus to the residents in the nursing care communities.

And as our final goal for 2017, I hope to have a smooth time raising the funds for our annual Shoebox Program. A good portion of the funds have already been raised thanks to "Giving Tuesday" in November, so our prayer is now for the final portion to be raised over the next few months. Please pray with me that we will raise the funding and that my health will remain good enough for me to do the work.

As you go into your new year, I pray that you will be used by God in mighty ways. We have 5,664 hours in 2017, and I pray that you will change the world for Christ with even just 2% of those hours. Why 2% you ask? No reason in particular, I just thought 1% is too little to ask for an entire year. No frets though; go and be a blessing for Christ--if only for one hour.

Many blessings to you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John R. Rock". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John

Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world. (James 1:27)

