

Ministers

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Loganville, Ga.

James G. Best, 94
Tovey, Ill.

Charnel A. Bird, 91
Hawkins, Texas

Donald J. Bogue, 79
Phoenix, Ariz.

Stepan Bolebrukh, 52
Antelope, Calif.

Jack M. Caudle, 69
Peoria, Ariz.

James C. Davis, 87
Waxahachie, Texas

Julia F. Dean, 82
Vidor, Texas

Ryan C. Dearman, 86
Spring, Texas

James M. Hughes, 93
McDonough, Ga.

Robert L. Jacobs, 67
Mariposa, Calif.

Atapana F. Mamea, 67
Auburn, Wash.

Fon E. Marlin, 88
Denver, Colo.

Byron W. Perry, 80
Tifton, Ga.

Max E. Price, 89
Columbus, Ga.

David W. Ross, 54
Galt, Calif.

Jimmy R. Severn, 44
Decatur, Ark.

Gregg A. Tagarook Sr., 89
Wainwright, Ark.



L I V I N G I T

God's Leaders

Do you see yourself as a dependent follower or as a gifted leader who influences others?

As a person with a disability, I used to avoid leadership roles in my career as an IT consultant. I viewed myself as a team player doing exactly what my managers wanted me to do. I had the idea that my speech challenges would make it next to impossible for me to be a leader. But one of my managers strongly encouraged me to pursue leadership regardless of my disability. Slowly, I began to implement my manager's suggestions and have become a passionate leader today.

The Bible talks about the speech challenges of one of history's most successful leaders. Moses wanted God to find someone else to lead the Israelites because he didn't see himself as a suitable candidate for the assignment. Moses didn't realize he was molded with a purpose by God to lead God's people to the Promised Land. Like Moses, I didn't see how God had been preparing me to challenge others to reach their greatest potential for the Kingdom.

Read Exodus 3 and 4, and you'll see that Moses made one excuse after another because he was focused on his limitations rather than on God. As we turn from looking at disabilities to gazing on God, He begins to do wonderful things as He unfolds His plan for our lives. I don't find anywhere in the Bible, following Moses' encounter at the burning bush, where his speech was ever an issue. As Moses became passionate about answering God's call, God gave him amazing leadership skills for the next 40 years.

After I stopped making excuses for why I couldn't lead, God gave me leadership opportunities. While it is an honor to lead professionally, it is a greater joy to inspire others not to be defined by their difficulties but to overcome them with God's help.

"Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say" (Exodus 4:12, NIV).

BRAD MATTRISCH is national coordinator of support ministries for Special Touch Ministry.

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