



Dear Prayer Partner,

As a monthly financial contributor to (or a board member of) the Sharing Org I consider you to be one of our partners in this ministry. By your participation you are communicating that you have a deep commitment to taking the Gospel of our Lord to the residents of care facilities and that you are committed to the mission of providing weekly worship services for those who cannot get out of their homes to attend a local church. For this reason, in addition to your monthly prayer letter, I will be including additional details about the ministry in order to give you a fuller view of how the Sharing Org touches the lives of the people that we serve. In doing so I hope that you will gain a deeper understanding of how you are a part of a powerful and meaningful ministry that loves people who are often overlooked in our society.

“Want to come sit on my lap?” These are the words that Sela often hears at our services. Residents are so overjoyed to see a little one that they just want to sit and hold her during the service. To my surprise, I watched as my little girl left her seat to sit on the lap of a woman that she had never met before at a facility that she had only been to once before.

After the service the woman that was holding Sela told me that I needed to bring Sela back to her room as she had a gift for her. When I did, the resident showed Sela a collection of angels and told to pick one. Sela chose one that was a bell, and now it sits on top of the cabinet in her room as a reminder of the time that she sat and loved a resident during church.

I thought the gift was a bit extravagant, but the woman insisted and I thought better than to argue the point. Later, Megan reminded me that the folks that we serve have very little left to give and when they get the chance it is a blessing for them to do so. I do not care for accepting money from the residents as I feel

that doing so could appear to make me a charlatan but I have often accepted home made crocheted or knitted gifts and trinkets of some sort as objects of appreciation. But the angel-bell seemed to me to be a fine piece of collectible ceramic that was worth far more than a 15 minute sit on the lap – it was a gift of love that came from deep within the heart.

I often wonder if the call of God in our lives is not robbing Sela of the traditional “church & Sunday school” upbringing, but as I contemplate it further I realize that Sela is not being robbed of anything – she has a bell. A bell that was worth so much to one woman who otherwise would have had no little one to sit on her lap during an afternoon church service. My daughter does not yet realize it, but she is truly in the service of our Lord, and I am thankful to have a little ministry partner who so readily loves those whom we serve.

~John