
South Central Conference

Disabilities Ministry Newsletter

A persons "A-bility" – Not "Dis-ability" is what counts"

October 2007

Oakwood College Church- Huntsville, Alabama

The Oakwood College Church Disabilities ministry presented its 2nd of a series of mini-workshops on Sabbath September 8, 2007. The topic was Child Development and Resource Workshop and was provided through UCP and funded by DHR. The title was "Childcare Enhancement with a Purpose". This two hour training focused on the principles of inclusion, the five domains of development, the importance of using a developmental checklist and local resources available for families to access. A completion certificate was awarded to attendees

College Hill SDA Church – Disabilities Day – Knoxville Tennessee

College Hill SDA Church, Anthony Lampkin, Senior Pastor, celebrated their first disabilities day Sabbath October 13th 2007. The event was planned by Anthony Allen disability coordinator with assistance from Joseph & Bonita Scott, Tennessee State District Leaders. Mr. Allen is the new coordinator and executed his responsibilities in a professional and spiritual manner. Mr. & Mrs. Scott have been leaders since the ministry's inception in 1998 and continue to bring a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the ministry. Ms. Hester Hampton brought an informative presentation on "Chronic Illness". Ms. Hampton was one of the attendees at the SCC Camp meeting Disabilities Training Session Monday June 11, 2007. George Hamilton was the Divine Worship speaker and the title of the message was "Who Am I That I should Go", based on Exodus 3: 7-13.

Alabama's Troy University bringing sign language to forefront of education

University officials today announced with Gov. Bob Riley a \$250,000 grant from the Department of Education that will be used to implement a bachelor's degree program aimed at increasing the number of interpreters for the deaf and hearing impaired.

Through the Interpreter Training Program, TROY will offer the state's first bachelor of science degree in education with a comprehensive program in interpreting and eventually establish a Center on Deafness on its Troy Campus. In addition to the grant, the University will provide \$250,000 in matching funds, and commitments from several other partners will help establish student scholarships. Partnering with the University and the Department of Education will be the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services and the Alabama Department of Mental Health.

In announcing the grant, Gov. Riley said Troy's program will set a national standard.

TROY Chancellor Dr. Jack Hawkins Jr., who headed the Alabama Institute for the Blind and Deaf for 10 years before taking over the reigns at the University, recognized the need for certified interpreters. He said that the University had become aware of the crisis facing the

deaf community and was grateful for an opportunity to help address the situation.

"We want our interpreters to be prepared, we want our counselors to be prepared, and we also need other professionals who can go into the marketplace and elevate the quality of life for our citizens who happen to be deaf or hearing impaired. It doesn't have to stop there, but that's a good starting part," Dr. Hawkins said.

Troy University announced the grant at a news conference in the Rosa Parks Library and Museum Auditorium at the Montgomery Campus. Dr. Joe Morton, Alabama Superintendent of Education, and Judith Gilliam of the Alabama Association for the Deaf also participated in the news conference.

The program is desperately needed, said College of Education Dean Dr. Lance Tatum, because of the lack of interpreters available in Alabama and by a decision from the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) that will require the bachelor's degree in order to gain national certification and licensure by 2012.

Tatum said that at TROY, students will complete the first two years in the general education curriculum and show proficiency in American Sign Language before being admitted to the program. Once in the program, students will take 20 courses in the curriculum focusing on interpreting skills and knowledge and an understanding of the deaf culture. Graduates will be required to achieve a 3.4 on the Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment, in addition to completing two internships. An externship program will help support graduates as they pursue national certification. The University's proposal also includes the establishment of summer institutes to provide continuing education support to

interpreters in Alabama.

"Troy University and the College of Education are dedicated to improving the availability of interpreters to those agencies and services in Alabama that support the deaf community," he said.

Credits: **Troy University**
www.alrid.org



After starting a new diet I altered my drive to work to avoid passing my favorite bakery. I accidentally drove by the bakery this morning and as I approached, there in the window were a host of goodies. I felt this was no accident, so I prayed ... "Lord, it's up to you, if you want me to have any of those delicious goodies, create a parking place for me directly in front of the bakery." And sure enough, on the **eighth** time around the block, there it was! God is so good!"

We need input on disabilities ministry for children. If you have news or expertise in this area, please contact George Hamilton at 256.503.9521 or via email at George.Hamilton@scc-adventist.org.

Published quarterly by the South Central Conference Disabilities Ministry.