

All Belong's Core Beliefs

Directed by the Gospel of Jesus Christ and relying on the Holy Spirit, we believe:

- ✚ Diversity of ability is necessary for complete community.
- ✚ We experience God's love through belonging in community.
- ✚ We bring glory to God when we live, learn, serve, and worship together in interdependent community.

Statistics regarding people with disabilities and churches:

- ✚ 25% or more of people living in the U.S. have disabilities¹.
- ✚ 15% of the world's population are persons with disabilities².
- ✚ Of that 1 billion people in the world, only 5-10% of them are reached with the gospel³.
- ✚ There are an estimated 8-16 million churches worldwide⁴, and 80-85%⁵ of them are not intentionally serving or reaching out to persons with disabilities in even general disability awareness⁶.

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/disabilityandhealth/infographic-disability-impacts-all.html> (accessed 4/14/21)

² <https://www.who.int/teams/noncommunicable-diseases/sensory-functions-disability-and-rehabilitation/world-report-on-disability> (accessed 4/14/21)

³ <https://lausanne.org/content/ministry-among-people-disabilities-lop-35b> as cited in <https://www.thebanquetnetwork.com/blog/2018/8/28/5-statistics-we-cant-ignore>

⁴ <https://thecompletepilgrim.com/many-churches-denominations-america-world/>

⁵ <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/let-no-special-need-hinder-the-spread-of-the-gospel/>

⁶ Welcoming People with Developmental Disabilities and Their Families: A Practical Guide for Congregations. By Courtney E. Taylor, Erik W. Carter, Naomi H. Annandale, Thomas L. Boehm, and Aimee K. Logeman, found at <https://www.erikwcarter.com/s/Congregational-Practice-Guide-2014.pdf> (accessed 4/19/21)

Dr. Erik Carter of Vanderbilt University shares these statistics:

- ❏ 52% of adults with disabilities don't attend faith communities
- ❏ 56% of parents keep their child from participation due to lack of supportⁱ
- ❏ 27% of youth with disabilities attend a youth group or small group
- ❏ 18% or fewer churches provide support for participation
- ❏ 43% of people with significant disabilities attend 1 time per month (while 57% of people who do not identify as having a disability attend 1 time per month)
- ❏ 87% of persons with disabilities surveyed say that faith is important (while 84% of people without disabilities say faith is important)

**If shut-ins can go to Walmart by not church,
they're shut out, not shut in. -Ed Wood.**

*We, the Body of Christ, have the opportunity to minister **with** people of all abilities and change these numbers!*

ⁱ Statistics like these are discussed in a post on Key Ministry's blog: www.church4everychild.org/2016/02/09/what-are-the-stats-on-disability-and-church