



# the servant's heart

servicing the concerns of people with disabilities

a monthly publication of Special Touch Ministry, Inc.  
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## Upcoming Events

2006 Regional Winter Retreat, February 17-19, 2006. Details will be available soon on the web site and by mail.

## Prayer Requests

- For the ability to continue to reach people with disabilities with God's Love
- For our new Chapter Leadership: Lincoln County Chapter in Chandler, Oklahoma and Prairie Heartland Chapter in Bloomington/Normal, Illinois, as they "serve the concerns of people with disabilities" in their local areas
- Financial subsidies to help reduce Summer Get Away costs for people with disabilities
- For Cassie Chivers as she speaks at Nationwide youth events
- Patrick Randle, son of Jim and JoAnn Randle from the Springfield, Illinois Chapter as the Navel Seabee's send him into combat in Iraq
- Donna Pugliese, Arizona Summer Get Away Team Leader who is battling cancer
- David Ingraham, son of Mary and Mike Ingraham, currently in hospice with a malignant tumor. Mike has served as the Vice President of our Chapter Advisory Board
- Joyce Joosten, President of our McHenry County Chapter in Harvard, Illinois, who has recently undergone surgery and treatment for breast cancer

## Letters to the Editor...

We would like to provide our readers with current information on servicing the concerns of people with disabilities. If there is a topic or question you would like answered, please contact us at [ministry@specialtouch.org](mailto:ministry@specialtouch.org) or PO Box 25 Waupaca, WI 54981.

## Welcome!



Charlie & Debbie Chivers founders and Directors of Special Touch Ministry, Inc.

Debbie and I would like to welcome you to, "The Servant's Heart." We hope you enjoy our new publication. It is designed to bless you with exciting stories and keep you informed with Special Touch Ministry needs and events all across the Nation. Many have been asking for a newsletter such as this for several years. We are excited it has now become a reality! Please join in the blessing by sending in your stories, testimonies, questions, and prayer needs. We'd love to share your interests and concerns with our incredible Special Touch family nationwide. The Special Touch "Family" is a wonderful community of believers that truly exemplifies *the servant's heart*, and sees results in the Kingdom of God. We welcome you to become part of this incredible family. Together, "we can provide lots of opportunities for people with disabilities to experience God, be included in the church and build meaningful relationships and become really good friends with caring believers like you and me."

Blessings!  
Charlie & Debbie Chivers

## SPECIAL TOUCH PROVIDES PRACTICAL SUPPORT IN HURRICANE RELIEF EFFORT!

The disaster of Hurricane Katrina affected millions of people. Hearing devastating stories from close friends in the disaster area about people with disabilities who were stranded in Louisiana, it became apparent that the ministry had to do *something!* Many disabled people were left, not only without shelter, food, and water, but were also stranded without medical supplies and staff to care for their needs. On top of this, the ministry learned of the drastic need for tools and vehicles to provide supplies to the stranded victims. "We just knew we had to get involved in a significant way," said Charlie Chivers. So a plan was immediately set in motion.

A few years ago, Special Touch received a beautiful gift from a generous donor; a twenty-four foot straight truck with a hydraulic lift and double sleeper. The truck has been providing technical support to the Summer Get Away program now for a few years. Interestingly, hurricane Katrina, made landfall the week of the last Summer Get Away of the season. This beautiful truck was heading home to be put away for the winter, since it has no specific use during the off-season. However, when the ministry learned of the need for trucks to shuttle supplies from the Hosanna Church Distribution Center in Alexandria, Louisiana, to stranded victims, it



Left - Tom Feldman, Tech Truck Staff and Right - Carl Hesppe, Executive Assistant, along with Waupaca volunteers, Jerry Getlinger center, and Arthur Turribates, kneeling, deliver the Special Touch Tech Truck to Louisiana

instantly became obvious God had made an opportunity for this gift from Him to be used in an unselfish way, reaching far beyond the ministries' own needs within it's National Summer Get Away Program.

In addition, Special Touch had received a surplus donation of supplies in the spring of 2005. Instead of hoarding these supplies in storage until the next year, the Special Touch Administrative Staff felt God had provided this abundance for them to send to Louisiana.

As Debbie Chivers, co-founder of Special Touch Ministry stated, "You know, we have our homes. We have food, clothes, and all of our belongings. Our families are together. Our towns haven't been washed away. We have everything...They have nothing! We need to give what we have to them, and God will provide for our future."

In the days before the truck was to leave,



Wheelchair donated for hurricane victim and delivered by Special Touch Ministry Tech truck

Special Touch received phone calls from local churches and organizations asking if there was room on the truck for additional supplies provided by the community, including school text books, hand made quilts, socks and underwear, and a brand new electric wheelchair! The Beaver Dam Special Touch Chapter got involved and so did the Assemblies of God Wisconsin Northern Michigan District Women's Ministries Department. They emptied out their entire commissary putting it all on the truck! The Special Touch Administrative Staff, along with the entire Chivers family and several local friends, gathered to load the truck.

So, on a rainy September afternoon, the Special Touch Tech Truck, loaded with supplies, headed to the Hosanna Church Distribution Center, in Alexandria, Louisiana. When the truck arrived, and the rear door was raised, the face a relief worker on the dock instantly lit up. "Oh...I know just the person who needs that wheelchair!" he said.

The men who delivered the truck placed the keys in the hands of the relief workers with this message from the Special Touch Administration. "This truck is yours through the entire winter. We don't need it back until spring! Use it to fill the needs!" The last report stated, "Your truck is being used everyday. Whenever it pulls up, and people see that huge Special Touch Ministry Dove on the side, a huge crowd gathers knowing the truck is going to have something they need! Your truck is touching a lot of lives in Louisiana! Thank you!"

## POWER OUTAGE DOESN'T STOP THE POWER OF GOD

Another uplifting Get Away where people's lives were changed and touched. When you work all year on something you want it to go as planned. Sometimes your plans and God's plans are very different. Sometimes natural disaster has a way of interrupting events and situations that make you turn to God and say 'your will not mine.'

This Get Away was no different from Get Aways in the past. It was soaked by prayer and fasting. Before this camp started, there was a little storm named Katrina headed towards us. Ron and I felt there was no need to cancel, since hurricanes in the past, for us usually meant a lot of wind and rain. There could be a tornado or two, but nothing to make us close down. Famous last words.

Monday night came with a lot of wind and rain, nothing we couldn't handle. The storm made us wet but the Holy Spirit in our services made us warm. That night, the presence of God came in a strong way. One person was saved and many rededications happened. There was an unusually strong presence of the Holy Spirit at altar time and the prayer time that followed. God was there, meeting needs, and ministering to lives.

We went to bed that night, unaware that sometime during the night the electricity went out. We woke to cold showers and no lights. The the chance of the electrical and phone lines being fixed that day was not good. We hoped for the best. God was good. It was cool. For many of our Guests, air conditioning is essential to health not an optional thing of

comfort. Our schedule went on. We had morning chapel. Again the presence of God was so strong touching lives. Arts and crafts time went by, games, lunch and still no lights. It was time to close up camp. We could not provide the care that individuals needed without electricity, communications lines, and no hot water. One



Guests of Alabama Summer Get Away before hurricane Katrina hit.

last service and it was time to go. Everyone left in tears, caregivers, guests, Ron and I. It was a hard decision to make to close camp down. Yet, I knew it was the right one.

By 9:00 pm all the guests were gone. We stayed another night so we could clean up in the daylight and left for home. That morning the sun poked out of the clouds and it was a hot day. Our guests would not have lasted another night without electricity and air-conditioning. As it was electricity and phone communications were not restored until Friday.

This year's camp was short but filled with the sweet presence of God. As I put away boxes of material we never even opened for Get Away. My expectancy for next year is even stronger. If God can do a wondrous work in people with only a day and a half to work, think of what he could do with a whole week.

Jenny Young

AL Summer Get Away Coordinator

## Articles & Publications

### Pentecostal Evangel

*Disability Awareness Day:* Special Touch Ministry, Inc. is featured in this October 9th issue.

*Miracle in Madison: The fall of a serial rapist:* Cassie Chivers story first ran in this April 17th issue

*It'll never happen to me! Safety outside the home begins with parental precautions -* Cassie Chivers is highlighted again in this September 25th issue

To purchase copies of these editions, contact Gospel Publishing House Customer Service at 1-800-641-4310 or online at [pentecostalevangel.ag.org](http://pentecostalevangel.ag.org)

### Club Connection

*Fall 2005 Leaders Edition (Item #734917):* Special Touch Ministry provides tips on working with special needs girls in the Missionettes program

For copies, please contact Leaders Connection Customer Service at 1-800-641-4310

2006 BGMC Missions Manual: Features Special Touch Ministry, Inc. as a mission's organization. Includes coloring pages, mission's stories, and prayer requests for kids. The cost for either the CD or the printed manual is \$12. Just call GPH's number (1-800-641-4310) and ask for the BGMC Missions Manual, Vol. 8. Customers should specify whether they wish to purchase the printed manual or the CD.

Coincidence or Godincidence: The Cassie Chivers Story is included in this book by Steve Rose. Steve Rose is the best selling author of *God must be a packer fan*. Available at most local bookstores or [amazon.com](http://amazon.com).



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