



The
Sharing
Org

The Sharing Organization

PO Box 73

Armada, MI 48005

586-305-5167

MARCH 2018

Ministry Moment...

Today , my grandmother was greeting residents at one of the homes and she shook a lady's hand; while doing so she apologized and asked the lady to remind her of her name again. The lady had a few false starts; she jumbled around her words, hemmed and hawed, and then finally admitted that she couldn't remember...

At the time I thought again how Alzheimer's is an awful disease that robs people of their very identities, but even in that sort of reality I've not met many people who forget who Jesus is. Most people I've met, even if they don't really understand the words that are spoken to them, generally respond with a smile when they are told that God has not forgotten nor forsaken them. Even the lady today might not have been able to remember her own name, but she was active during the time of singing and attentive during the Scripture lesson. She was in the moment with us despite the devastating effect of her illness. In the end, it was obvious that she appreciated the reminder that God loved her and that grace in Christ was hers. There is something innate and eternal about our core spirituality. When the Spirit of God is infused with ours and our identities leave the "sinner" category and enter the "child of God" category, not even an illness as vicious as Alzheimer's can completely take away the knowledge of our soul's connectedness to our Lord.

I remember meeting my grandmother-in-law when she lived in a nursing care facility. She didn't know anyone anymore and was no longer the woman that my wife had known growing up. But my wife had told me that even in her sickness, when she sat at the piano she would still play the hymns of her past. Some could argue that she would play those old hymns because that was all she had known, but I would contend that those hymns were just the echoes of her true identity in her Savior.

Agree with me or not, but either way I believe it's true.

Romans 8:28

³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Oh! And on a happy note, the lady we visited with today did remember and told us that her name was Josephine. ☺

~John

Prayer Letter...

Dear Prayer Partners,

This month I will have the great privilege of joining the ministers and elders of our North American association of churches in Chicago. Please pray for me as I travel from the 7th to the 10th. This conference has been held three hours from us in Grand Rapids in the past, so I would just drive there, but this year it is on the west side of Chicago, so I will be travelling by bus. I'm excited and nervous about this trip, because I am not used to travelling, but a good, long bus ride and a new book or two should be wonderful. So please pray for me as I travel, and maybe more, pray for my wife as she has to stay home and tend the kids. *Yeah, definitely pray for my wife.* ☺

We are hosting a **Meet & Greet & Eat** on June 2nd from 1 to 5 p.m. at Haven Place, 58575 Main Street, New Haven, MI 48048. The doors will open at 1 p.m. with the program starting at 1:30 p.m. Please join us and bring friends who you think would appreciate our work. Contact me via phone or e-mail by May 1st to RSVP with how many people will be joining you.

This morning (2/27) a gentleman asked me for prayer as he says that he is struggling with his faith. He explained that the group home setting is a new experience for him, and he is having a tough time adjusting with all of the changes in his life at the moment. Please take a moment and lift Bill up in prayer.

This year I have been diligent about writing hand-written notes each day to the pastors in our area. Please pray that as I do this, God will place on their hearts the reality of the many thousands of residents who are largely not served by the local churches in their own communities.

Finally, many blessings to you and yours. I thank God for your prayers and support as we take the gospel to the residents of the nursing care community.

In His Service,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John R. Rock".

John R. Rock