



IN REMEMBRANCE

Tom Leach, member of the Special Touch Leadership Team, passed away unexpectedly, February 26.

Tom had a lifetime of experience with physical disability. He was born with very mild Cerebral Palsy, and following a car wreck, at age 25, he was paralyzed from the chest down as a C 6-7 quadriplegic.



In 1986, Tom and his wife Gayle attended their first Special Touch Summer Get Away. In a dynamic way, Special Touch began to heal hurts caused by living with quadriplegia which helped pave their way back into full-time ministry. Already working intensively with people with mild intellectual disabilities, the couple began serving as full-time staff for Special Touch in 1995.



Over the years, Tom has made a difference in many lives. At the 2008 Special Touch Leadership Exposé, a dramatization of his story created a poignant example of how God can work in the lives of people impacted by disability, through programs provided by organizations like Special Touch.

As ministers and representatives of Special Touch, Tom & Gayle have spoken at churches, retreats, and camps across the nation, wherever God opened the doors of opportunity, bringing evangelism and encouragement. They've also provided disability awareness programs and motivational speaking on self-image and other disability related topics for churches, schools, and civic groups.



Twenty-five years after beginning his studies, Tom returned to Trinity Bible College in Ellendale, ND, to complete his BA in ministry. This was a time of many celebratory events in Tom's life. In 2008, Tom and Gayle celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary with their son, Ben, friends, and family. That same year, Gayle received her ministry credentials from the Assemblies of God. (cont.)

Upcoming Events

Summer Get Aways

Florida - Lake Whales
May 16-20, 2011

Oklahoma - Colcord
May 23-28, 2011

Illinois - Carlinville
May 30-June 3, 2011

Wisc./N. Mich. - Waupaca
June 20-24-2011

Kentucky - Crestwood
July 18-22, 2011

Appalachian - Dublin, VA
Aug 1-5, 2011

Arkansas - Hot Springs
Aug 8-12, 2011

Arizona - Heber
Aug 8-12, 2011

N.E. Region - Hebron, CT
Aug 22-26, 2011

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in your life?*

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January & February Ministry Expenses \$30,000
 January & February General Donations \$27,824

 January & February Balance - \$2176

Above is a new feature, designed to give a snapshot of the ministry's monthly financial picture. At a glance, you'll be able to see the need and how it's being met on an ongoing basis.

NOTE: Personal budgets for our Missionaries and National Reps, including our Executive Director are raised independently.

Donate online through www.specialtouch.org!

Your tax-deductible gifts are greatly appreciated.



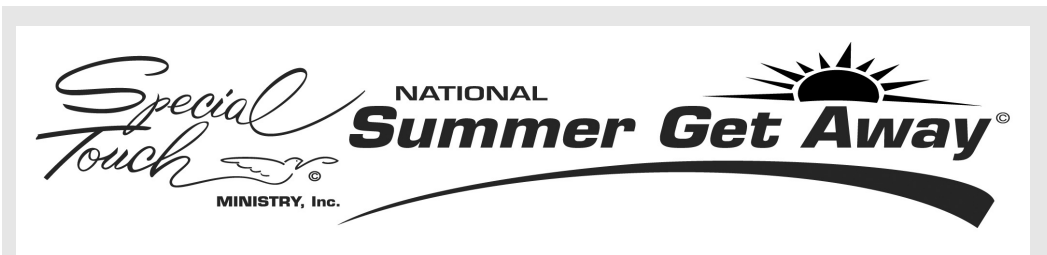
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(continued) Not only was Tom a husband, father, and speaker, but he was a successful author as well. Tom drew on his many life experiences to create unique perspectives on faith, politics, and the sanctity of life found in his writing. As an adopted child and the father of an adopted child, he had a keen personal appreciation of the decisions birth parents go through. Tom wrote on disability and sanctity of life issues for many magazines and publications including the *American Horizon*. He served as a writer on a research committee that contributed to the development of an official position paper on disability for the Assemblies of God. In 2006, Tom published his first novel entitled *Firestorm: The state of the Union*. He also began a personal website entitled *Back in the Day*, sharing some of his fun memories with the world.

Over the years Tom has worked on many projects. The most recent of these being the *Compel Them To Come In* manual designed by Special Touch Ministry to assist local churches with disability ministry concerns. Tom & Gayle also collaborated on the development and writing of the Word Walk Chapter Curriculum produced by Special Touch Ministry.

In 2010, Tom Leach, in his own words, was living his “dream come true” when he was appointed to an adjunct faculty position at Trinity Bible College. He was passionate about helping students fulfill the dream God placed in their hearts, just as he himself did. He will be missed by many.



IMPORTANT SCHEDULE CHANGE

Please accept our apologies for this inconvenience which was totally out of our control. We will be unable to offer a Special Touch Summer Get Away in Minnesota for the 2011 season. We were notified that our formerly scheduled week is now unavailable to us, after our applications were printed and mailed out and the date was widely publicized.

We will gladly receive applications from any of our Minnesota Special Touch constituents, staff or guests, at any other Special Touch Summer Get Away location. Our largest, original and closest Summer Get Away to Minnesota is located approximately 3 1/2 to 4 hours from the Minneapolis/Saint Paul area. Meeting at beautiful, spring-fed Spencer Lake, near Waupaca, Wisconsin, this Get Away is a full FIVE days long for only \$380.00, representing a savings of \$65.00 over the original Minnesota price. Our Wisconsin program also offers unique recreational opportunities, such as the Crystal River inner tube trip, not available anywhere else! Registration deadline is May 31. *Come and “Escape to Wisconsin” for the Summer Get Away experience of your life!*