



2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Executive Director Message

As I reflect on the past year, one word comes to mind: humbling. I am overwhelmed and in awe of everything that God did and continues to do. I am humbled that He would use our organization to do wonderful things in the lives of those with disabilities and that we get to be a part of seeing it happen.

While I know that our God never ceases to work the ordinary into the extraordinary, I am still left speechless by all that He did in 2022. This past year The Banquet Network coached more churches than ever before, saw 25 campers with disabilities have the weekend of a lifetime, flew to the Dominican Republic to help host the first Night to Shine in the country, equipped and encouraged church leaders from around the country, held our 7th annual disability conference and so much more. Since our inception, we have coached churches in 10 states and 2 countries. The TBN team continues to be inspired by the stories of churches integrating people and families with disabilities into the life of the church. We believe that people with disabilities are made on purpose and for a purpose and we will continue to work diligently to share this message to the local and global church.



**Katie
Matthews**



Our goal will always be the same, making sure people with disabilities have access to the local church community and are at the eternal banquet. Thank you to those of you who joined The Banquet Network family this past year. You played a vital role in making this happen. Whether you prayed, gave, or volunteered, you made The Banquet Network better and contributed to our success!

MISSION, VISION & VALUES

ABOUT US

WHAT'S NEW

We made some changes to our mission and vision. Why? For us it's about more than just welcoming people with disabilities into the church. It's about integrating them into the life of the church. We believe scripture is clear that people with disabilities have gifts and abilities that the church needs and we felt that we weren't effectively communicating that in our messaging.



OUR MISSION

Empowering followers of Christ to welcome and integrate individuals and families impacted by disabilities into the life of the local and global church.



OUR VISION

Every person and family impacted by disability would be invited, accepted and integrated into the local church.



OUR VALUES

- **LOCAL CHURCH** – We believe the local church was designed by God and is the primary instrument God uses to accomplish His Kingdom on earth.
- **KINGDOM** – We focus on the big picture of inviting people into the kingdom of God as taught by Jesus in Luke 14 and other scriptures.
- **SHIFT** – Moving from doing things “to and for” people with disabilities to “with and by” people with disabilities.
- **INNOVATION** – We are open to doing things differently so that everyone has access to the gospel.
- **COOPERATION** – God created the Body of Christ to work together and, as such, we believe partnership increases impact.
- **FAMILY** – We are committed to making sure no one walks this journey alone.



Coaching

This year we were able to grow our coaching throughout the United States as well as in the Dominican Republic. We have plans to host several cohorts in the new year, deepen our relationships in the D.R., as well as begin coaching with several local churches in Maryland.



Churches Equipped in 2022



Churches Equipped in 2021



0 25 50 75

65

Through cohorts, virtual trainings, and conferences we were able to coach more churches than ever before! In addition, many churches found our one on one coaching model a good fit for their needs. With so many equipping options, we were able to train 65 churches!



The Dominican Republic



Proyecto Samy

Project Samy is a faith-based, non-profit organization that educates and supports the Autism community. The Banquet Network and Proyecto Samy partnered together to train local churches in the Dominican Republic and host a Night to Shine.



Night to Shine (NTS)

Night to Shine is a prom event for people with disabilities hosted by local churches around the world in partnership with The Tim Tebow Foundation.



Special Deliveries

Gift boxes were delivered to the NTS guests. The large boxes were filled with Spanish Bibles, headphones, fidget toys, candies, arts and crafts, bubbles, crowns and tiaras, and other fun items (to be opened the evening of NTS).



The Main Event

75 registered for the virtual prom, including 17 students from a school for the deaf. This was the first ever NTS in the Dominican Republic!



The Haitian Church

Through missionary connections, we were able to meet with Haitian Church pastors who wanted training to include those with disabilities. One Haitian church, Iglesia Ministerio Maranata Moyor Gracia, needed assistance caring for members with physical disabilities.



Continued Coaching

Since returning home, we have continued coaching D.R churches virtually, including Iglesia Bautista Internacional (IBI) and Iglesia Ministerio Maranata Moyor Gracia.



EVERY CHILD BELONGS CAMP

an overnight weekend for children and young adults affected by disability

This year we hosted our second annual Every Child Belongs camp on the weekend of July 8th! We had 25 campers join us for a weekend of fun, faith and fellowship. Campers enjoyed swimming, crafts, sports, music and bible study. The Banquet Network, the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware, Cresthill Church and The Gathering Place Church partnered together to put on the camp for teens and adults affected by disability. Camp is one way we are reaching young individuals affected by disability with the gospel. Our prayer is that through camp we can help to invite all people with disabilities to the eternal banquet by fostering community and connections with the local church.

Next year we hope to double the number of campers. In hopes of having 50 teens and adults join us for an unforgettable weekend, we need 75 volunteers! Sign up [here](#).



Vision for 2023

The Banquet Network Team is eager for the upcoming year of equipping churches! We are committed to making sure that every person and family impacted by disability would be **invited, accepted** and **integrated** into the local church. Our vision for the year is simple. We want to see more churches engaging with disability than in the history of TBN.

Here's how we plan on doing it:

1. Pray like we mean it
2. Partner with other organizations to broaden our reach
3. Equip the local church through conferences, trainings, and coaching
4. Host inclusive events to ensure that no family walks this journey alone.



Other Events



ALL ACCESS DISABILITY CONFERENCE 2/23

We will be speaking at the 2023 Virtual Conference put on by Sandra Peoples and Tiffany Crow. Join church members as they learn how to start disability ministries or strengthen already existing ones.



TOGETHER CONFERENCE 3/11

We will join hundreds of people from all over the country for a one day conference that will provide the how-tos for disability inclusion in the church. Our team will be leading two breakout sessions on simple tools for inclusion and recognizing disabilities that aren't visible.



EVERY CHILD BELONGS CONFERENCE 4/15

The Banquet Network and BCM/D continue to partner to help local churches embrace individuals and families impacted by disability. This year we will host our 8th annual disability conference in partnership with BCM/D.



HARVEST AND HAYRIDES

Get ready for the 2nd annual fall day of fun for families impacted by disability! The Banquet Network and local churches partner for a day of inclusive fun including hayrides, fall crafts, a bonfire, and more! Stay tuned for the Fall date.

Some Specific Trainings

In 2022 we created several specific trainings for the church. For a full list visit our [webpage](#).



Intro to Disability

Let's talk all things disability! This training reviews different types of disabilities that you may see come through your church doors, as well as a discussion on disability etiquette.



Volunteer Training

Are your staff or volunteers prepared to serve individuals and families impacted by disability? This training is designed to equip you with practical tips on how to care for individuals and families impacted by disability.



Children + Youth Training

Are you looking to bring disability inclusion to your children's or student's ministries? In this training, we offer practical tips on how you can establish a disability inclusive environment in your children's and student's ministries.



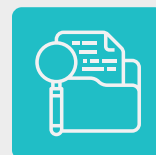
Theology of Disability

If you're considering starting a disability ministry in your church, this training is for you! Before you build from the ground up, you have to start with a solid foundation. This training will walk you through a Biblical understanding of the theology of disability.



Pools of Bethesda

Did you know that the disability community is one of the largest unreached people groups in the world? In this training, you will learn effective outreach strategies on how to reach the individuals and families affected by disability in your community.



Individual Evaluation

We know you want to give the best care to the members in your church, including those impacted by disability. Contact us to schedule an individual evaluation where we come to your building to offer encouragement and tips on how to support individuals in your church.

Thank You



Not to be cliché, but we couldn't do it without you! Because of our generous donors we were able to accomplish more this year than ever before. Your gifts of funds, supplies, time and prayers don't go unappreciated. You are making an incredible impact on families and individuals impacted by disability, families like mine!

As we say in the Dominican Republic, "Gloria a Dios!"



2022 ... WHAT A YEAR!

We believe that the exclusion of people with disabilities from the church is not only a tragedy because the transformative gospel never reaches them – the hidden tragedy is that the church, the body of Christ itself, is disabled for lack of people with disabilities.”

– Amberle Brown, co-founder



JOIN THE BANQUET FAMILY



How can you help?

1

Commit to praying for The Banquet Network regularly.

2

Sign up to volunteer at camp. We need 75 volunteers to make camp a safe and unforgettable experience for our guests and families. Learn more here.

3

Give financially. Join us as we work to reverse the exclusion of some of the most indispensable members of the body of Christ. Your support matters.

4

Can't give but want to help with fundraising? We will send you all the info you need. Consider having a birthday Facebook fundraiser or collect a love offering at your church.

5

We are in need of someone to assist with our podcast. This would require assisting with editing and recording sessions. Email info@thebanquetnetwork.com

INTEGRATING DISABILITY INTO THE CHURCH

2022



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