



Will you help me?

For as little as \$25 a month, **YOU** can help to sponsor a resident at Riverwood ! We currently have three(3) residents who need financial assistance. If you, your Sunday school class, or small group would be interested in helping one of our residents, please call us at **865.984.5178**, email us at info@ccdmonline.org or write to us at the address below. We will send you a picture and information about the person you are sponsoring.

The Servant



Christian Churches Disability Ministry

and
Riverwood

P.O. Box 310
Louisville, TN 37777
865 - 984 - 5178
www.ccdmonline.org

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Knoxville, TN
Permit #573

Volume 2 Issue 3
July 2011

The Servant

Volume 2 Number 4

July 2011

unleash the servant within



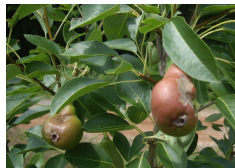
It's all about INCLUSION...Let me serve!

From Our President



Last year, one of our supporting churches planted some fruit and shade trees on our property. Our largest trees have an attraction for lightning, so our favorite was destroyed by this natural phenomenon. Over the winter months I was excited to see just how things would turn out. While some looked very healthy, others were showing signs of struggle. Personally, my track record for having a green thumb has been less than stellar, so although I did not personally plant them, I was wondering if the proverbial "death by association" would apply.

The other day, I received a call from Rhonna, our Director of Residential Services, who said, "You are not going to believe this, but the scrawny little tree has more pears that any of the others." I believe this is where our Lord would step in and speak another parable. How often does the world look at people with disabilities as those who have very little to offer? Or they see someone in a wheelchair and think the chair equals a lack of intelligence? How often have people in the world crossed the street to avoid contact because someone's facial features were different than the face they saw in the mirror that morning?



What about it, church people? Are you ready to help them unleash their desire to serve by using their talents at the door as a greeter or a communion server? In this newsletter, Dr. Jim Pierson, our President Emeritus, is introducing "**Inclusion Ministry**" to really help us understand how to turn the world upside down. Remember, there are over 53 million people who have disabilities. Please help turn their world upside down for Christ.

Gary W. Spangler

Christian Churches Disability Ministry

Gary W. Spangler
President

Carol Hundley
Administrative Asst.

P.O. Box 310
Louisville, TN
37777-0310
ccdmonline.org

Riverwood Campus

Rhonna Sanford
Director of Services

CCDM Board of Directors

Bert Allen
Walt Dooley
Edwin Griffin
Cecil Howard
Lynn Howard
Bart Jones
Scott Kent
Bill McLendon
Drew Mentzer
Richard Mullineux
Webster Olgesby
George Park
Roy Row
Dale Sikes
Wayne B. Smith
Wayne Spangler

Directors Emeritus

Ziden Nutt
Sam Stone



Our Residents' Birthdays

September 18th Kathy P.
23th Rebecca T.

Thank you for remembering our residents on their birthdays! They do appreciate the cards that you send. Please mail your cards to our residents at:

Riverwood
3123 Pride Road
Louisville, TN 37777



Gifts to Remember

In memory of:

Jack and Charlotte Ballard
Hap and Helen Dyer
Ginger Edwards
Gayle Payne
Jan Hudgins
Keith Williams
Ab and Fylma Witt

Given by: April 1 - May 31

Harry and Sandra Fuller
Jack and Dot Pickett
Jack and Dot Pickett
Benny Payne
Jack and Dot Pickett
Jack and Dot Pickett
Jack and Mary Witt

Gifts to Honor

In honor of:

Shay Nix
Jim Pierson

Given by:

Eunice Jamieson
Pat Bonner
David and Margaret Eubanks
Gene and Barbara Grasham
Dot Eversole
George and Peggy Park
Gene and Shirley Wigginton
Paul and Suzie Greene
Mary Helen Sandefur
Harry and Sandra Fuller

Glenna Sandefur

Dale Sikes

Celebrating Jim Pierson



On, Thursday, May 5th, the Board of Directors honored Dr. J.O. "Jim" Pierson for 27 years of love and leadership that he has given to this ministry. Approximately 150



friends and relatives came to the Gally Commons of Johnson University to show their appreciation for **Jim and Norma Pierson**.



Sam Stone, Editor Emeritus of *The Christian Standard* and Board Member Emeritus of **CCDM**, shared the story of how Jim was called to be the first director of this ministry.

We were blessed with a song sung by the residents of **Riverwood** and enjoyed some comments from **Tom**, one of Riverwood's first residents.



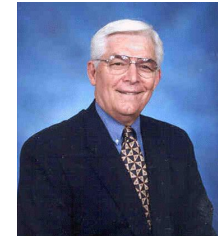
One of the highlights of the evening was the appearance of **Stephen Burnette**, a long-time friend of Jim's who shared how Jim has touched his life and been a friend and encourager.

Even in retirement, Jim will continue to bless us with his writing and be a friend to the residents of **Riverwood**.



Unleash the Servant Within: Inclusive Ministry - It isn't just a Program

By Jim Pierson



A busy time in the Riverwood kitchen.

Often a person is described as having a servant's heart. The distinction is made as though it is a rare quality. Really, any person whose heart has been changed by the love of Jesus should be a faithful servant. These servants are mandated by their Master to make the Gospel available to everyone.

Everyone needs to know who Jesus is. **Everyone** needs to have his/her spiritual life developed. **Everyone** includes people with disabilities.

Servants, motivated by compassion, should willingly share the Gospel with people with cerebral palsy, autism, Down syndrome, and sensory problems. A disability happens to one person and one family at a time. Give some thought to some situations by considering what your church would do in the following situations.



Continued on the next page

- A family with a three-week-old baby with cerebral palsy starts attending your church.
- A member of the church brings her elementary age nephew with visual impairments to the Bible school program.
- A young adult with autism visits and wants to be a part of a small group.
- A teenager with bipolar disorder is invited by a friend to attend the youth group.

These situations might seem overwhelming. However, if the focus is on the person and his needs—especially the spiritual needs—the solution can be a positive one.



Kim and a friend doing "girl stuff."

When people with disabilities are seen as having souls and worthy of God's love, we will learn their needs and work to meet them. We will not see ministry to them as something special but as the same individualized ministry provided to everyone else. Then a better term for what we call **disability ministry** would be **inclusive ministry**.



Scott and Don serving communion.

CCDM stands ready to help servants who are interested in unleashing in their congregations inclusive ministry to people with disabilities.

unleashed

the church turning the world upside down
North American Christian Convention

July 5 - 8

Cincinnati, Ohio

unleash the servant within

INCLUSION MINISTRY

(it's not just a program.)

Come and visit us in Booth #223



We are happy to announce that **Jan Christy**, wife of **Ken Christy**, one of our house managers, is now our "official photographer." Jan is a real blessing to our ministry. She recently photographed both **Jim Pierson's retirement gala** and the **Special Olympics**. We just wish we had her here all the time, but alas, we must share her with Johnson University, where she works in the Glass Memorial Library.