



The
Sharing
Org

The Sharing Organization

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Ministry Moment...

I received the following email this past month from a resident...

Dear Rev. John,

Lawrence, a fellow resident of our home, passed away peacefully in his sleep last night from natural causes around 1:00 a.m. He was 66 years old.

Quickly after the house manager noticed that Lawrence was not responding to the call for breakfast around 6:45 a.m. and went to check on him in his room, she called 911 and first responders arrived on the scene very soon and assessed the situation.

Lawrence will be missed. I collected his clothes and personal items and got them ready for pickup by his family members. It was with a touch of sadness that I did his final batch of laundry to include with his personal effects.

Our group home manager has been one for many years, he reminded me that these things happen in group homes.

Gilbert

My wife Megan wanted me to share this letter with you because it shows the surprise and the sadness experienced by the residents when one of their housemates passes away. The residents often don't have any way for closure since they are not usually able to attend funeral services. Because of this, it isn't unusual for me to adapt the weekly service to include a memorial service for a resident.

I have the unique opportunity to sit with the residents as they tell me about the good, the bad, the funny, and the sad about their deceased housemates. I find that healing happens in the remembrances and the sharing. They will still miss their friend, but healing happens as they know they have been heard and able tell someone about their hurt, their own fears of death, and even their hopes about God. And I am able to assure them again of the gospel and love of the Christ who died that we might live.

~John

Colossians 1:15-23

Prayer Letter...

Dear Prayer Partner,

Thank you for praying for our shoebox effort this year. It has been another great effort where many lives are once again touched with the blessings of the gifts and good news of Jesus for the Christmas season. Please continue to pray as each of the boxes we packed will soon be on the long journey to reach just the right child in time for Christmas. Please pray for the many volunteers and the children themselves.

This month I was given an orthotic device (an AFO) that fits in my shoe and helps me keep my toe from dropping. This foot-drop has been a problem for me for a few years now, and I finally got the device: it's a total blessing. During the process of getting fitted for the device, the medical professional that sized me determined that my left leg is shorter than my right (the one with the foot-drop) and fitted my left shoe with a ¼" lift. It was amazing to see and feel an instantaneous difference in my gait and ability to walk! Megan says I've doubled my walking speed. I still need the cane, but it is less necessary than it was last month. Thank you for your continued prayers for my health.

This month I was again reminded about the need the residents have for us to pray on their behalf. I was reminded that they do not always have the personal mental acuity to pray for themselves, so they need people to come alongside them and be their advocate before God. There are about 112 residents with a varying degree of mental ability, and most all of them need us to love them enough to pray with and for them. Will you do that with me this next month? You don't need to know anything about the person, because Jesus does. Just ask our Lord to touch the residents deeply with His love, comfort, and salvation.

As an example of why this is necessary: I was talking to a man who has been with me for six or seven years. He was telling me that he attributes his salvation to me and another man that was in his home. He said that before he was with us, he had a general understanding of God from his old Sunday School days, but when he started attending our weekly service he would inquire of another guy in his home about the message of Christ that I was bringing. He told me that it was through the combination of me and his housemate that God revealed to him the reality of the Lord Jesus Christ, which led to his personal relationship with and assurance of Him. I love stories like this! I don't get many of them, so when I do I like to share them.

Thank you for praying,



John R. Rock

Luke 24:30-31a

³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them.

³¹ Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him...