



## Weekly Prayer Focus: 29th May 2022

### Disability Justice Issues

As part of an occasional series the EBA Justice Transformation Group have asked that the prayer focus this week looks at the subject of disability and how we relate to disabled people within our churches.

Disability covers a wide range of issues that affect different people. Some are visible and others are invisible. They include mental health issues as well as physical problems such as hearing loss, visual impairment and mobility issues. Some concerns are hereditary and others often come with advancing years.

Within our own church communities and fellowships there are many people who have their own disability concerns. It is so important that we don't stereotype anyone but need to treat them as valued individuals. We may need to take extra time to understand their specific needs and requirements and be patient with them, trying to communicate in a relaxed and empathetic way.

And we should value the talents and inspiration that many people with disabilities bring to the life of our churches.

Ben Plant, Church Leader at Framlingham Community Baptist Church and member of the EBA Justice Transformation Group who himself has cerebral palsy says "I think it is so important that the church embraces and values those with disabilities and recognises their talents and fully uses them to help grow the kingdom of God".

Please pray:

- \* For a better understanding of people coming into church who have disability issues and greater empathy for their situation, needs and requirements.
- \* That we will actively look for opportunities to assist those people who need extra help.
- \* That people with disabilities are encouraged to take part in services and other activities and invited to step-up to active roles and involvement in our churches.
- \* That people would be encouraged to overcome pre-conceived ideas and recognise the gifts and talents of those with disabilities and illnesses.