



The
Sharing
Org

The Sharing Organization

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DECEMBER 2017

Ministry Moment...

I'm hesitant of sharing this, but I learned something a bit ago about myself that I'm not exceptionally proud of.

At the beginning of one of the services, one of the guys (we'll call him Jim) was making a fuss about wanting a particular seat in the service, but another guy (called Trent) was already seated and would not give it up. The fuss was nothing more than a child-like verbal bickering, and then it settled as we began the service.

In the middle of one of the songs, Jim began picking up salt shakers and other things on the table, and putting them on Trent's song book. Trent told him to stop it, but Jim persisted in being a nuisance to Trent. I kept watching all the guys in the service begin paying attention to Jim, and I kept waiting for him to stop the disruption, but he did not. Finally I had to step in.

This is the part that I am ashamed of. I didn't just stop the music and get Jim to desist; I yelled. Maybe yelled is too gentle of a word. I more like erupted at Jim and told him to stop it or leave. He decided to stay and that was that, but then I started thinking about it. I erupt like this toward my children when they get to bickering.

I sat there as we sang feeling ashamed that I erupt at my children like that, and apparently at mentally ill guys, too. All that week I pondered the moment and felt the shame of it. That week I yelled less at my kids (and I think I still yell less), and I publicly apologized the next week to the guys at that home. I'm not sure if my kids would agree that I erupt less, but the guys at the home just shrugged their shoulders and told me that they didn't even remember me yelling that day.

Today I was with the guys at this service, and Jim began the service again by pestering for the particular seat. I asked him to sit down and asked him why he was so adamant about that particular seat. He told me he wanted it because it was closer to that other side (whatever that meant). I told him that he had the best position on the starboard side of the table and that Trent only had a seat on the portside. He seemed content with that and all was well for the whole service.

Now we'll see if it will hold true for next week.

~John

Prayer Letter...

Dear Prayer Partner,

It's that time of year again where we anticipate the celebration of the birth of our savior, Jesus the Messiah, Emmanuel! I pray that you and your family will be able to focus on the reality that God was born into our world, in a manger, and made His dwelling among us.

This year was a blessed year. Yes, we lost a few of the homes that we were serving, and the Davieses have left us for a new ministry opportunity, but despite the heartaches, we were still able to share the love and gospel of Jesus weekly with some 90+ residents who come-and-go through the homes where we serve. It is a great blessing to meet and bring comfort to these residents, and we are grateful for the privilege. Thank you for praying with and supporting us in this mission.

We had the privilege of delivering 56 shoeboxes to the Operation Christmas Child drop-off location this year. Thanks to all of you who helped us raise the funding for this project. This next year is our 15th year birthday as a ministry. Stay tuned as we plan to have a birthday party and incorporate shoeboxes into it!

I've included the Approved 2018 Budget for your enjoyment. If you or your church or civic group would like to have a special fundraiser to help us make budget this next year, please feel free to set it up. Also, if you still would like to make an end of year donation, I would humbly remind you that there is still a need in our 2017 budget. Please consider making an end-of-year donation to The Sharing Organization.

As always, I am eternally grateful to you who stand alongside us in prayer, as well as you who are led to support our mission financially. I literally thank my God for you by name.

Merry Christmas,



John R. Rock

John 1:9-14

⁹ The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Please notice that I have changed my phone number in the header. This is my personal cell phone number. The old one was my Skype number, but that service proved to be cumbersome and unreliable. I don't always have my cell phone on, but it will alert me of my messages when I do turn it on.