



Leadership Planning for Disability Ministry

"Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed." *Proverbs 15:22 (NIV)*

The word about disability ministry is spreading. BuildingChurchLeaders.com (BCL), a service of Christianity Today International, is a site for training church leaders. Realizing the need to make more disability ministry training materials available on the internet BCL worked with CCFH Ministries to make *How to Start a Disability Ministry* obtainable on their site. This article introduces *Exceptional Teaching Online* using a free video excerpt from one of the modules that gives steps for laying a disability ministry foundation.



The key to a successful disability ministry is the vision and support of ministry leaders. Today many are seeing that this effort must be implemented. Ministry leaders are looking for planning and training resources.

CCFH resources encourage the use of as many venues as needed to implement, empower and sustain a disability ministry. We work with sites such as BuildingChurchLeaders.com; provide listings in our published resources; present news of services and ministries in the *Exceptional Teaching Online Ministry Database* and the *CCFH Blog*; and offer referrals to other sources as applicable.

Refer your ministry leader(s) to <http://www.christianitytoday.com/bcl/>, the website for BuildingChurchLeaders.com to take a look at the CCFH article and other information available there. Then click the link to www.ccfh.org and look at our site and introductory video. These items together will provide a firm insight into disability ministry.

Aging with Grace

The National Health Information Center 2007 National Health Observances calendar at www.healthfinder.gov/library/nho/nho.asp?year=2007#49 lists one of the September events as *Healthy Aging[®] Month*. Information on *The Healthy Aging[®] Campaign* can be found at www.healthyaging.net/. The site lists the *Keys to Healthy Aging[®]* as: "Physical Fitness, Social Wellness, Financial Fitness, and Mental Wellness." CCFH would add Spiritual Wellness to the list.

Issues of aging are often overlooked as they pertain to people with disabilities. CCFH is acutely aware of them as we serve our residential family both at Riverwood and in the Independent Living Program. Some have been with us for many years and we delight in seeing them age with grace and dignity.



Four of our first residents, Tom, Paula, Brenda, and Rex, are still a part of the Riverwood family.

Help in Finding Loved Ones Lost in Institutions

Through the Arclink Incorporated, the FindFamily Registry is now available at www.thearclink.org/findfamily/. This service is offered to help people locate persons with disabilities who were placed in residential care settings and lost contact with other family members.

The story of Jeff Daly who located his sister Molly after nearly 50 years of separation was featured on CNN and details the reasons this registry is needed. Visit <http://www.cnn.com/2007/HEALTH/08/01/wheres.molly/index.html> to read the story.

Thank You for Asking

Question: I am interested in finding a curriculum for people who are mentally challenged. What do you have and do you send samples?

Answer: In our Online Store, under Lesson Materials, you will find two publications, *52 Lessons for Persons with Cognitive Disabilities* and *A Place for Me in God's Family*. Contact us at info@ccfh.org and we will email you a document containing the table of contents and a sample lesson from each.

Review the preview documents and then visit our Online Store to order. The publications are sent in Adobe® pdf format. Save to your computer, copy and distribute as needed.

DisabilityInfo.Gov introduces state and local resources map to assist visitors in locating disability-related information close to home

***WASHINGTON** — The federal government's one-stop Web site for disability-related information and resources — DisabilityInfo.gov — has unveiled a new feature, a state and local resources map, designed to assist visitors in finding disability-related information in their own states and localities.

While DisabilityInfo.gov is now well-known as a comprehensive source for government information at the federal level, this new feature enables users to search for disability service organizations at the state and local government levels, as well as federal offices close to home, in every state and U.S. territory.

To use the new state and local resources map, simply select one of the nine subject tabs — benefits, civil rights, community life, education, employment, health, housing, technology or transportation — at the top of any DisabilityInfo.gov page. Then click the map on the right sidebar to find links in that subject area related to your state. You will be directed to easy-to-navigate information and numerous organizations and contacts.

DisabilityInfo.gov also offers a free subscription service to *DisabilityInfo Connection*, the site's quarterly electronic newsletter, as well as e-mail alerts on new information in a specified state. Additionally, the site features an online press room that contains news releases, links to research and statistics, and ready-to-publish news briefs and articles.

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Information in this CCFH **Connections** newsletter compiled by Sylvia Hemphill, Director of Administrative Functions and Resource Materials.

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