



Reviewing Our Reason for Being

The beginning of a new year is a good time to review our reason for being. From the beginning CCFH's main goal is to share the love of Jesus with our friends with disabilities. The main points from an outline Jim Pierson used in a workshop several years ago provide a good summary of purpose.

Regardless of ability, everyone has a soul.

- A. A person with a disability is first and foremost a person.
- B. The most important part of the person is the soul.
- C. The soul needs to be redeemed and nurtured.
- D. The Great Commission is clear, "Every creature."

Regardless of ability, everyone has the need for salvation. Churches must recognize and address these questions:

- A. Are persons with disabilities, especially those with developmental disabilities, accountable for their sins?
- B. Can people with developmental disabilities understand how to become a Christian?
- C. The person's mental age is the key to the answers to both questions.

Regardless of ability, everyone has other spiritual needs.

- A. Basic spiritual needs: Forgiveness, fellowship, accountability, teaching, devotional, prayer, service, and unique gift.
- B. Relate the needs to specific disabilities as warranted.

Regardless of ability, everyone has the need to use his/her special gifts for the Lord.

- A. God has a purpose for all of His children.
- B. We all have challenges but, whatever the case may be, each person needs to discover his/her special gift(s) for kingdom building.

Regardless of ability, a person can learn the Gospel:

- A. from a person who establishes a relationship;
- B. through lessons that are geared to the proper level;
- C. with language that is appropriate;
- D. over an appropriate period of time;
- E. and with unceasing prayer.

Be motivated and encourage others to include people of all abilities in our response to the Great Commission.

January 2008 National Health Observances

☞ National Birth Defects Prevention Month – www.marchofdimes.com.

(1) Prematurity is the leading cause of death among newborn babies. Being born premature is also a serious health risk for a baby. Some babies will require special care and spend weeks or months hospitalized in a neonatal intensive care unit (NICU). Those who survive may face lifelong problems such as —

- [intellectual disabilities](#),
- [cerebral palsy](#),
- breathing and respiratory problems,
- [vision and hearing loss](#), and
- feeding and digestive problems.



Click the underlined links or go to the CDC website ⁽¹⁾ for more information on the referenced items.

☞ National Glaucoma Awareness Month – www.preventblindness.org

Visit the National Health Information website at www.healthfinder.gov and click on the 2008 National Health Observances icon to view a complete list of observances.

(1) <http://www.cdc.gov/Features/PrematureBirth/>

Have a Happy and Blessed 2008

Have a heart for spreading God's word to all.

Acknowledge that you and your ministry plan are a work in progress.

Pray without ceasing.

Persevere in your efforts.

Yield to the wants and needs of others.

Never give in to the enemy: doubt and discouragement.

Evaluate your program in terms of love and caring, not numbers.

Work hard but get necessary rest for your mind and body.

Yearn for the peace that passes all understanding.

Enter each day with a renewed spirit.

Always look to God.

Realize He is in control.



Sylvia Hemphill, © CCFH Ministries, 2008

Nick Vujicic - Using God's Gifts

The mission of LifeWithoutLimbs is "Crossing boundaries and breaking down barriers to build bridges that bring people to the Love and Hope in Jesus Christ." Through this inspiring ministry, Nick Vujicic, lets us see God's Plan in action. Born without limbs, Nick's story is one of courage and faith. Visit the site, www.lifewithoutlimbs.org to learn how God is using Nick's testimony to touch hearts worldwide.

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