

# The Sharing Org

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## Ministry to the Adult Foster Care Community

January 2013

### Ministry Moment:

A few years ago I had taken the Christmas and New Year's time off. It was only two weeks between my visits during the previous year and the new one, but when I had returned I learned that two of my younger weekly worshippers had passed. I'm sorry if this is blue, but I cannot help but think of them both during this time of year.

One man's name was Herbie and he was a complete joy to me. He was the one that taught me how necessary it was that I went into his home each week to conduct worship services because his very loud, almost irreverent, enthusiastic hollering with the music would not have been tolerated in a standard worship setting. He yelled with joy a holler that would have been construed as cries of pain if not for the wide smile that accompanied his bright eyes. Herbie loved to sing the worship songs, and even though I am not so sure that he knew anything that I spoke of about Jesus, he was always a welcome part of the service. I miss that his large frame would greet me every week with a great big enthusiastic handshake that always ended in an all-encompassing hug.

Then there was the man name Billy. Billy was slower than Herbie, not in a mental sort of way but rather in a physical calm sort of way. He always greeted me with an extremely warm handshake and the words "You a good fwiend, John – *A good fwiend.*" Billy was a Down syndrome man who appeared to have had some sort of spiritual upbringing, because he was largely uncommunicative but could recite the Lord's Prayer with everyone without a problem.

Both men may have been only in their 50's and both men were in relatively good health (at least so I thought) when I had seen them before Christmas vacation that year. While I am quite used to the unexpected deaths that this ministry presents me with regularly, I was completely taken aback when I learned of these two men's passing.

However shocked I may have been, I was very thankful that I had been given the opportunity to become friends with them both and share with them in word or by deed the love of God through Jesus our Lord. I love my vocation and am thrilled with the benefit of the handshakes and the hugs!

~John

## Prayer Letter:

Dear Andy & Sally,

Phew! That was close - I thought the Mayans had us there for a minute. ☺ Happy 2013 to you! Thank you for praying with us and partnering with us as we prepare to celebrate our tenth year of ministry to the nursing care facilities.

As we begin this 10<sup>th</sup> year I want to state four goals that I have for this calendar year.

1. To continue with our mission: *WE SHARE THE GOSPEL WITH THE ADULT FOSTER CARE COMMUNITY. WITH YOUR SUPPORT IF WE MAY, ALONE IF WE MUST, BUT ALWAYS WITH THE COMPASSION OF CHRIST.*
2. To do 100 shoeboxes this year with the residents we serve.
3. To write and publish a 10<sup>th</sup> year anniversary book about the ministry.
4. To make this year's annual budget of \$33,000 - *It has never happened before, but still you have to have a goal, right? ☺*


Please be in prayer with us about these goals. I am personally most intimidated by #3, but they are all daunting if you ask me. Please pray that Jesus would show Himself to us all as we endeavor to meet these goals.

Also, please be in prayer for Pastor Steve as he and his family will be taking a pastorate in the Lansing area. He and I talked the other day, and he is saddened to have to leave the homes that he was serving with us, but he said he is going to do his best to get these homes covered by someone in his circle who can take over for him. Please pray that God would use him and his family in their new position, as well that he would be able to find a suitable replacement for himself.

And finally, please be in prayer for my family and me as we have been experiencing some spiritual growth which is leading I fear to some extra attention of the enemy. I don't know, maybe it is just me, but I feel as though I am recognizing some areas of our lives that are under attack of the evil one. Thank you.

Thank you again for joining us in this call to the nursing care community.

Blessings!



John