

Elders Retreat 2016

Disability Awareness

Sophia Nicholls

(SEC Disability & Diversity Director)



ASNA HISTORY & MISSION

- Personal experience of our son Matthew with a disability.
- The need for support, information and sharing of experiences.
- Our concern for his future with respect to spiritual, social and physical education



ABOUT ASNA

- Launched 2001
- Mission: To support people living with special needs and disabilities
- Managed and supported by volunteers
- 2003 became a registered charity
- Just over 900 contacts and over 400 members & supporters



Reg.charity number 1100447

ABOUT ASNA - We provide....

- Resources – literature, personnel – volunteers, information, advice, advocacy, sign posting
- Education and training awareness programmes, workshops, seminars



ASNA - Objectives

- **Support** – Carers weekend, Respite weekends, Family fun days, Young carers project, telephone support, group support, spiritual support for people with special needs and their families



ABOUT ASNA

- Financially supported by donations, grants from SEC, Four Acre Trust, ADRA, AREA 5 and some churches, BUC partnership.
- Membership subscriptions and donations.



Reg.charity number 1100447

What has been the impact?

- People with disabilities and families are not alone.
- Members feel more understood
- Policy changes in BUC /SEC



Impact?

Connecting people: Changing lives

- Connections –
 - Reduced isolation
 - Empowered
 - Enabled
 - Understanding
 - Improved access to the gospel



Annual ASNA Respite weekend for Carers 2015



ASNA contact details

For General Information or to join ASNA contact :
Sophia Nicholls (ASNA Trustee / Hon. Sec.) on
01491 821103 or 01491 821104 or
Helen Batten (ASNA administrator) on
01491 821103

Email: info@asna.info

Write to Suite W05, Windrush Innovation Centre,
Howbery Park, Benson Lane, OX10 8BA

Website: www.asna.info

Reg.charity number 1100447

From Inclusion to 'A Sense of Belonging'



Disability?

F1RST

What is the first thing that comes to your mind when you **THINK ABOUT** the word **'DISABILITY'**



Perspectives of disability

Reg.charity number 1100447



Medical Model of disability

- Disabled people need fixing or care, charity.
- People become dependant and lose dignity
- Commonly used in some health care practices
- Some churches still adhere to this model



The social model describes disability as...

...all the things that impose restrictions on disabled people;

- individual prejudice to institutional discrimination,
- from inaccessible public buildings to unusable transport systems,
- from segregated education to excluding work arrangements, and so on.

Social model of disability



The social model's focus is on society to:

- change policy,
- Change attitudes and
- Change economic discrimination against disabled people.
 - Limitations forget that some people still experience physical pain & emotional stresses.

Social Model of disability

Medical Model

- **Focuses** on limitations, inabilities and on the medical details of disability
- **Assumes** disabled people have a 'problem' which needs to be 'fixed' or cured.
- **Results** in disabled people being seen as dependent.

Social Model

- **Focuses** on effects that society and poor built environment creates: marginalisation and lack of access.
- **Assumes** that society and the built environment need to be changed to enable disabled people to participate fully
- **Results** in independence.

Models of disability

Medical model Vs Social models

Her **impairment** is the problem!
They should cure her or give her prosthetics.

The *medical model* of disability



The **stairs** are the problem!
They should build a ramp.

The *social model* of disability

Image by UAA: <http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/accessibility/topic/architecture.cfm>

As we are drawn into relationship with our creator, we are drawn towards one another.

We are drawn into 'community'.

We are made for relationship!

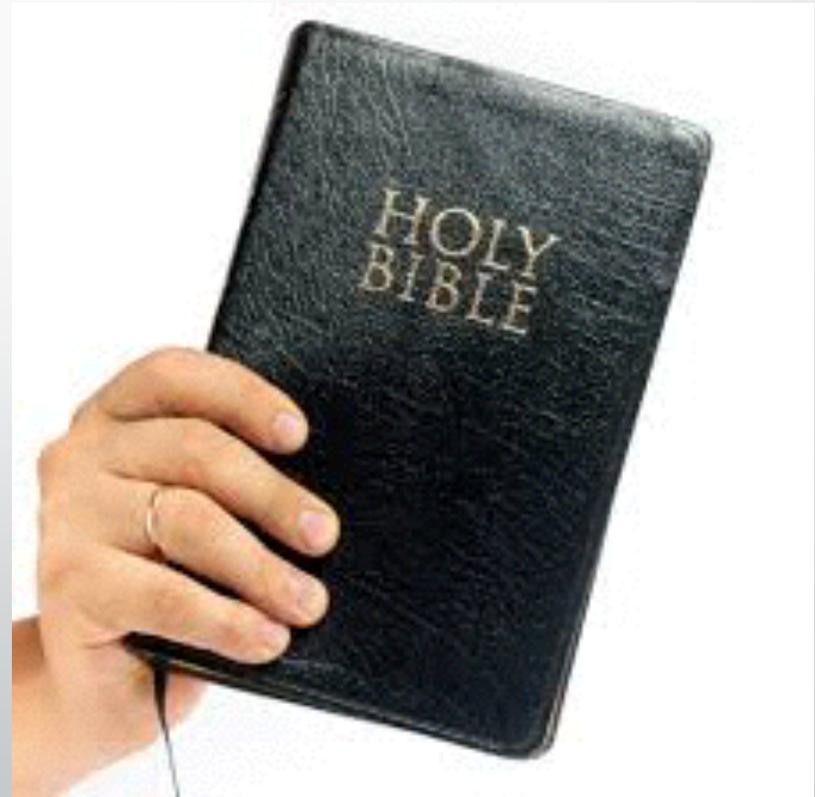
We all need each other!



Interdependency Model

The Bible and Disability

- What does the Bible say about Disability?



What does the Bible say about disability?

<i>Bible passage</i>	<i>What is the Key message with respect to disability in this text?</i>
Genesis 1:27	
1 Samuel 16:7	
Psalms 139:14	
John 9:1-3	
1 Cor 12:12-22	
2 Cor 12:5-10	
Galatians 3:28	

What does the Bible say about disability?

<i>Bible passage</i>	<i>What is the Key message with respect to disability in this text?</i>
Genesis 1:27	We are all made in God's image
1 Samuel 16:7	The Lord looks at the heart
Psalms 139:14	We were fearfully and wonderfully made
John 9:1-3	Disability is not the result of sin
1 Cor 12:12-22	Every Christian has a role to play, regardless of perceived weakness
2 Cor 12:5-10	God's power is made perfect in weakness
Galatians 3:28	All are equal in Christ

Made in the image of God

Genesis 1:27 – we are made in His image,

- **Statement** - every human being reflects something about who God is.
 - Each person is worthy of **respect and dignity** because each person has been made by God to convey something unique about God to the world
 - God attaches a **high degree of worth** on us all regardless of race, religion, ability.

Made in the image of God

Invitation to discover the image of God in each other
Col 1:15 – Jesus came to show the invisible God. We are to be like Him to discover what it means to be made in His image.

- It poses a challenge to **treat people as if they are made in the image** of God rather than anything less.

The Image of God

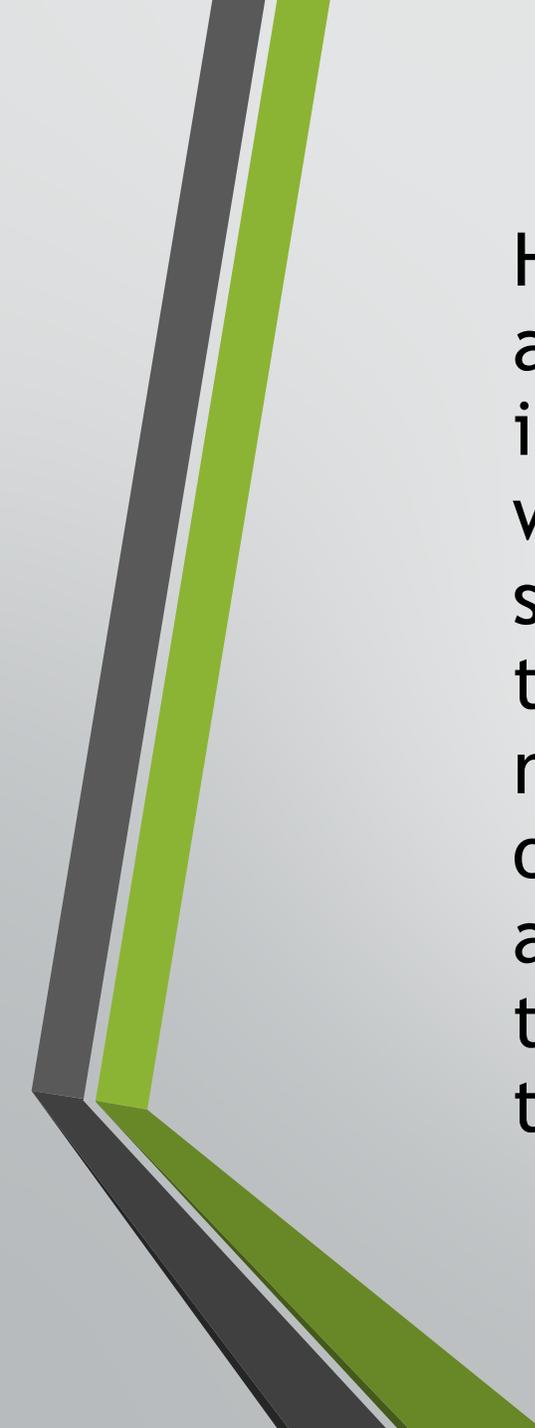
- 2 Cor 3:18 – we become changed into a likeness of God when we come to know Him
- 1 John 4:7 – 21 – God is Love (Vs 12)



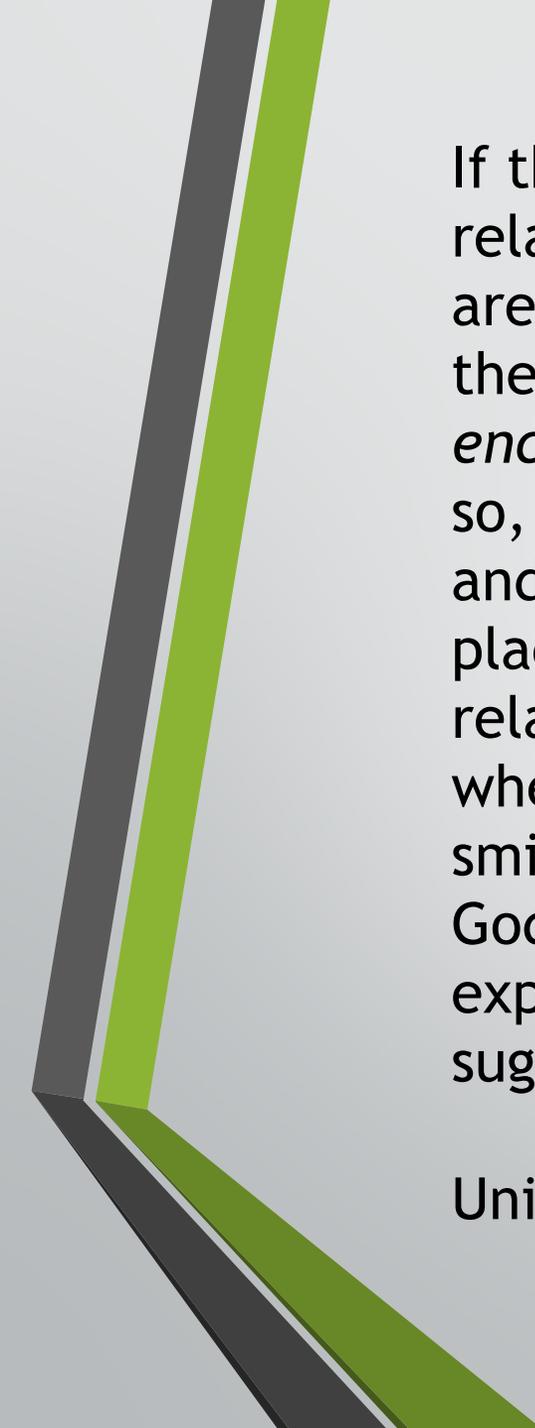
God is love (1 John 4:8, NLV). Love is not an attribute of God, it is a statement about what and who God is. *But how do we know what love looks like? The answer? Through our relationships, our family, our associates, our friendships.* We cannot learn what love looks like unless it is embodied in action.



Love is therefore an embodied relational act that we receive from one another; as we receive it we learn what love looks like and feels like and ultimately what it is. As we discover what love feels like so we begin to understand what it means to know, love and be loved by God. That love stems of course, from the Divine gift of friendship given to us in Christ (Reinders, 2008; Swinton, 2000)..



However, none of us can understand anything of what that might mean until it is embodied in the relationships, which somehow and however inadequately, seek to manifest that gift. Even those who, through the use of their intellect and reason, recognize something of the origins of that gift don't really have any knowledge of God apart from that which God has chosen to reveal to them.



If then Jesus is, in whatever sense, within us, and if our relationships are the place where we learn what love looks and feels like, then Christian friendships are a place where we *physically encounter God. That being* so, Mary's relationships within her community not only hold and sustain her spirituality (and she theirs), they are also the place where she encounters God in tangible ways. Her relationships are holy places where God is revealed, or better, where God reveals God's self to her. Likewise, accepting Mary's smiles, her touch, her sensitivity, her love is a way of receiving God's love. Does God's love have to be named for it to be experienced? The practical and biblical evidence seems to suggest otherwise.

University of Aberdeen 22 June 2011 16 *J. Swinton et al.*

Caring to Friendship

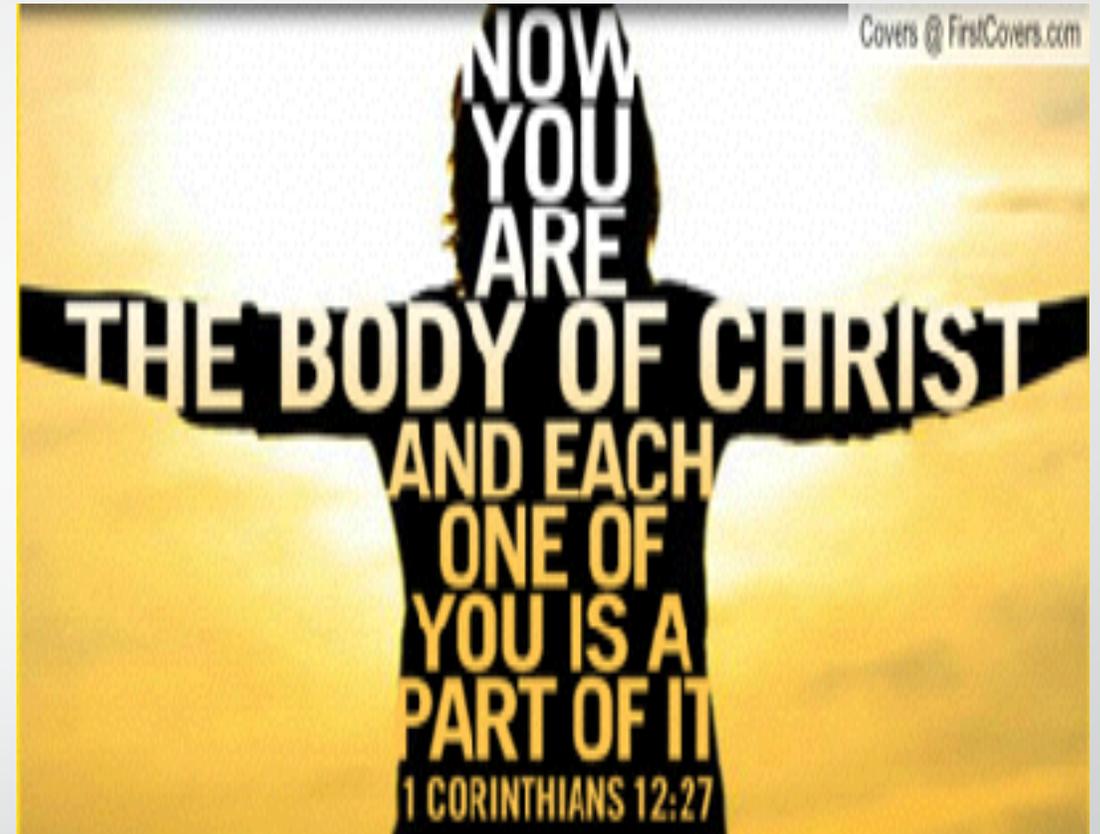
- We need to come into a relationship with others who are different to us.
- Intentional relationship
- God's love is intentional
- Our love and heart for the souls of others enables intentional love and relationship
- From Caring to friendship

Theological model

- 1 Corinthians 12:12 – 26
- Romans 12:3 -6

What is the perspective given here?

- Likening the Church to the human body Paul, the apostle, wrote: "***those parts that seem to be weaker are indispensable.***" - the Church is losing out when it fails to include those parts.
- A Church that fails to include disabled people is itself disabled.
- We are all part of the body of Christ each with our own part to play.
- Made in the image of God.



Theological model



The Gospel for all..

Matthews 28: 19 commission:

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations
baptizing them in the name of the Father,
and the Son and the Holy Ghost”

‘.. to make the gospel accessible to all’.

Models of Disability

- 4 Models of Disability ?



Models of Disability

- Medical
- Social
- Interdependency
- Theological

Elders Retreat 2016

Disability Awareness



The Beatitudes of the Learning Disabled

- Blessed are you who take time to listen to difficult speech, for you help us to know that if we persevere we can be understood.
- Blessed are you who walk with us in public places, and ignore the stares of strangers, for in your companionship we find havens of relaxation.



Beatitudes of the learning disabled

- Blessed are you who never bid us to 'hurry up' and more blessed are you who do not snatch our task from our hands to do them for us, for often we need time instead of help.
- Blessed are you who ask for our help, for our greatest need is to be needed.



Beatitudes of the learning disabled

- Blessed are you when, by all ways, you assure us that the things that make us individuals are not our peculiar muscles, nor our wounded nervous systems, nor our difficulties in learning, but the God-given self which no infirmities can confine.

Beatitudes of the learning disabled



- Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, and know that you give us reassurances that could never be spoken in words, for you deal with us as Christ dealt with His children.

Author Unknown

Sophia Nicholls



For more information or to book a disability awareness weekend or seminar

Contact :

Sophia Nicholls

SEC Disability & Diversity Director

Snicholls@secadventist.org.uk

07768 298 297

ASNA Executive Sec.

info@asna.info