



The Sharing Organization

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Ministry Moment...

She was out of sorts--very weepy and even hiding her face in all-out sobbing. She said that she is tired of the pain; she said that her "brain hurt".

I'm used to hearing about the normal body aches that people have but when she said that her "brain" was hurting her, it was something new to me. Aches and pains I understand, but the fatigue of her mental illness to the point that it can only be described as her brain hurting; well, that was a description I had not expected.

A few weeks later she was her normal joyful self, and before I left she told me that she did not think God was pleased with her. She told me that she understood that Jesus wanted her to love the people around her, but she often would forget what she was going to do and remember only after the moment had passed. She was convinced that God was cross with her because she did not love people like Jesus does.

I told her that God was not cross with her and that our gracious God does not hold her inabilities against her in any way. She was not convinced so I asked her if she would be mad at someone with a broken arm if they couldn't do chin-ups, if she held it against the diabetic because he couldn't tolerate sugar, or if she was angry at a man who was born paraplegic because he couldn't climb Mount Everest?

"Of course not, that wouldn't be right" she replied.

"Then why, in your illness, do you think God holds it against you for being sick and having limitations?" I asked her.

She thought on this for a moment, and then she smiled and thanked me for my time. I am sure that she knew all of this, but sometimes it just takes someone to gently remind us of what we already know.

Thank you for being a valuable part of helping us take the grace of Jesus to the residents who often don't have anyone to gently remind them of what they already know in their faith.

~John

PS: If your congregation ever wants to help the many in your own neighborhood to remember the grace of Jesus, please feel free to call on me to help.

Prayer Letter...

Dear Prayer Partner,

This month was a great month as I was reminded of the numerous ways in which God takes care of our family.

- First, our washing machine was down for over two months, but our friends across the street gave us a house key and invited us to use their washer for the entire time. (The washer, which was still under warranty, has finally been properly repaired!)
- Then, for my birthday these same friends gave me a card with three Red Lobster gift cards inside AND they set up a time to babysit while Megan and I went on a date.
- Further this month, my lease vehicle was returned (thank God), and Megan and I were negotiating our summer calendars in order to live with just one vehicle for the time being when my mother called and gave me her truck as she had just gotten a newer used vehicle for herself.
- Then, a few weeks after that, the truck's cooling system failed and I had to take it into the auto shop. The water pump and the radiator were replaced while the truck spent a couple of days in the shop. When I picked up the truck, the guy behind the counter told me that the bill had been taken care of by the owners of the shop saying that they wanted to bless me this way.
- And despite two different illnesses in the house, and the issues with the truck, and Megan having a three-day migraine, our girls both stayed healthy and were able to attend a two-week daily drama camp and perform in "Sleeping Beauty" without missing anything.

As I considered the onslaught of blessings I experienced this month, I thought how for almost 15 years each of you has been supporting my family and this mission to the residents in the nursing care community. I was once again reminded of God's faithfulness to us and quite overtaken with the emotion of it all.

I know that I generally use this letter to communicate our prayer needs each month, but this time I am going to ask for nothing. I simply want to say "thank you" to God and all of you for the many, many blessings that I "counted one by one" this month. Even though I too often forget it, God is truly our faithful provider.

Blessings to you,



John R Rock

2 Corinthians 12:8-10

⁸ Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. ⁹ But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰ For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.