



Creating a culture of belonging: equipping churches to embrace the disabled.

Raising Hope South Africa is a Cape Town-based NPO that is passionate about serving the disabled community. This is done through our three core areas: education and support, disability ministry, and inclusive sport. We focus both on educating and equipping parents, educators, and community members to be able to better support and engage with people with disability as well as offering services that directly engage with people with disability.

In the core focus area of disability ministry, we offer training, and support, and hold outreaches for families with children with disabilities. One of the areas where inclusion is still lagging is in the church, and it is our heart to change this. One of the ways we do this is through training and equipping the people of the church: all designations, all churches, all denominations to be able to open up their doors to create an environment where everybody feels welcome, valued, included, and relevant.

WORKSHOPS

Our workshops are geared to provide you with theoretical knowledge and understanding as well as practical tips and experience for supporting people with disabilities in the kid's church, youth, holiday clubs, services, special events, and various ministry and outreach programs.

We equip you to implement change, based on what you currently have available to work with.

Join us at one of our hosted workshops, or give us a call and we can do a workshop for your team.

Understanding the Need for the Inclusion of People with Disability (PwD) in the Church: An Introduction

This 3-hour workshop offers insight on topics such as the most common barriers to inclusion as experienced by the person with disabilities, the legal obligations of the church, understanding disability language, and the challenges for the church in becoming inclusive.

Facilitating Inclusion of People with Disability (PwD) in the Church: An Intensive Experience

A full day hands-on approach with tips and guidelines based on leading practices. Includes an in-depth review of key prevalent disabilities and accommodations needed, examination and discussion of case studies, and experiential activities relating to different disabilities.



Workshop Facilitators

Mary Klinkradt

Mary's journey in disability ministry began as a result of her own children's disabilities and her experience with churches in accommodating and meeting their needs, both as people with disabilities and as a family. A qualified pastoral and wellness counsellor, she has found her niche in supporting families impacted by disability, although her passion remains with equipping the church. Mary has been involved in disability ministry since 2010 and has developed and run ministry programs specifically for families as well as implementing and supporting inclusive programs for children's church, youth programs, and holiday Bible clubs. She runs training programs for volunteers to better support people with disabilities. Mary has been part of Raising Hope South Africa since its inception in 2016 and is involved in presenting workshops at schools and supporting parents. Mary regularly presents on topics related to disability in the church and pastoral care for the disabled, and is currently completing the certificate program in Disability Ministry through United Theological Seminary in Ohio, USA.



Charmaine Manuel:

Charmaine has 23 years of experience in practical ministry and NPO-based work. Her work includes developing and implementing curriculum for ministry training, with a focus on the next generation. She is known for her creative Children's Ministry workshops and is skilled in experiential learning, ventriloquism, gospel illusions, and storytelling. Charmaine is a PhD candidate of Practical Theology, investigating the role of the church in disability-inclusion strategies for children with disabilities and their families. She is a regular speaker at family-focused events and is a consultant to churches and FBO's for child-focused initiatives.

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