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## SKITS & DRAMAS



## The Use of Humour

This element comes through particularly well in the presentation of skits. Humorous ones achieve so much. They lighten the programme. They break up periods of talking. Most important of all they are very strong factors in people remembering what they have seen. Our experience has been that when we have given 'straight' skits they went over reasonably well, but when they were built around funny situations, they really came to life, and when our actors exaggerated their parts the audience were holding their sides. We would recommend that you find people who have the ability to act up a situation to the full and who are able to 'clown about'. In Auckland we have a blind young man who literally "throws himself into the part". He crashes into tables, he misses the chair when he is pushed clumsily down towards it, and he has spectacularly fallen to the ground when being taken down stairs in the skit we do on this. No one who has seen him 'in action' would forget his performance for a long time, nor would they, we suspect, quickly forget the point, which the skit was aiming to get across. Whilst we would not recommend that any blind person should attempt to emulate his feats, we trust that you will choose carefully those who enjoy acting and have a good imagination.

## Other Booklets Produced by the Trust

- Helpers Guide—Helping people with disabilities
- People with Intellectual Disabilities can change YOU!
- Supporting people with disabilities
- Communicating with people with disabilities
- Personal Cares for someone with a disability
- The Blessing of Including people with disabilities
- Everybody Welcome?
- Working with a group of people with Intellectual disabilities

We have many other resources available to you. Please contact our National Support Office for more details.



## Where Do You Go From Here?

We have now given you quite a few skits and dramas which you can present. We hope you can go a lot further than that and make up ones of your own. As a starter, read through the above account of Joni Eareckson-Tada which was given in her book, "Friendship Unlimited", of a real life situation she found herself in, one which brings out very clearly the need for suitable access. It is an ideal skit - funny presentation but carrying a very relevant message. See what you can do with it.

### We would love to hear from you

Many who read this booklet will think up some really excellent skits and dramas. Do share them with us. We may well be able to use them in our work with people with disabilities.

## People with Visual Impairments

We find it useful to give a series of skits showing both the wrong and the right ways to help someone who is blind.

In the following, Sam and Sally are the sighted people and Bob and Brooke are blind.

### Meeting a Person who is Blind

#### Wrong Way

Sam: *Approaches Bob*  
Sam: "Hello there Bob"  
Bob: "Er, er, how are you?"  
Sam: "Did you know I've moved?"  
Bob: "Er, no I didn't"

The conversation carries on with Bob, desperately trying to figure out from the words spoken, just who he is speaking to.

Sam: looks at watch and just disappears, leaving Bob in the lurch

#### Right way

Sam: "Hello Bob, this is Sam here", (and he reaches across and shakes Bob's hand).

Bob: "Hi Sam. Good to see you."

Sam: "Did you know I've moved?"

Bob: "Yes I heard it through the Grapevine"

and the conversation continues.

Sam says after looking at his watch "Bob, I have to go now" and then leaves.

### Commentator:

Do you get the general gist? Unless the blind person can recognise your voice, they have no way of telling who they are speaking to. Notice the use of physical contact, so that

## Why a Visual Performance is so Important?

Acting is a most effective, visual means of getting across a message. People remember so much more what they see than what they hear. A visual presentation, such as a drama or a skit, tends to draw the viewer in to the action. He or she has a feeling of 'being involved' live in the memory.

## What is the Aim of this Booklet?

It is to share with you a number of skits and dramas, which we have used and have found to be most effective in getting across a message. They of course do not exhaust the field, they just give a snippet of what can be done. In many, we have included the actual wording we used. Please regard this as possible wording. If you wish, you can use them just as they are. However, feel free to adapt the words, or even replace them completely with wording of your own. With the exception of the excerpt from one of Joni's books, they are ones we made up and you don't have to quote any acknowledgement in using them. A good imagination is a most valuable asset to a person, and if you have this you will be able to make up skits and dramas of your own. If this booklet inspires you to do this, it will have been most successful.

blocking them in. There was no way for them to get out, save climbing over me. And they weren't the type of ladies to do that. There I sat, unable to say anything cute and clever. I felt horrible. The women probably had schedules to meet and appointments to keep. What a traffic hazard. The manager, along with the store clerk, pushed and pulled my wheelchair until finally it unwedged. I was embarrassed. The manager was even more embarrassed. He promised to make room for wheelchairs! I learned an important lesson too. Always check the accessibility of any dressing room before I agree to try on clothes!

I giggle when I think of that incident. But I wasn't giggling when it happened. These situations happen to the disabled more than any of us would think.

Joni Eareckson-Tada in "Friendship Unlimited"



## Scene 2

Actors: Brian, person, Jean & Debbie (in wheelchair)

Brian & person are standing beside a curb, (curb could be made with rolled newspapers). A cardboard notice with 'Footpath Curb' is shown to the audience.

Debbie comes up to the curb in a wheelchair and attempts to negotiate it. She has several attempts. People look as before, but don't know what to do. Jean comes in.

Jean "Hi there Debbie, these curbs are a bit rough for wheelchairs aren't they!"

Debbie "Yes they are. I am trying to get back onto the footpath."

Jean helps Debbie up the curb. The person comes across to Jean.

Person "I would like to have helped, but I wasn't sure what to do. How have you gained confidence to help someone like that?"

Jean talks about CFFD and the seminar.

## I'll Never Forget the Day

Joni Eareckson-Tada, probably the most well known person with a disability in the world, wrote the following:

I want to ask you a question. Can your physically disabled friends even get through your church doors? If not, it could be a little embarrassing. I'll never forget the time I went shopping at a local mall with a couple of my friends. In one of the stores we found a pile of pretty sweaters on a clearance table. We wanted to try on a few items so we grabbed the sweaters and headed for the ladies dressing room. I manoeuvred my power wheelchair through the door of the dressing room. Before I knew it I was stuck in the narrow aisle. I couldn't inch forward or backward. Worse yet, a lot of other women in the dressing room got stuck too. I was

## Skits

Skits lighten the program. They are very useful at seminars, for they are short, provide a break, make people laugh and accomplish so much. One lady wrote to us after one seminar: "I will never forget seeing the plate of cakes offered to a lady who was blind, sent flying across the room, or the lady with a stiff neck trying to hold a conversation with the person standing closely beside her wheelchair. "I must admit I squirmed once or twice as I learned the mistakes I had been making".

We start with skits which describe situations that arise in helping the blind. First there is the series on 'the wrong and then the right way' of doing things when helping. We also have other skits which involve the blind and people with other disabilities along with Scripture-based skits.

## Note

To avoid the use of the phrases 'he or she' and 'his or hers' being used over and over again throughout, we will just use 'he' or 'his', with the understanding that the situations can apply to a man or woman in every case.

# Leading a Person who is blind

## Wrong way

Sally decides they are going to go for a walk. She grabs Brooke's hand, swings her around, and drags her so that Brooke cannot tell where she is going. This lends itself to a totally exaggerated treatment so that poor Brooke trips over things, and so on.

## Right way

Sally asks Brooke if she would like to go for a walk. She asks Brooke to hold onto her elbow, a position which allows Brooke to quickly adjust to each move Sally makes. Sally is careful to describe potential hazards along the way.

## Commentator:

The person who is blind needs to hold the elbow or shoulder of the sighted person to determine the direction taken. Where there is any hazard, the helper leads. NEVER guide with the person who is blind in front of you.



This next one conveys no such deep message, but nevertheless proved an effective way of publicising a CFFD seminar. 2 or 3 bystanders, Rosemary (blind), Brian, (a CFFD helper). Two chairs are positioned, blocking a pathway.

## Drama

Actors: Rosemary (blind lady), Brian, person

People are standing talking. Rosemary walks across the stage, finding her way with care. People look at her but do nothing, as if they would like to do something but are unsure of what they could do. Brian goes over to Rosemary.

Brian "Hello Rosemary, it's Brian here."

Rosemary "I'm glad you came along. Someone told me there are some steps over here, but they didn't say there were things in the way."

Brian "Can I help you?"

They proceed up the steps. One of the people comes over to Brian.

person "I really would like to have helped that lady, but didn't know what to say or do. How have you learnt?"

Brian "Well since working at the Elevate Christian Disability Trust Drop-In Centre, I have learned ways of helping people. They hold seminars and have some really helpful resources available ...

And Margie I have noticed another one-a beautiful talent...

#### Talent No. 4

God has given you a beautiful SMILE! This speaks of God's love to others and shows a real positive response to the passage of scripture in Romans 8v28, "And we know that all things work together for good...to them that love God and are called according to His purpose." That includes your disability too. God is working that out for good. He will not despise you, He's not embarrassed about your disability - He wants your availability!



Margie was the founder of the CFFD which grew into the Elevate Christian Disability Trust. This drama was written for Margie when she spoke to students at Faith Bible College in Tauranga. Margie is athetoid cerebral palsy, and her parents were once told by a doctor that they should place Margie in an institute and forget all about her. Later in her teens she was written off as unproductive. However, Margie loves the Lord and with His help and her great determination, she developed a nation-wide speaking ministry.

## **Assisting a Person who is Blind to be seated**

### **Wrong way**

Again very exaggerated. Sam forcibly pushes Bob towards a chair with Bob quite unsure where the chair is situated. The chair is knocked to the ground. Sam tries again and gets Bob seated but facing the wrong way or sits on the floor.

### **Right way**

Sam describes that they are approaching the chair and guides Bob's hand to the back of the chair.

### **Commentator:**

Notice the person who is blind has their hand placed on the back of the chair so they will know where the chair is, and which direction it is facing.

## **Going up and down stairs**

### **Wrong way**

Sam drags Bob up the stairs, counting loudly each step as they go up. 1-2-3-4-5....

### **Right way**

Sam speaks softly, and indicates to Bob whether they will be going up or down, and whether the stairway is long or short. Remember to say when you have reached the top/bottom of stairs.

### **Commentator:**

Everything is said quietly, and because Bob is holding Sam's elbow, Bob can tell when he reaches the final step.

## Offering a Blind Person a plate of food

### Wrong way

Sally comes up to Brooke with a plate of goodies. In reaching for the food, Brooke knocks the plate, spilling its contents on the floor.



### Right way

*Sally approaches Brooke*

Sally: Would you like afternoon tea?

Brooke: Yes thanks.

Sally: Well, there are sandwiches, biscuits and cakes, which one would you like?

Brooke: Cake thanks.

Sally: Would you like me to give you one or would you like to get it yourself?

If the answer is the latter, Sally turns the plate towards Brooke with the chosen cake closest so Brooke doesn't have to reach across.

### Commentator:

What was the difference? (Notice how to vary the treatment the commentator is drawing the salient points from the audience. He might summarise what has been contributed, and this double treatment often means it goes across better) If you are doing this as a children's talk, ask them questions—go over with the adults too.

This angered the Master, the talents were taken from the servant because of his laziness. God has entrusted us all with certain ability and talent. Margie, let us find your talents that you can dedicate to the Lord!"

"Can you pray?" (nod)

"Good, there are many who need prayer support so you can pray for other disabled people and their specific needs, for missionaries overseas, for your pastor and Church fellowship, CFFD Ministries and outreach, for members of parliament and others."

### Talent No. 1

"Margie, how do you write?" (T-y-p-e) long drool.

"Do you use a special mouth piece to type with?"

(nod— typing stick is produced)

"That's marvellous, this opens a vast area of evangelism.

There are so many sick, elderly and lonely people who would appreciate a letter of encouragement so much. As you write you can minister on the pages your faith and personal trust in almighty God. You will be able to express your faith by writing articles, sharing your thoughts and personal experiences for 'Challenge Weekly', newspapers and for the CFFD Magazine. Perhaps you could even write a book?"

### Talent No. 2

Can you paint with a brush in your mouth?" (she nods and then produces some artwork)

### Talent No. 3

"You can use your brushwork and the painstaking time it takes to express His creativity, His creation and love through illustrated work-cards of sympathy and love, encouragement, Christmas cards etc.

## Little Plays Which Are Not Humorous But Bring Out a Message

These are harder to carry off successfully. They must be very carefully written and hold the attention on the quality of what is written. The interest must be held throughout or they will detract from rather than add to what you hope to achieve. The following one is written by and for Margie Willers and conveys a tremendous message.

### We All Have Talents

“Margie, have you come to this altar to give your life to Jesus Christ?” (shake head—no)  
“Have you come to be healed?” (Shake head—no)  
“Have you talents and abilities you can give to Him?”  
(Margie sadly shakes her head No)

But Margie you are wrong, you do have talents and God will accept them. He can and will use you. Giving yourself totally to Christ is a sacrifice. We read in Romans 12v1, ‘I beseech you therefore brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto God which is your reasonable service.’”

“Margie, having accepted your talents unconditionally to God, then He will use you in a mighty way. There is a story in Matthew 25. It records where the Master distributed talents to three servants to use while He was away. On His return he questioned all three making them accountable for what profit they had made. The first two had made 100% increase, this greatly pleased their Master. “They received a large reward. However, the third servant had gained no increase, instead of putting his talents to work, he buried them for safe keeping.

## Serving a meal

### Wrong way

Sam puts a meal in front of Bob and walks away.



### Right way

Sam tells Bob of the choices available. He asks if there is anything he does not want. When Sam gives Bob his plate, he asks if he would like to know what is on it. If Bob says yes, Sam can then ask if he would like to know where the different foods are.

He can ask Bob if he would like any help with cutting up food and if he needs a spoon for eating with.



### Commentator:

In a restaurant, how embarrassing it must be for a person who is blind to sense that the whole world knows what is taking place. However, people who are blind often appreciate being told where things are on a plate, as if the plate were a round clock with the times indicating the positions of different foods.

## Waiting at the Bus Stop

Geoff who is blind is waiting at the bus stop. A little old lady comes along just as a bus pulls in. She grabs his arm and pulls him towards the bus. He attempts to speak but she won't listen. "Don't say anything, I'm only too happy to help." She shoves him in, gets off herself and goes on her way. As the bus pulls out Geoff turns to the man next to him – "What is the number of this bus and where is it going?"

"This is No 100 and it is going to Papakura."

"Aaaaaagh!!! But, I don't want No 100 I wanted bus No 80 going to Torbay."

### Commentator:

If you see a blind person at a bus stop, ask questions like.....

"Can I help you?"

"What bus do you want?"

"Do you want help boarding?"

It is even possible that the person is just waiting to cross the road and just happens to be by the bus stop!

The key word is ask!!

Both groups grew in number quickly in the quality of their performances, but even in the initial ones the Lord must have realised they were giving of their best for Him, and His Spirit descended to move into the hearts of those who were watching.

We are not including here, the complete wording of this drama, just a few of the words which go along with the photos, but as with other dramas, use is made of a reader. Despite the ever increasing costs of travel, these groups have taken this drama to cities hundreds of miles from their homes.

Certainly the following drama was wonderfully successful in the many churches they visited, especially as they had Brian (who has Cerebral Palsy) acting out brilliantly his role as the drunk.

### Skit 4 - Being used by the Lord

Actors: Rich woman, Servant, Peasant lady, Lonely friend, Traveller, Husband, Drunkard, (voice of the Lord)

A rich woman prayed to the Lord and asked Him to come and see her that night. She wanted to know how she could be of use to Him. Her servant prepared a sumptuous meal for a special guest. In succession she was visited by a peasant who came to sell her wares, a lonely friend who desperately needed company, a weary traveller looking for a glass of water, her estranged husband pleading for a reconciliation and a drunk who smelt too much for her liking. Around midnight the woman began to cry with self-pity. She said, "Lord, I waited, but You did not come."

A voice replied, "My child, five times tonight I came to you, and each time you turned Me away. Humble yourself and love Me however or whenever I come to you."

down.” This was too much for Maria. She exploded, “What is she doing here? She was the one who held me up. She can’t even walk straight. Her mouth is distorted and her words are garbled. What can she do? She hasn’t even got any money! You must have made a mistake?”

But the Lord said, “I have made no mistake. Who has made man’s mouth or who makes the dumb or the deaf, or the seeing or the blind? Is it now I, the Lord? (Ex 4v11). I, the Lord, see not as man sees, for man looks on the outward appearance, but I the Lord look on the heart (1 Sam 16v7). Behold My strength and My power are made perfect, fulfilled and completed, and show themselves most effective in your weakness.” (2 Cor. 12v9)

The rich lady, shocked, disgraced, greatly humbled and bought low by the Lord, moves slowly down the table to the one place left in the far corner of the room as the Lord turns to those at the head of the table and says, “When you are invited, go and recline in the lowest place, so that when your host come in, he may say to you, ‘Friend, go up higher.’ Then you will be honoured in the presence of all who sit at the table with you.

For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself, that is keeps a modest opinion of himself and behaves accordingly, will be exalted.” (Luke 14v11)

## **- The Dunedin and Christchurch Drama Groups**

It was the Christchurch and Dunedin groups of the Christian Fellowship for Disabled (CFFD) who were the first ones to move into the production of drama based on the Scriptures. Both separately and together they presented to churches in their own cities and also further afield, a drama based on Matthew 25 v 31-46

## **Bringing a Bible to Church**

Four people are sitting in a church waiting for the service to begin. Each has a different Bible and each Bible is a different size. They discuss the merits of their particular edition. They all look up in surprise as a blind person comes in, pushing a trolley loaded with 26 volumes.

“What on earth have you got there?”, one asks the blind man.

“Oh I decided to bring my Braille Bible today. I had to come in two cars, - one for me and one for the books of my Bible. He sits down. When the service begins, the minister makes three references. Each time the four people quickly find the right page, but the man who is blind hunts through all his books, and only locates the scripture as the minister says, “and now let us move on to the next scripture.” This situation is repeated each time.

### **Commentator:**

How much we take for granted! How little we value the fact that we live in a country where we can freely have a Bible. Do you realise that a blind person needs 26 books to contain a complete Bible. Just imagine the difficulty of transporting this to church every Sunday. Perhaps this will make you more ready to give help to a person who is blind. You can help a person who is blind by offering to read the scripture or describe anything visual that is being shown in your service.

## Do not Shout!

Sally comes in and greets Brooke. Every word she utters is in a voice close to shouting.

Sally: “Hello, how are you today? – What have you being doing lately? – Are you still doing your knitting?”

There is a torrent of words with Brooke given virtually no time to reply to any one question. When there is a temporary lull, Brooke says, “Excuse me, I might be blind but I’m not DEAF”.

### Commentator:

Not all people who are blind are deaf, a few maybe, but even if they are – you don’t need to shout.



“When you give a dinner or a supper, do not invite your friends or your relatives or your wealthy neighbours, lest perhaps they also invite you in return and you be paid back. But when you give a banquet or a reception, invite the poor, the disabled, the lame and the blind. Then you will be blessed because they have no way of repaying you, and you will be recompensed at the resurrection of the just (the upright).” (Luke 14v14)

Then the master said to the servants, “Go quickly to the great streets and the small streets of the city and bring in here the poor and the disabled and the blind and the lame.” (Luke 14v21)

(Different disabled people are invited in and sit around the table leaving one seat next to the head of the table and one seat at the end.)

But the lady had had a change in her plans. Her T.V. had broken down and she couldn’t watch the game, nor the Miss World contest. As for the Lotto, she discovered she hadn’t even sent in her entry.

“I’ll go in after all”, she thought, “I guess the Lord is beside Himself with disappointment that I couldn’t come. I’ll make His day for Him,” and she hurried off.

(Margaret on crutches is trying to come through a narrow space between 2 tables. Maria tries to go past on one side, then the other, without success, all the time getting angrier and more exasperated). She finally arrives at the dinner at the same time as the girl she had tried so hard to overtake. She looks with considerable surprise and distaste at the disabled seated at the banquet. She moves to the head of the table to await the return of the Lord. At this time, the Lord has come across Margaret seated in the lowest position and He insists she must come up with Him to the head of the table.

“Maria”, He says, “This seat you have taken is not for you. You must move, so that My precious friend may sit

### **Skit 3 - Who Should Be Invited to The Great Banquet?**

Actors: Jesus, Friend, Andrew, Paul, Mary, Maria (rich lady), servants & several people with disabilities.

The Lord was planning a big celebration dinner, a huge wedding feast, and He said to his trusted friend, "Will you invite the guests for me. See to it that all who should be there are invited."

The friend thought, why, yes, Andrew. He would love to come. And what about Paul? He would be a certainty. Then of course there was Mary. Not to lose sight of the rich lady Maria.

And he sent his servants out to say to those who had been invited, "Come, for all is ready." But they all alike began to make excuses and to decline the invitations. Andrew said, "I have bought a piece of land, what a bargain! The fool I bought it from never realised its worth. I must go out and see it. I beg you, have me excused."

Paul said, "I have just bought 5 racehorses, and the Auckland Cup will be run soon. I must go and train them and put them through their paces as soon as possible. I beg you, have me excused."

Mary was not even interested at all. "No, no, no" she said. "I have far more important things to do". Whilst the rich lady Maria said, "How can I? The All Blacks have a test match that day and the Lotto is to be drawn that evening. They could well be looking for me. Then again the Miss World contest is to be judged that night. If I'm to win next year, I must find out what these judges are looking for. As much as I would love to be there, you can see I could not possibly go." The servants returned and each one reported to the Lord's friend that all the invitations had been refused.

Just at that moment the Lord came past. He was very angry when He heard that no one had come. He said to His friend

### **Educating about People who use wheelchairs**

#### **Misunderstanding #1**

#### **Automatic judgment**

It is very common for many people to consider that anyone in a wheelchair is also intellectually disabled.

CAST – A lady (L), and a girl (G) who has C.P and is in a wheelchair and has difficulty with her speech.

L sees G, L comes up to her and pats her on the head talking down to her throughout.

L: "How are you dear? Lovely to see you. Don't the flowers look lovely in the sun? What do you do all day? I suppose it must be difficult for you? Do you sit in the sun all day?"

Every time G attempts to answer one of the above questions, L ignores the reply and pushes onto the next one. G finally forces her to listen as she stutters out with great difficulty but in words that can be clearly made out.

"I've- just -com-pleted-my-BA-degree-and-I'm-now-studying-to-do-my-P-H-D-in-psychology."

L: (shocked, surprised and embarrassment) "Ohhhhh oh."  
(She says as she runs away) realising she is intelligent and can answer for herself!

## Misunderstanding #2- Talking to a skyscraper

People fail to get down to the level of those in wheelchairs who have to crane their neck up sharply when they speak to someone who towers directly above them.

Here is a typical conversation between L and G; a paraplegic.

- L: "Hello"  
G: "Hi there"  
L: "How are you doing"  
G: "Not so bad"  
L: "Do you still live at Sutherland"  
G: "No I've moved"  
L: "Where are you staying now"  
G: "I'm boarding with a Christian family"  
L: "That's great, I must say it's really good to see you"  
G: "I wish I could say the same about you but could you sit down?"  
H: (L comes down to her level) Ah that's so much better, now we "can really talk, eyeball to eyeball, not looking at your belly button!"

"Where are we going? Why is this guy in such a hurry to get me inside? What's that great cage structure right in front of us? It looks like a prison to me.

A great bang as the iron grill doors clanged shut on the lift, however the confinement in that narrow enclosure had only heightened my fear.

What a relief the door opened, but this was quickly shattered as I caught a glimpse of 4 or 5 white-coated figures scurrying backwards and forwards.

At last someone spoke - someone was finally going to put me in the picture. "Don't worry" they said, "They'll give you gas". Gas! Gas! Gas! Aaaaaahhhhh!

So that's what it's all about! They're trying to get rid of me! This is the end - that's why they rushed me into the building! And all these fears were confirmed when, what looked like a corpse with face covered in blood was wheeled out of the door we were moving towards.

I kicked, I screamed, I sobbed hysterically. I lashed out with my hands and feet as the mask was applied... the room spun around...

My next memory was of the room coming into focus, and a very caring and compassionate young lady standing in front of me. My first thought was, "I'm in heaven", but I was puzzled by the tooth she had in her hand and was showing me - suddenly it all became clear. I'd had a tooth taken out! A harmless tooth extraction! - but why had no one bothered to tell me!



## **Skit 2 - I'll never forget the day the Ambulance man called**

Actors: Person in a wheelchair, Ambulance Man, Dentist, Nurse

I was 17 at the time and what transpired that day was not so different in essence from what had often happened before but was far more frightening and mind-searing in its long term effect, and all because no one told me what was going to happen.

I have a communication problem. Like many C.P.'s I have great difficulty in controlling my tongue, and the words I formulate so clearly in my mind can be rather distorted when they come out. People have to listen carefully, and in those school years there were many in the special schools I stayed in who never attempted to find out what course of action I would prefer. Far worse than that, again and again decisions were made affecting me, and more often than not I was never told what was about to happen. I could only guess at the implications of what was happening around me. My young mind imagined all sorts of frightening possibilities. Each such event left me more fearful, uncertain and apprehensive, and the sum total of these experiences made me withdraw more and more.

Then came the day when the ambulance man called. Well, before he drove up I had sensed something was about to happen, but nobody mentioned a thing. I was hastily dressed, food was thrust into my mouth, I was hurried out to the hallway and just left by the front door.

When the bell rang I was already extremely agitated. "That's the one" were the only words spoken, and I was whisked off to the waiting vehicle. "Where are they taking me? What's it for?" I wondered. I yelled, I screamed, I kicked. The driver, baffled by my unintelligible attempt to speak, bundled me into the back and took off. By the time we pulled up in front of this great 3 storied building, I was shaking uncontrollably.

## **Misunderstanding #3**

### **Assumed to be incapable of replying**

People assume the person in the wheelchair is unable to think or communicate, and they direct all the questions at the helper.

Cast – A lady (L), Support person(H) and a lady who has athetoid CP, a speech difficulty and is in a wheelchair (W)

(NB: All the way through this skit, W is trying to answer for herself).

L: "What's her name?"

H: "Margaret."

L: "Where does she live?"

H: "Central Auckland."

L: "What does she do?"

H: "She works on several committees & preaches."

L: "Does she want a cup of tea?"

H: "Why don't you ask Margaret yourself?" (exasperated)

L: asks loudly & slowly "Do you want a cup of tea?"

W: answers (in very slow but carefully enunciated speech)

- "I-don't-like-tttea-I-drink-coffee-I-have-milk-and-I-can't-stand-sugar"

**or**

- "No thank you. I'd like a cup of coffee with milk and 2 sugars please."

## Misunderstanding #4

### Failing to listen to a reply

Cast – A gushing lady (L) and a girl in a wheelchair (G)

L comes in

L: “Hello dear, how are you? My name’s Matilda. What’s yours?”

(A slight pause as G prepares to answer)

L: “Lovely day, isn’t it beautiful? What a winter? I just love these lovely sunny days. How about you? Isn’t it cold at night? Does it affect your sleeping? Haven’t I seen you before? Do you come here often?”

W: Finally blurts out, “Very well”.

L: “Whats that? What do you mean? – ‘Very well’?”

W: “You started by asking me how I was!”

### Commentator:

“Well she finally got her answer in, but it took a further seven questions before she got the chance. Be honest if a person has a disability or has speech difficulties. Do you, perhaps through nervousness, give that person a chance to answer what you ask them? Imagine what it must be like to be in their position.”

Did you also notice the use of the word “Dear”? A glaring example of talking down to a person with a disability.

## Determination

These photos are of Grant Allely showing some of the hurdles he has faced up to and overcome.



Grant, witnessing at the end of his street, “You may not understand my speech but do take a tract, I want to share Jesus with you.”



Grant typing a Message.

### Believing in a cause greater than himself ..

Grant wrote the following account and later it was adopted to make a very powerful drama. This included Grant acting out his own role when people failed to tell him what they were planning for him. It also had people acting as the ambulance person and the nurse.

While some may find it a little difficult to understand him, this does not stop him praying out loud in a church service, nor does this stop him from selling chocolates on the streets of Newmarket to raise money for his sponsored children - this is **his** mission field and it has opened up many opportunities for him to share his faith. The question comes to me, "If Mark with such limited talents can do all this, how does the Lord look on what I am doing for Him with the talents He has given me?"

And how is He looking to you to make use of all the talents He has given you?

Here we have Jason preaching, he has Cerebral Palsy and has now completed his training to become a minister, using the talents God has gifted him with.



Our group were able to share their joy in worship with members of a church in Auckland—bringing joy and enthusiasm to the service.

## The Hospitality Skits

At the conclusion of these, it would probably be a good idea to put the hospitality pyramid (see pg 20) onto an overhead projector screen, for it will encourage and challenge people to put into practice what they have just watched.

### The message

To encourage people to take people with disabilities for a cup of tea, a meal, a drive or to stay the night or to go off on holiday with them.

### The cast –

A person with a disability who uses a wheelchair (W), and a friend (F)

### Skit #1 Offering a cup of tea

F: "Would you like a cup of tea and a biscuit?"

W: "Yes thanks"

F: "Do you need a straw?"

W: "Yes thanks"

F feels very uncomfortable but W says "Don't worry, I have some in my bag at the back of my wheelchair"

F: "Can you drink yourself?"

W: "No I can't. Could you help me please?"

F assists W by giving them the cup of tea, and F is surprised that he accomplishes this without much difficulty.

## Skit #2 A Meal of Fish & Chips

This could be set in a car or in a hamburger bar.

The points to bring out here are that it is not difficult to help, but help should be given quietly and unobtrusively.

W needs to be consulted for his choice - whether he wants his food cut up or broken into smaller pieces, whether he needs help with feeding etc.

### Going for a Drive

F: "Would you like to come with us for a drive?"

W: "Yes please, that would be tremendous".

F transfers W from the wheelchair to a chair representing a car seat. A steering wheel as a prop is a useful addition. As they drive along, F points out the sights and makes a real effort to make the trip as memorable as possible. If W is not comfortable about being transferred onto a seat, simply say you are pretending to move them into the car and then their wheelchair becomes the seat in the car.

### Going on Holiday

Set the scene once again in the car. Two chairs could be placed in the back for the children. The luggage is placed in the back. W is transferred into the car and the wheelchair is then placed in the back along with the other luggage. As they drive along, the children grab their buckets and spades as someone starts singing "Oh I do like to live beside the sea-side...".

The message of course is for people to consider sharing their holiday with someone who is disabled.

But his Master answered him. "You wicked, lazy and idle servant. You should have invested what I gave you, and at my coming I could have received what was my own, with interest.

So take the talent away from him, and give it to the one who has 10 talents.

For to every one who has will more be given, and will be furnished richly so that he will have abundance. And throw the good for nothing servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and grinding of teeth."

Was the Lord being hard on this man with the limited talents and abilities?

Example: This parable becomes even more effective if you have someone like Mark here who could act the part of the man who did nothing with the talent he was given, but then point out that in his own life, he **HAS** done so much with what he has been given.

Difficulty in speech and locomotion does not stop him getting himself out in the public eye witnessing for the Lord. The fact that he can't get around as easily as you or I, doesn't stop him from experiencing many of those things you and I do each day, Mark is willing to give anything a go and is always ready to tell others about his Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.



## The Parable of the Talents continued...

To **servant 3** he said “Aha, my friend over there. Your legs are not strong, but you can move. Your muscles do not coordinate and you speak with difficulty, but you can still communicate. Here is a small Bible and I will give you 1 unit of My talents.”

Yes, to the one He gave 5 talents, to another 2, and another He gave 1, to each in proportion to their own personal ability. Then He departed and left the country.

Now, he who had received the 5 talents, went out at once and invested these into the Lord’s service and he gained 5 talents more. Likewise, he who received the 2 talents went out and invested and gained 2 talents more. He who had received the 1 talent, went and dug a hole in the ground and he hid what his Master had given him.

After a long time, the Master of these servants returned to see what they had done with the talents which He had given to each of them.

He who had been given 5 talents came and brought Him 5 more saying, “Master, You entrusted me with 5 talents, see I have gained You 5 more.” His Master said “Well done you upright, honourable and faithful servant! You have been both faithful and trustworthy over little, I will put you in charge over much. Enter into and share the joy and the delight which your Master enjoys.”

And she also who had the 2 talents came forward saying, “Master you entrusted 2 talents to me; here I have gained 2 talents more.” Her Master said to her, “Well done, you upright, admirable and faithful servant! You have been faithful and trustworthy over a little; I will put you in charge of much. Enter into and share the joy and the blessedness which your Master enjoys.”

He who had received one talent also came forward saying, “Master, I was afraid and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you can have back what is your own.”

## Staying the Night

F walks across to W.

F: “Would you like to stay overnight at my place?”

W: “That would be out of this world, I haven’t been out of this place for over 3 years now”.

F: “I hope it will be alright. I have never had anyone in a wheelchair stay at my place before”.

W: “I will tell you how to deal with any problems that come up.”

F then acts out some of the things that would arise: Washing W’s face, cleaning his teeth, putting him to bed (for the sake of time, this could be indicated by putting a blanket over W). The whole aim is to show that it is not such a difficult thing to undertake at all and certainly not impossible.



## The Pyramid of Helping Disabled

Perhaps the pyramid is best illustrated by a set of steps. Start at the bottom step and see how high you can rise. You will be doing really well if you get close to the top step. Too many people look at this pyramid and imagine that it looks so high that it would not be worth even attempting to climb it, but what they fail to realise is, that if they would only take a step at a time, it is not a difficult climb. Even more important, if they only get onto the first level, they will be surprised at the blessing they experience in getting that far, not to mention the joy they give to those they have helped.



## Scripture based Dramas

We have documented four dramas for you to start with, many others are available on request.

In 3 of the 4 dramas, the complete commentary could be read out as recorded in this booklet, with the actors acting out their parts without speaking. This makes it easier to present, as people with disabilities can often have problems getting to a rehearsal etc. If circumstances allow, any of the participants could well speak out their part and could even ad-lib if they have this ability.

### Skit 1 - The Parable of the Talents

Actors: Man, Servants - 1. Able Bodied man, 2. female Amputee, 3. C.P man in a wheelchair

We are bringing you a drama based on Matthew 25:14-30

There was a man who was about to take a long journey. He called his servants together and entrusted them with his property.

To **servant 1** he said "My friend, I have given you two good legs to move with, a clear voice with which to communicate My message and arms and hands you can use to write in My service. Along with these, I am giving you this Book containing My Word, along with 5 units of opportunities of service for Me. See to it that you put them to good use."

To **servant 2** he said "To you my friend, I have given you but one leg, but there is much that you can do with it, along with your voice and your hands. Take also this Bible and these 2 units of opportunities for serving Me."