



Love

Joy



Faith

Hope



Hugs

Smiles

Special Education Sunday



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Special Education Sunday

It is a startling passage. Moses tried to excuse himself from duty by pleading "slow of speech." God countered with creative sovereignty – "Who gave man his mouth? Who makes him deaf or mute? Who gives him sight or makes him blind? Is it not I, the Lord?" (Exodus 4:11) Any way one looks at it the verse is an interpretive challenge.

Bible scholars deal with the passage in varying ways but those who live and work inside the disabled community see it with unique perspective. From this perspective part of the meaning is clear – physical and mental impairments do not lessen God's creative involvement. On the contrary, impairments too give evidence of God.

Approximately 150 churches in North Carolina have discovered this evidence of God through their Special Education classes. These churches see God through smiling faces and feel God through loving hugs. These churches appreciate the faith, hope, and love that persons with Developmental Disabilities often model for the rest of the church. These churches have learned to celebrate every ability whether that ability is great or small.



Celebration is an important part of church life and it is a large part of any Special Education class.

Celebration is an important part of church life and it is a large part of any Special Education class. Anyone entering such a class sees this fact quickly. In Special Education classes members laugh and smile a great deal. Lots of fun happens as class members play games and tell stories. And then there is music. The more music the better! Students sing, play instruments, do sign language, and dance. Often there is a loud and lovely "joyful noise." The celebration of such a class can soon influence a whole church.

Special Education Sunday is an occasion of celebration and joy. On this day we celebrate all that God has done. We celebrate the presence of God in our lives and in the lives of Christians with developmental disabilities. We celebrate the invaluable contributions that people with developmental disabilities make to our churches and to our communities. We celebrate the special abilities that God has given to us all. We celebrate the creative sovereignty of God.

If your church would like to know more about Special Needs Ministry or about Happiness Retreat call Donnie at (800) 395-5102, ext. 5630 or visit www.ncbaptist.org.

Baptist State Convention of North Carolina • Milton A. Hollifield, Jr., Executive Director-Treasurer
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