

DISABILITY CONCERNS (www.crcna.org/disability)

A questionnaire for parents of children with disabilities

Dear parents,

This questionnaire is a tool for you to use in seeking the assistance you need from the Christian community in meeting the special needs of your children with disabilities. It is also a tool to help us, your church, identify in concrete ways the assistance we should give to you and your family.

We hope you will feel the warm affection and concern of your congregation for you and your children as you fill out this questionnaire. We hope you will pray about these questions, and we hope you will take as much time as you need to give your answers. We, too, are praying about our responsibility to give you the care you need from us.

Listed below are suggestions for assistance that could possibly help you and your family with some basic needs you might have in caring for your children with their special needs. These are questions parents like you helped to formulate when they were asked what their church should do to help them. We, your church, stand ready to help you, too, in any possible way, and so we ask that you think about your needs and check off the items that would give you relief and us a chance to serve you.

1. Can we assist you with respite care?
 - Time away with your spouse
 - Time with other family members
 - Time for some of your favorite hobbies
 - Time to serve others, using your gifts
 - Time to sit in church together as a family
 - Time for your child to have social outings with others
 - Other? Please list

2. Can we assist you with household chores?
 - General housecleaning duties
 - Outside chores, lawn mowing, leaf raking, etc.
 - Meals brought in, how often?
 - Baked goods brought in, how often?
 - Grocery shopping
 - Others? Please list

3. Can we assist you with transportation?
 - Transportation for medical appointments
 - Help with car maintenance
 - Transportation to recreational or other social events
 - Rides to church functions
 - Others? Please list

A questionnaire for parents of children with disabilities (continued)

4. Can we assist you in the following ways:
 - Someone to inquire for you regarding medical opinions
 - Someone to help you with insurance issues
 - Someone to help writing letters seeking state/federal aid
 - Someone to give you spiritual support during doctor appointments
 - Someone to be your advocate, to visit you, how often?
 - Is the church nursery adequate to meet your family's needs?
 - Others? Please list

5. Can we assist you with financial support?
 - Help to defray disability expenses
 - Regular visits from the deacons, how often?
 - Payment for your child at camp for disabled children
 - Professional estate planning
 - Others? Please list

6. Can we assist you to become more involved in church life?
 - Serve on a committee
 - Teach Sunday school
 - Worship team, usher, greeter, or other Sunday morning activity
 - Help with nursery
 - Join a Bible study group, couples' group, etc.
 - Would you need respite care to do this?
 - Other? Please list

Please comment on any other assistance your church should give.