

## CCFH Materials Will Continue to Be Developed

By Jim Pierson, President Emeritus

*With Jim Pierson's retirement, will CCFH continue to produce disability ministry materials?* The often-asked question needs an answer from me. In a word, yes.

I have often said that I did not want to retire without something meaningful to do. Is that retiring? It is for me. One of the joys of this ministry has been developing materials that assist churches in including people with disabilities in their programs. Items in our Online Store are widely used.

The CCFH board has asked me to stay on to continue to develop disability ministry materials. I am delighted to do so. The new president, Gary Spangler, will supervise the rest of the ministry.

To guide the process, a Materials Team, has been assembled. The members are people I have worked with over the years. They are great people. They know disability ministry. Most of them are directors of disabilities ministries in their churches. Personally, it will be a nice way to stay in touch with some special friends.

The group will meet by email and telephone conference to suggest materials that need to be written. The Team is made up of the following people:

Dawn Clark  
Director of Disabilities Ministries  
College Church  
Wheaton, Illinois

Connie Hutchinson  
Director of Disabilities Ministry  
First Evangelical Free Church  
Fullerton, California

Laura Payne, Area Director  
Joni and Friends, Knoxville  
Knoxville, Tennessee

Harmony Hensley  
Associate Director Outreach Events  
Vineyard Community Church  
Cincinnati, Ohio

Jackie Mills-Fernald, Director  
Access Ministry  
McLean Bible Church  
Vienna, Virginia



As I type, we are working on new, helpful materials.

This month, CCFH has added to our Online Store a Bible study using four familiar stories to help develop good manners. The study is based on four well-known Bible stories: Adam and Eve, Mary and Martha, the Good Samaritan, and the Paralyzed Man and His Four Friends.

*The Importance of Good Social Skills: A Bible Study for Persons with Developmental Disabilities* was written by Martha Farrington, a special education teacher and director of the special needs ministry in her church. Interestingly, the work was done as a part of a project she did for a distance learning course she took with me.

The easy-to-follow, practical lessons can be used with children or adults. The purposes are clear and the take home materials add to their usefulness. *(Continued on page 2)*

Also on the drawing board is a booklet of materials to help teachers develop a small group for people with disabilities if the church does not have a Sunday school. It should be available in the spring.

We develop what churches request. If you have suggestions for materials that would be helpful in your ministries, just email, call or write us.

So, the answer is yes! CCFH will continue to develop quality disability ministry materials to share the Good News with people with disabilities. I am glad I can be a part of it.

### ***The Importance of Good Social Skills: A Bible Study for Persons with Developmental Disabilities***

People with developmental disabilities may struggle in social environments. Inappropriate social skills also have a significant impact on the person's family. They can interfere with family outings, be a source of awkwardness and anxiety, and even affect day to day activities.

Christian teachers can help people with developmental delays learn the proper social skills to make and maintain friendships at church, which will enable them to fellowship with other believers and serve our Lord. They will also benefit in day-to-day interactions.

This curriculum is formulated for 17 weekly sessions but can be modified to fit your needs. The first 16 lesson plans and the final class party are detailed and ready to implement. We feel it is important to practice the skills you are teaching throughout the entire 17 weeks however, the party scenario at the end is the best environment to practice all the social skills taught.

Go to our Online Store to order the book today.

### ***Keep Disability Ministry a Priority***

Listening to a news report recently about an American city that had put an ethicist in charge of budget cuts caught my ear. How novel? Make decisions based on the heart and not the head.

"Cut backs" is a phrase heard often these days. When money gets tight, we all have to make adjustments. It is true of individuals, businesses, churches, and government. Although in the disability ministry world, money is important; the driving forces of success are commitment and time. People

who want to help people with disabilities know about Jesus need little or no money.

On the other hand, disability ministries and programs that depend on donations will appreciate their supporters keeping them on a priority list. For them and us, at CCFH, I express appreciation.

Thank you for using CCFH resources to keep your ministry affordable, effective and timely.

— Jim Pierson

Do you have a question for us? Email to [info@ccfh.org](mailto:info@ccfh.org) and receive a personal reply.

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