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Translation:
"60,000 Reichsmarks is what this person suffering from hereditary defects costs the People's community during his lifetime. Fellow German, that is your money too."



Roman Weaver
Crossroads PCA,
Middletown, DE

From the Director's Desk

Those of you who know me well realize at least two things about me: I enjoy economics and I have a propensity towards optimism. That combination may sound like an oxymoron—since economics was once known as “the dismal science.” But it’s true. My oldest son, Fred, likes to tease me that I’d probably be able to find a positive element, even in the midst of a cataclysmic disaster. That said, authentic Christian hope and distorted idealism are two very different things. As I was once reminded by Dr. Diane Langberg, “*We are not called to idealism...we are called to truth.*”

In light of the current economic crisis, I want to bring some sobering truths to light for you. Take a moment to look at the picture in the left column. It is an advertisement from Nazi Germany in the 1930’s. Note the translation. We hear a lot in the news today about “society’s resources.” The last time I heard a good sermon on stewardship, I was reminded that “*The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it*” (Psalm 24.1).” May I repeat that? *The earth is the LORD’S—and EVERYTHING in it, the world and ALL who live in it.* We live in a country with an inverted population pyramid (a population that is aging faster than it is replacing itself), unprecedented personal and federal debt, an insatiable appetite for consumption, and a profound level of biblical illiteracy. That is a very dangerous combination for people with disabilities. The Church must wake up to the coming economic realities. The Lord has already told us Who owns the resources—“*the earth is the Lord’s*”—and where His priorities lie—“*I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me* (Matthew 25:40).”

The truth is: these economic realities *will* eventually become a matter of life or death—and perhaps sooner than we expect. Is your church prepared to bring authentic hope, in the name of Jesus? In His Name, Steph Hubach

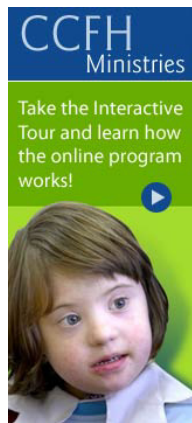
Welcome Home Roman!

In 2005, Pastor Jim Weaver (Crossroads PCA, Middletown, DE) received a packet from Bethany Christian Services and inside was a photo and story of a little boy from Ukraine. Jim was captivated by the boy’s sweet expression and story: He was 4 years old, only 18 pounds, had a cleft palate and a host of other suspected medical problems, was unable to walk, and was missing full length arms. His name was Roman. The Weavers began to pray as a family that God will provide a forever family for Roman, but all the while God was preparing *them* to be that family.

When Roman came home in November 2007, the children of Crossroads enveloped him in love from the first moment they laid eyes on him. In fact, the children in his Sunday School class like to take off their shoes and socks and use their feet just like Roman does! Through their adoption journeys, God has used the Weavers’ church family as a source of blessing and encouragement to them. Karen Weaver says, “When people learn that our boys are adopted—one with special needs—they oftentimes say how lucky or blessed the boys are to have us. However, we remind them that it is *we* who are blessed—our lives are richer for having the boys and we feel that God has blessed *us* with *them*.” (To read more, please go to the MNA Special Needs website: www.pca-mna.org)



Online Disability Ministry Training



Online disability ministry training is available at www.ccfh.org

Since there seems to be an economic theme to this newsletter, I can't help but tell you about a great deal. Christian Church Foundation for the Handicapped (CCFH) offers online disability ministry training modules for a great price. Their website is www.ccfh.org. The training package includes online videos, interactive sessions, and access to databases of information. The modules currently available are:

1. *Steps for Beginning a Disability Ministry*
2. *Designing a Christian Education Component*
3. *Creating a Classroom Environment to Accommodate a Disability Ministry*

4. *Planning to Include People with Disabilities in the Life of the Church*
5. *Planning a Ministry with the Family Experiencing Disability*
6. *Planning for Community Outreach*

If you subscribe, you will receive access to a Ministries Database of churches who are actively engaged in special needs ministry, and a Diagnoses Database of information on specific types of disabling conditions.

CCFH's online program is a good starting point from which MNA Special Needs Ministries can help you to grow and develop the ministry at your church.

Worth Every Penny!



Please mark your calendar!
Disability Ministry Conference
17 October 2009
Lancaster, PA

While I work for MNA, I live in Lancaster County, PA—home of the Mennonites. One of the famous Mennonite cookbooks is called "*More with Less.*" And that's the beauty of holding a disability ministry conference in Lancaster County. We're blessed with an ability to do "more with less" in this part of the country. While several ministries around the USA have cancelled conferences on disability and the church—because of financial constraints—one of the only conferences to be held in 2009 will be in beautiful Lancaster County.

Co-hosted by Joni and Friends and the Lancaster Christian Council on Disability (of which MNA Special Needs Ministries

is a part) we will be offering dozens of workshops to provide you and your special needs ministry team with solid, biblical teaching and practical advice on how to establish and grow your outreach to people with disabilities and their families.

Please don't miss this opportunity! It will be so affordable that you won't be able to afford *not* to attend!

Group rates will be available, in addition to early bird discounts.

Check the MNA Special Needs Ministries website for updates. For now, please mark your calendar and "talk it up" at your church!

Your Prayers Matter...

"And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way..."
Colossians 1:10

- Praise God for generous year-end giving that makes it possible for me to draw a salary for the first time in 2009! And thanks be to God for providing us with several new, committed ministry partners—both individuals and churches—financial and prayer support! Thank you so much for your generosity!
- Please pray for churches who are passionate about serving Christ by serving their members and neighbors who have special needs. Pray for encouragement for ministry leaders and for the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit to produce an outpouring of the love of Jesus through His Church.