



Contact Information:

Stephanie Hubach
278 Stony Lane
Stevens, PA 17578

C: 717.951.0051
shubach@pcanet.org
www.pca-mna.org



*Lilacs at my window...
How can I miss seeing
these??*

From the Director's Desk

I have a great job. Not only do I love *what* I do, I love *where* I work. That's because, like most Mission to North America staff, I work from an office in my home, which is in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. While I don't work for the Lancaster Bureau of Tourism, I can assure you that a visit to Lancaster in the springtime is well worth your effort! Vibrant, almost surreal shades of green cover the fields, and beautiful spring flowers bloom in sequence over a number of weeks. It really is stunning. There's only one problem. Sometimes I don't even notice it all! My office has a fantastic view of a beautiful yard, woodlands, farmland, and a huge lilac bush that blooms outside my window in early May. Dozens of gorgeous lilac blooms wave in the breeze right outside my window—and sometimes I don't even see them. Busy working away at my desk, checking my email, writing on my laptop—other things capture my attention.

I think a similar dilemma can happen in disability ministry. We get so engaged with working out the specifics of how to include someone in congregational life, or how to meet the practical needs of a family, or how to encourage our church leadership to embrace ministry to and alongside of individuals touched by special needs—that we forget *why* we do *what* we do. In Psalm 27:4 David writes, "One thing, I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple." Did you hear that? "...to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord..." The *reason* David wants to dwell in the Lord's house is so that he can seek him in his temple and gaze upon his beauty. Yes, we need to make our churches accessible and yes we want to include people with disabilities in congregational life...but that is a means to an end. The end itself is not inclusion. It is to bring people—*all people*—to God himself—"to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord." Don't get so busy with the tasks before you that you forget the purpose of your labors. Don't miss the "lilacs at your window!"

In His Name, Steph Hubach

Perimeter Church SN Ministry (PCSNM)

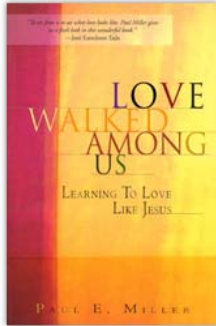


*Meet some of the
"SuperMoms"
from Perimeter PCA in
Duluth, GA*

The Perimeter Church Special Needs Ministry (PCSNM) "exists to express the love of Christ by serving and supporting families with special needs, both within the church and in their surrounding community." As a larger congregation, Perimeter is able to take a multi-faceted approach to disability ministry. However, many of the following ideas can be implemented in smaller congregations as well. 1) Special Needs Support Group: meets monthly to discuss needs, share information, and plan socials and educational programs. 2) PCSNMinistry Yahoo Group: a prayer line and information exchange for Christian families touched by disability. 3) Social Activities: fun activities to help celebrate life! 4) Respite: safe, affordable respite care opportunities. 5) Child/Teen Educational Programming: both inclusive programming and GRACE Kids class are offered. 6) SuperMoms: a discipleship group just for moms of children with disabilities. Here's what the *SuperMoms*' group leader has to say: "The name we chose is *SuperMoms*, because moms with special needs kids really do expend super human energy and strength to care for their kids. We cannot possibly be the best mothers to our special children without an intimate relationship with THE Creator. We *need* to study the Bible, share, and pray together while forming bonds that will keep us in pursuit of the *only* One who can sustain us." For more information on Perimeter's ministry, go to www.perimeter.org.



Love Walked Among Us by Paul Miller



Love Walked Among Us: Learning to Love Like Jesus is a "must read!"

If you want to learn "to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord," you don't have to look any further than Jesus himself. The writer of Hebrews tells us that "The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being..." (Heb. 1:3a).

Paul Miller penned *Love Walked Among Us: Learning to Love Like Jesus* in addition to his latest book, *A Praying Life*. He has also written a study called *The Person of Jesus*. The book jacket of *Love Walked Among Us* says the following: "Paul Miller invites us to get to know Jesus, to observe his life and his love as they unfold in the gospel narratives. The accounts of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John—combined with

Miller's own life stories—will encourage us to imitate Jesus' way of loving people." (Note: Paul's daughter Kim has developmental disabilities and many of his illustrations discuss applications to their relationship.)

Love Walked Among Us is pastoral, practical, and personal. It is not a "how to" book—it is a "Who-to" book. It teaches us *Who* to emulate and *Whose* power is necessary to do that. There is no more practical type of resource in disability ministry than living like Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit. There is a place for how-to books, for curriculum, and for hands-on resources. But there is no substitute for learning to love like Jesus.

Upcoming Opportunities!



MNA Special Needs Ministries is the recipient of the 2010 WIC Love Gift!

While we typically devote this section to upcoming opportunities for special needs ministry training—this time—we'd like you to think more "long term" about the subject! As you may recall, this year's 2010 Women in the Church (WIC) Love Gift is being raised for MNA Special Needs Ministries. To read more about it, to watch the video, or to order the DVD and bulletin inserts, please go to our [website](#).

Two of the major initiatives of the Love Gift are to:

- Provide PCA churches with "The Gospel and Disability Gift Packs" which will provide 500 PCA churches with educational resources, and

- "Train-the-Trainers," which will help us to equip regional trainers who will be available "on the ground" to work directly with local PCA congregations in their region. This will be a HUGE improvement over our current structure!

But in order to move to this next level of special needs ministry training, we need *your* involvement. We would love to see at least 500 PCA churches show the Love Gift DVD to their congregations and take up an offering for this important project! We think you'll find the video to be inspirational, educational and thought-provoking! **Can we count on you to encourage your church to participate?**

Your Prayers Matter...

"Hear my voice when I call, O Lord; be merciful to me and answer me."

Psalms 27:7

- Praise God for a generous rate of ministry support fund giving to MNA Special Needs Ministries so far in 2010! Our goal is to receive \$50,000 in regular giving this year. Thank you!
- Praise God for the growth of MNA Special Needs Ministries in the number of churches we are serving

now! This blessing is why we now need more than a half-time position for Stephanie Hubach as Director.

- Pray for PCA families newly touched by disability this year. Pray that their congregations will learn to love them like Jesus loves: and take them to Christ himself in the process.