
South Central Conference

Disabilities Ministry Newsletter

It's "Ability" – Not "Disability" that Counts"

September 2008

New Heights Disabilities Awareness Weekend July 18-19, 2008

New Heights celebrated its 2nd disabilities weekend Friday July 18th through Sabbath July 19, 2008 under the leadership of Ms. Travia Adams, church coordinator.

On Friday the 18th we were blessed to have a workshop presented to us by Mrs. Mary Troupe, founding Director for the Mississippi State Coalition for Citizens with Disabilities. She talked to us about disability sensitivity and using person first jargon when speaking about individuals with disabilities. For example, we should not call a child "an autistic child". We would say the child's name first. "This is Jeremy who has autism." She also educated us on constitutional rights and things within our government that need to be worked on. Mrs. Troupe was very inspiring and willing to help us with individual concerns. After the workshop she talked with attendees an additional thirty minutes about individual concerns.



(Ms. Adams with Mrs. Mary Troupe)

On Sabbath the 19th we had a wonderful Sabbath School program during which several volunteers simulated visual, mobility impairments and hearing impairments. At the end they were asked to briefly tell what it was like to be impaired for that time. During the service several members with disabilities lead out in the services. We were blessed with musical selections from several signing groups from our sister congregation, Berean SDA Church.

Elder Danny Chandler was the Divine Worship Speaker for the service. His message was a colorful and informative presentation about the various aspects of disabilities.



Danny Chandler
Divine Worship Speaker

We gave certificates of appreciation to our Disabilities Team and a plaque to a community advocate, Mrs. Rosie Gibson, from the Addie McBryde Center for the Blind for her many years of services to individuals with disabilities. After service we had fellowship dinner and then a mini concert where several individuals with disabilities forecast their multiple talents. Overall the weekend was a big success. Thank God.

Northside SDA Church Disabilities Day, August 2, 2008, St. Louis, Missouri

The Northside SDA church in St. Louis, Missouri, held its 3rd annual disabilities day program Sabbath August 2, 2008. The Divine Worship speaker for the 11:00 O'clock hour was George Hamilton, director for Disabilities Ministry in the South Central Conference. The message title was "Who Am I That I Should Go – What Shall I Say To Them"?

Northside is the home church of George Hamilton and St. Louis is also his birthplace and residence until October 1984, when he moved to the SCC state of Alabama.

The afternoon workshop was conducted by Ms. Hester Hampton, SCC District Leader for the state of Kentucky. Brother Hamilton was unable to attend the workshop because the Southern Union Conference was holding its Union meeting for disabilities directors in Hendersonville, Tennessee August 2nd – 3rd. Consequently he had to leave early to catch up on meetings and activities already in place. Mrs. Flore Hamilton substituted for him the first day.

Southern Union Conference Disabilities Ministry Planning Session, Hendersonville, Tennessee.

Dr. Ron Smith, Executive Secretary, (as well as the Disabilities Ministries (DM) Director) for the Southern Union Conference, met with the Southern Union Disabilities Ministries Team on August 2 and 3, 2008, in Hendersonville, Tennessee.

The team members present were as follows: Michael and Sharon Harrell (Kentucky Tennessee), Joan and Phil Bova (Florida), George and Flore Hamilton (South Central), Tammy Vice (Kentucky Tennessee), Rosemary Graham (South Atlantic), and Terry Robinson (Carolina). Chairpersons were Mike Harrell and Joan Bova, Southern Union Disabilities Ministries Co-leaders.

Joan Bova gave a brief history of the beginning of Disabilities Ministries with Dr. Rosa Banks who was, at that time (1989), the NAD Director of the Office of Human Relations. People with disabilities had been identified as a neglected "People Group," therefore, Dr. Banks created the "Commission for People with Disabilities" to give study to the status of individuals with disabilities within the SDA church and to develop a strategy to include those with disabilities in the mainstream of church life.

Joan, who joined the Commission in 1990, shared that the purpose of this temporary study group was to develop and jumpstart Disabilities Ministries. It was always the intent for the Union conferences to (1) fully establish the ministry by embracing it themselves, (2) encourage it to flow on to the individual conferences, and (3) finally become established in the local churches. Joan emphasized that by having this first Union Planning Session, we are fulfilling the goal of the original Commission for People with Disabilities.

The topics discussed Reports from Conference Directors; Financial Status & Southern Union Leadership Perspective (Dr. Ron Smith); and Consideration of Future Direction and Defining Specific Goals (Mike Harrell).

SCC Disabilities Ministry Welcome's Hester Hampton & Patricia Brinkley as new District Leaders

We are happy to welcome two new District Leaders to the SCC Disabilities Ministry.

Mrs. Hester Hampton is from the State of Tennessee, but she graciously consented to lead Kentucky in maintaining this ministry. She is blessed with a wealth of personal and professional experience as the director of her own "Chronic Illnesses Ministry" whose purpose is to educate the public on this neglected segment of disabilities.

Mrs. Patricia Brinkley is from St. Louis, but has been a resident of Huntsville since 1989. She consented to lead our home state of Alabama in maintaining and expanding this ministry. She is currently employed at NASA, but has been active with local Pastors and Evangelists in organizing and presenting their various personal ministry projects throughout the Southern Union Conference.

Please remember both of our new recruits in your prayers as they undertake the responsibilities of this vital ministry.



"You Think English Is Easy"?

The farm was used to produce produce .
The dump was so full that it had to refuse more refuse.
We must polish the Polish furniture.
Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was
time to present the present .
A bass was painted on the head of the bass drum.

**THIS IS THE SIXTH (6TH) EDITION OF THE
SCC QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER. IF YOU
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