



Sharing the Good News PPT Script Notes

Last update: August 2, 2019

Slide 1:

Good morning! My name is [name] and I am here today to talk to you about Bethesda. We are a service organization that supports adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, but we are unique, because...

Slide 2:

Our Mission is our Promise! [read mission statement] For 115 years, and hopefully that many years to come, our core mission hasn't changed. Christ is the center of all we do.

Slide 3:

Bethesda is a National Leader in Disability Supports. Starting in Watertown, Wisconsin in 1904, we now operate at 300 program locations in 13 states. We are a faith-based nonprofit organization that succeeds through the passion of our employees and volunteers who make a difference every day in the lives of over 1,800 people.

Slide 4:

Bethesda has services tailored to meet everyone's life goals and we strive to provide the assistance people need to help them be more independent and make the most of their God-given potential. [list services with no explanations] Let's begin with the core of who we are - faith.

Slide 5:

Did you know... [slides appear one at a time for emphasis] 84% of people with disabilities say faith is important to them. Yet, only 10% of faith communities offer congregational-wide disability awareness. There are several reasons for this low percentage, from accessibility issues to lack of understanding and training, but Bethesda is working to change that statistic.

Slide 6:

Bethesda's Ministry and Outreach Team focuses on connecting people supported by Bethesda and Bethesda staff, to congregations such as yourself. They provide free consultations, free training and many resource ideas to help your disability ministry grow and thrive. Bethesda also creates many of its own resources to enhance your ministry. [read list on slide]. Think about the ministry here at [location]. Take a moment to write down 1-2 ideas you have about how we might help you. [Give them time to think and write.]

Slide 7:

Part of Bethesda's ministry team is our consulting team. Bethesda's 11 Ministry Consultants support the 13 states where Bethesda has services. They help each congregation problem solve and support the faith life of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. They [read slide]. But rather than me tell you about this process, let me show it to you instead.

Slide 8:

Meet Alana [show video]

Does anyone have any comments or questions about this video? [Spend time discussing the video and opportunities for Bible lessons, confirmation and other supports.]

Note for speaker:

Building on the Rock series (for Bible lessons or confirmation) includes: The Bible, Baptism, Holy Communion, Ten Commandments, Lord's Prayer, Apostles' Creed and can be found at www.cph.com (\$25 a unit and it includes Communication Cards)

Does anyone have any questions about Bethesda Ministry Consultants and how they can help you? Maybe something you wrote on your paper earlier? [Spend time discussing MCs and opportunities for support. If available, provide information about the MC in your area. For example, pass out local MCs business cards.]

Notes for speaker:

- Each person supported by Bethesda has a **Faith Action Plan** that is reviewed annually with the MCs. [Show *My Faith in Action Plan Workbook*.] This book starts with desires to attend services and classes and moves to service and leadership opportunities. It promotes full inclusion into the church and emphasizes true relationships and belonging.
- Ministry Consultants can: display, present to your congregation, present in a Bible class, work with groups of all ages in your congregation, train and support your disability ministry. They are also available for follow up questions and further training.

Slide 9:

Let's touch briefly on some of Bethesda's other supports.

- **Career Connections** – Bethesda helps people with disabilities find opportunities to work in the community and provides support to those employers. For example, pictured here is Chelsea. After much work and perseverance, Chelsea now works her dream job at Culvers. I challenge you to go to the Bethesda website and watch her story sometime this week.
- **Bethesda College** – Following a specialized college curriculum, Bethesda College helps prepare people with disabilities to live independently. The students attend and live in the dorms at Concordia University in Wisconsin; they are completely immersed into the college experience. Our Bethesda website has more information about Bethesda College, and at the end of this presentation you will hear many students from there lead us in Psalm 46.
- **Community Living** – includes group homes, host homes and in-home support programs.
 - **Group Homes** – Bethesda provides a home for people with 24/7 assistance, typically 4-8 people with disabilities in each home.

- **Shared Living or Host Homes** – a person with a disability becomes part of a family, living with them and participating in family life. This is similar to a foster care situation.
- **In-Home Support** – assists with specific services on a part-time basis – for example, cooking, shopping and banking.

Each person Bethesda supports has their own specific needs when it comes to housing. But to us, it's all about having a place to belong and feel loved. Just ask Tristan.

Slide 10:

Meet Tristan [\[Show video\]](#)

Does anyone have any comments or questions about this video? [\[Spend some time discussing this video.\]](#)

Slide 11:

So how can you make a difference? Here are some ways to get involved, because like all service organizations, we can't do this alone. We need people to volunteer, pray, advocate and donate - both financially and with collection and Thrift Shop items.

Slide 12:

Sometimes groups can go to a Bethesda supported home and volunteer, sometimes they cannot, especially if you are not located in a state Bethesda supports. However, if you or any of the groups you have here at [\[location\]](#) are interested in volunteering, here are some specific ways you can help. [\[Read through and discuss the slide.\]](#)

Does anyone have any comments or questions about the volunteer program? I will have more information on volunteering available at my display table [\[location\]](#).

- **Prayer Cloths** = crocheted squares with a risen cross are used as a touchable and visible prayer-aide for people with disabilities.
- **Prayer & Postage** = volunteers are connected to one person with disabilities for one year and are asked to send them an occasional card or letter to cheer and encourage them, especially during the holidays.
- **Top 10 Needs** = collect requested new items for use at a Bethesda group home
- **Mission Trip in a Bag** = be personally involved at a Bethesda program location even if you don't live in the area.
- **Birthday Box** = put together a "Birthday party in a bag" for people with disabilities to celebrate each year.

Slide 13:

Finally, at Bethesda we encourage and support each person to live the fullest life possible. Let's enjoy hearing Psalm 46, presented by several Bethesda supported Christian leaders. [\[Read slide. Show video.\]](#)

Slide 14:

Thank You [Encourage people to visit the display table for more information and sign up for the Bethesda Messenger, Inbox Inspiration and the My Faith in Action enews.]

Note to presenter: Bethesda Messenger is mailed to homes 3 times a year. My Faith in Action News is a monthly emailed newsletter. Inbox Inspiration is a weekly devotion through email.

Video Links:

Alana: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DIXCD1ajtJc>

Tristan: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KDGarBqa2Vk>

Psalm 46: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cC9L0DoG7ek>