



The Sharing Organization

PO Box 73  
Armada, MI 48005

586-305-5167

SEPTEMBER 2018

### Ministry Moment...

There is a gentleman who has been in services with us for a couple years now. He was raised in the church and is faithful to and enjoys being part of the worship time.

Over the past couple years I have developed a bit of frustration with him. His demeanor, his idiosyncrasies, and his childishness all irritate me. In fact, it has gotten to the point where even the idea that he will be coming into the room bugs me. I feel terribly guilty, because I know that he has no real control over how his disability plays out and the way it affects him. I know that despite his physical appearance (as a fully grown normal man) he has an illness that does not allow him to act as *apparently* I think he should. I'm frustrated with myself, because I know I am lacking compassion for him even though I know that he is *not* responsible for anything that I am frustrated with him about.

The other day after the service, I was asked to go to a resident's room to see and pray with a gentleman who wasn't feeling well, so I did. As I was leaving the resident's room, the man who frustrates me grabbed me and asked me to pray for him.

"What do you want me to pray for you about?" I asked.

"Would you pray for me? I miss my mother," he told me through quivering lips, "and sometimes I cry."

At that moment, I received a perspective that melted my heart to the core. Despite the fact that he looks like a "normal" man on the outside, he really is just a child on the inside who misses his mother. I know that ultimately, he is a person who needs me to remind him each week that Jesus indeed loves him.

I also know that I have been called to be the love of Jesus to him which really does make me very happy.

~John

**For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.**

Ephesians 6:12

## Prayer Letter...

Dear Prayer Partner,

We are celebrating our 15<sup>th</sup> year milestone and having a ministry birthday party on September 8th. It will be held at the Haven Place in New Haven, and our keynote speaker will be Suzie Aheimer, Operation Christmas Child's Area Coordinator for greater Detroit. As part of the event we will be having cake and ice cream sandwiches, **(NOTICE THIS CHANGE)** writing cards to the children who will get a shoebox from us this year, and enjoying s'mores around a bonfire (weather permitting). Please see the enclosed invitation, and if you haven't already, please be sure to accept or decline with the RSVP card you received last month.

This month a friend and I are going on an overnight prayer retreat; *I'm as excited as a school girl going to prom!* Our retreat is a semi-silent prayer retreat with three specific sessions, seeking the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. There will be 6.5 total hours of silent prayer with only one purpose, to shut-up long enough that we can hear the voice of God. Neither of us has ever done something like this before, but we are expectant even though the idea of being quiet for 6.5 hours scares us a bit. Please pray for us as we seek God in this new way for us.

Also this month school begins, which means my wife will need much prayer support. She has spent all summer getting curriculum together for each child and is incorporating a co-op into the schedule, so her plate will be full. Our 4-year-old is also returning to a 4-day preschool this year. I am teaching my 12-year old a class about finance and investing (his request), so please pray for us as we strive to work with each other. *(Side note: The other day Megan was reading a book for her own enjoyment, and all the kids were clamoring for her and on her. She asked them how it was that Dad can read a book in the living room and nobody bugs him, but when she tries to read they are all over her. The 12-year old replied with a glint in his eye, "That's because nobody really likes Dad." Do you see why my wife needs a lot of prayer support?!)*

Thank you for continuing to pray with us. And please, if ever you want to drop us a line to tell us how awesome we are (*and we would love it if you do!*), please email us at [info@thesharing.org](mailto:info@thesharing.org).

Many blessings,



John R. Rock