

Seven Myths due to which Christian Churches pay Little Attention to Serving People with Disabilities

Myth #1. My church does not have the necessary people and resources.

Every congregation has some people for whom God has given gifts, skills and desire to serve people with disabilities.

Myth #2. It is not part of the vision of my church.

Jesus commanded us to preach His Gospel to all people. Matthew 28:19-20. „Since all have sinned”, „all are dead because of their sins and acts of disobedience”, so all needs a Savior.

Myth #3. I have to have a disability experience myself, or have a special education.

A person with a disability is primarily a personality, not his physical condition. Their soul and spirit needs are the same as all of others.

Myth #4. There is no need to have such ministry in my church.

Jesus ministered the sick and commanded His disciples to do the same. As long as we will have needy or disabled people in our midst, it is responsibility of every church to reach out for them and lead them to Jesus.

Myth #5. People with disabilities will be a burden to our church and will not add any value.

Wrong! You will experience new life, gifts, and growth from including a whole new community. Your church will be blessed! They are not receivers only. Every person with disability who received Jesus as his Saviour has got gifts of Spirit to serve others.

People with disability are often an example of faithfulness, patience, and perseverance. They can be good companions and friends. They are an example of what Paul says about the power of God in our weakness.

Myth #6. People with disability cannot learn anything.

They are able to think, perceive, understand, believe and testify. Not all equally, but each one according to a measure given them by God.

Myth #7 "I'm afraid!"

Fear of the unknown and what seems strange to us. „God gave us a Spirit who produces not timidity, but power and love,” (2 Timothy 1:7), and „love that has achieved its goal gets rid of fear” (1 John 4:18). Indifference finds excuses, love finds an opportunity.

Joni and Friends. Seven Myths; Beatitudes For Friends of People With Disabilities. Website: www.joniandfriends.org 10 Practical Tips for Becoming a Disability Friendly Church. Welcoming and Including People and Families Affected by Disability (DVD), 2007.