
South Central Conference

Disabilities Ministry Newsletter

It's one's "Ability" – Not "Disability" that Count"

February 2010

Longview Heights SDA Church "Starlift" Dedication, Sabbath October 24th 2009

Longview Heights SDA Church, under the leadership of Pastor James Owens, celebrated the purchase and installation of a new "STAIRLIFT" in their sanctuary.

Brother Herbert Brown, Sr., the disability coordinator and Deacon, is primarily responsible for spearheading the effort to purchase and install the lift. We also thank Senior Pastor James Owens and Elder Michael Jenkins for supporting the ministry in this endeavor. Special thanks to Elder Jenkins for providing the dedication sermon and prayer during Divine Worship.

Longview Heights is a bi-level facility that is difficult to access from the parking lot in the rear of the church due to the long and high stairway. The lower level access from the parking lot contains the parish hall and cafeteria. The only access for the disabled is to exit the building, and go out on to the sidewalk for approximately 150 feet, to gain access to the sanctuary. Longview Heights *DOES* have an excellent ramp to enter the sanctuary. With the new lift, disabled members are able to enter the rear of the church and then ride the motorized chair up to the Sanctuary.



Elder Michael Jenkins offering the Dedication Prayer



Elder Michael Jenkins delivering Dedication Sermon



George Hamilton giving remarks and disability report



Herbert Brown and George Hamilton demonstrate StairLift

Adamsville Disabilities Awareness Coordinator Training Session, Sabbath November 28, 2009

Fairfield SDA Church under the leadership of Pastor Clifton J. McMillan, hosted a disability coordinator training session in Fairfield, Alabama.

The training was requested by Mrs. Estelle Boyd, the newly appointed coordinator for disabilities ministry. We met Mrs. Boyd at one of our SCC Campmeeting sessions on the campus of Oakwood University in the summer of 2009. She was enthusiastic about her new assignment, but had no idea how to go about functioning as a coordinator.

The session began with an inspiring sermon by Pastor McMillan. The central theme was “Celebrate the Goodness of the Lord”, whether able-bodied or not. The training took place after lunch from 2:00 – 5:00 PM.

At the close of the day, numerous members volunteered to help Mrs. Boyd plan the disability program for 2010 and beyond. We thank the Lord for His many blessings!

Southern Union Conference Disabilities Ministry Planning Session, Orlando, Florida January 16th and 17th 2010

Carmen Rodriquez, Florida Conference Disabilities Ministry Director, hosted the Southern Union Conference ministry planning session at the Florida Conference office based in Orlando, Florida. Dr. Ron Smith, Executive Secretary, & Pastor R. Steve Norman, Communications met with the Southern Union Disabilities Ministries Team Friday January 15th through Sunday January 17th.

Team members present were: Michael Harrell (Kentucky Tennessee), Joan and Phil Bova (Florida), George and Flore Hamilton (South Central), Rosemary Graham (South

Atlantic), and Carmen Rodriquez (Florida). Mike Harrell and Joan Bova, serve as the Southern Union Disabilities Ministries Co-leaders.

Mike and Joan plan to retire as Union and Conference directors December 31, 2010 due to health and employment restrictions. They have been involved with disability ministry for over 20 years and concerned for the growth and continuance of the ministry.

They proposed that the Southern Union Conference develops a thorough comprehensive website for disability ministries that contain training and awareness materials, manuals, DVD downloads, etc.

Each individual conference will have specific information on their website, such as local church leaders, state resources, links to union and community faith based disability agencies.

Pastor Ron Smith stated that the union will continue its commitment to disability ministry. Disability Ministry structure is no longer under Personal Ministries, but the Secretariat. He and the Union president have discussed a Union liaison specifically for disability ministry. The SU administration is ready to release whatever resources that are needed for the growth of disability ministry.

George Hamilton and Rosemary Graham agreed for the team to move forward with the recommendations from pastors Ron Smith and Steve Norman.

South Central Conference Officers Convention – Nashville, Tennessee Sabbath & Sunday January 23rd & 24th

The Disabilities Ministry did not hold training sessions this year, but we did have information booths at the Baptist World Center auditorium Sabbath Morning and Riverside Chapel that afternoon and Sunday morning. We had several related movies to show on the laptop, answered numerous inquiries, and passed a large quantity of materials to the attendees. We plan to have sessions at ALL locations in 2011, God willing.

THIS IS THE EIGHTH (9TH) EDITION OF THE SCC NEWSLETTER. IF YOU HAVE NEWS RELATING TO THE DISABILITIES MINISTRY, PLEASE CONTACT GEORGE HAMILTON AT 256-883-7751 OR VIA EMAIL AT GEORGE.HAMILTON@SCC-ADVENTIST.ORG

Published by George Hamilton, SCC Disabilities Director