



General Disability Ministry Resources

Circles of Friends: People with Disabilities and Their Friends Enrich the Lives of One Another (1988) is a beautiful book written by Robert Perske and illustrated by Martha Perske. A collection of true stories that focus on issues surrounding friendships between people with disabilities and so-called normal people. This encouraging resource for parents, teachers, and leaders was published by Abingdon Press, (800) 251-3320.

Breakthrough, a free, quarterly publication from Bethesda Lutheran Communities, is for congregations and teachers serving people who have developmental disabilities. It includes various resources and informational articles. For more information visit www.bethesdalutherancommunities.org or call (800) 369-4636, Ext. 4448.

CCPD News, a quarterly newsletter of the Christian Council on Persons with Disabilities, is an all encompassing resource for knowing what is going on in the field of Christian disabilities ministries and developments throughout the U.S. and around the world. This newsletter is not primarily focused on education or curriculum but provides a broad base of information. For more information, visit www.ccpd.org or call (317) 847-0888.

Bridges to Faith is a video describing and documenting a collaborative project sponsored by the Massachusetts Department of Mental Retardation, the Inter-Church Council of Greater New Bedford, area parishes and congregations, and human service agencies in the Greater New Bedford Area. The mission of *Bridges to Faith* is to provide opportunities for spiritual enrichment to persons with developmental disabilities and the faith communities who welcome them. A good video to use when starting a new program for adults with disabilities. For more information, contact Colleen Perkins at (508) 992-1848, Ext. 309, or e-mail colleen.perkins@dmr.state.ma.us.

Learning Styles (1995) by Marlene LeFevre, introduces the four ways people learn, how to identify them, and explores these styles in different Christian learning environments such as in the classroom, during worship, and at home. It includes effective activities and methods that can be used with learners of all ages, from elementary through adult. It is a “must-have” resource for all church/school libraries. Consider also the companion book to this title, *Creative Teaching Methods* by Marlene LeFevre, which provides more teaching ideas. Available from the publisher, Cook Communications Ministries at www.cookministries.com or (800) 323-7543.

The following resources are available from The Crossroad Publishing Company:

God Plays Piano, Too: The Spiritual Lives of Disabled Children (1993) by Brett Webb-Mitchell is a collection of narratives that look into the spiritual lives of children with autism and behavioral disorders. The author gives voice to those who are seldom heard and shows us that God is often hidden in the most surprising places. *Unexpected Guests at God's Banquet: Welcoming People with Disabilities Into the Church* (1994) by Brett Webb-Mitchell, which flows from Jesus' parable of the banquet feast, is a practical and challenging call to a more inclusive church and shows why people with mental impairments, physical impairments, and others, must be a part of congregational life, along with how, where, and what to do.

For more information, contact The Crossroad Publishing Company at www.crossroadpublishing.com, or (800) 707-0670.

Disability Resources, Inc., offers these two resources:

- *Disability Resources Monthly* is a monthly newsletter that monitors, reviews, and reports on resources for independent living. The goal is to keep the reader informed about good books, pamphlets, videos, organizations, and other resources that can help people with disabilities live, learn, love, work, and play independently.
- *Guide to Disability Resources on the Internet*, *DRM Webwatcher*, and *DRM Regional Resource Directory* are available on the Disability Resources Web site. This Web site has an extensive list of resources, as well

as many links to other organizations. It is an excellent Web site for information about disabilities, but does not necessarily relate to religion or congregational issues.

For more information, visit www.disabilityresources.org or call (631) 585-0290.

Helping Kids Include Kids with Disabilities (2001), by Barbara J. Newman, helps equip teachers, church activity leaders, and kids with information they need to practice inclusive education in their congregational and Christian school communities. The book includes information for understanding children with special needs, guidelines for churches, information about specific and general areas of impairment, lesson plans, letters to families, and devotions for families. Contact Faith Alive Christian Resources/CRC Publications, at www.FaithAliveResources.org or (800) 333-8300 for more information.

The following resources are available from JAF Ministries, the disability outreach of Joni Eareckson Tada.

- *All God's Children* (1993), is a handbook for pastors, elders, ministry leaders, and every concerned Christian who wants to reach out to persons with disabilities.
- "Disability Ministry Sunday" church kit contains everything your church needs to conduct a Disability Ministry Sunday. Scripture suggestions, Sunday school curriculum for all ages, a church survey form, bulletin inserts, videos, and other valuable tools in a step-by-step format are included in this packet.

Note: JAF Ministries has a much more extensive list of materials available. Check their Web site, www.joniandfriends.org, or call them to get a full listing of their resources and prices.

For more information, call (818) 707-5664 or to place an order, call (800) 523-5777.

Jesus Cares Ministries offers these resources:

- *Beginning A Special Needs Bible Class* (2001) A step-by-step checklist and detailed explanation on starting a Bible class for people with special learning needs.
- *Planting the Seeds in Students with Special Needs* (2001) is video and companion booklets that help volunteer teachers learn more about including students with special needs in Sunday school, confirmation, or Bible class. It would make an excellent workshop. It could be used with a special education facilitator or without.
- *Understanding Your New Student* (2001) is a guide for pastors and teachers working with students who have special needs. It contains suggestions for talking with families, evaluating the students' abilities, and planning appropriate instruction.

For more information, visit Jesus Cares Ministries at www.jcministries.org or call (877) 505-3675.

The Liturgical Press, St. John's Abbey, offers the following resources:

- *A Place for All: Mental Retardation, Catechesis, and Liturgy* (1992) by Mary Therese Harrington is written from the author's own experience of catechesis, liturgy, and sacramental initiation with those who have significant developmental disabilities. She reflects on various modes of intellectual functioning, catechesis, and liturgy.
- *In Heaven There Are No Thunderstorms: Celebrating the Liturgy with Developmentally Disabled People* (1992) by Gijs Okhuijsen and Cees Van Opzeeland, is a gentle and moving account of liturgies celebrated with residents of Huize Ursula and De Hartekamp, institutions for the mentally disabled in The Netherlands. This book gives some very concrete and creative ideas for illustrating Biblical concepts through worship activities.

Contact Liturgical Press at (800) 858-9450 or www.litpress.org.

To Whom Shall We Go? (1995) video and Bible study encourages parishes to reach out with Jesus Christ to people with disabilities by providing opportunities for Christian growth, fellowship, and service. The video introduces four congregations involved in disability ministry — all in different ways and at different levels. The video is encouraging and inspirational.

Call LCMS World Relief and Human Care at (800) 248-1930, Ext. 1380 to order this resource.

Everyone Counts (1990) is an 18-minute video showing five congregations' creative methods of encouraging participation of people with developmental disabilities. It highlights the gifts, enrichment, and growth that

congregations experience when they include people with developmental disabilities. A brief study guide is included. Contact the Mennonite Central Committee for more information: (888) 563-4676 or www.mcc.org/respub.html.

That All May Worship: An Interfaith Welcome to Persons with Disabilities (1992) is meant to assist congregations and other groups in welcoming people with disabilities into all aspects of worship and religious life. It is a “coaching manual” written to encourage, prod, and prayerfully push religious leaders and their congregations to change the ways people with disabilities are, or are not, included in their congregations. For more information, contact National Organization on Disability (NOD) at (800) 248-2253 or www.nod.org.

Exceptional Teaching: A Comprehensive Guide for Including Students with Disabilities by Jim Pierson explains the characteristics of 77 diagnoses to help in identifying the challenges, how to approach a child, what teaching and discipline methods work best, and what you can expect a child to accomplish. This book is written from a Christian perspective and includes chapters on providing Christian education, ministering to the family of a student with a disability, and disability ministry programs. For more information, contact Standard Publishing at www.standardpub.com or (800) 543-1353.

Emmaus Eyes: Worship with the Mentally Challenged (1996) by LoAnn and David Trembly, offers practical suggestions for designing worship that includes mentally challenged individuals. It includes five worship services structured for inclusion of mentally challenged individuals. The book is available directly from the authors: David & LoAnn Trembly, 5526 N. 34th St., Milwaukee, WI 53209, or (414) 527-4747.

Extraordinary Kids: Nurturing and Championing Your Child with Special Needs (1997) by Cheri Fuller and Louise Tucker Jones, is filled with the personal experiences and anecdotes of many parents who raised children with limitations. This book endeavors to provide mothers and fathers with the hopes, inspiration, and insight they need to capture the unique joy of parenting a child with special needs and to help them reach their full potential. For more information contact Tyndale House Publishing at www.tyndale.com or (630) 668-8300.

Dancing with Disabilities: Opening the Church to all God's Children (1996) by Brett Webb-Mitchell, relates the struggles and triumphs, frustrations and joys, of children and adults with disabilities that Webb has met through his ministry. It is these people who put a genuinely human face to “disabilities,” and whose presence challenges the church to welcome all God's children to their rightful place in the Christian community. For more information, call United Church Press at (800) 537-3394.

The following resources are available through Westminster/John Knox Press:

- *And Show Steadfast Love: A Theological Look at Grace, Hospitality, Disabilities, and the Church* (1993) includes individual essays from pastors and theologians reflecting on current attitudes and behaviors toward people with disabilities. The writers envision a Christian community in which the humanity of each person is recognized and flourishes to the benefit of all.
- *Strong at the Broken Places: Persons with Disabilities and the Church* (1989) by Stewart D. Govig, himself disabled, provides a practical resource that enables congregational communities to achieve a balance of realism and hope in responding to the needs of all of its members.

For more information visit www.wjkbooks.com or call (800) 227-2872.

Woodbine House offers the following resources:

- *Children with Autism: A Parent's Guide* (1989) is an authoritative guide on autism covering daily and family life, early intervention, educational programs, legal rights, advocacy, and a look at the years ahead with a chapter on adults with autism.
- *Differences in Common: Straight Talk on Mental Retardation, Down Syndrome, and Life* (1991) by Marilyn Trainer is a collection of almost 50 essays spanning more than 20 years. Written about her experiences raising a son with Down syndrome, Trainer covers a wide variety of issues with the warmth and insight only a mother can provide.

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- *From the Heart: On Being the Mother of a Child with Special Needs* (1995) shares the stories of nine mothers exploring the intense, sometimes painful emotional terrain of raising children with special needs as autism, Down syndrome, ADD, and multiple disabilities. They discuss relationships with professionals, family life, work, school issues, and reflect on feelings about themselves and their closest friends and family. For more information contact www.woodbinehouse.com or call (800) 843-7323.