

# FAITH INCLUSION NETWORK COMMUNITY FOR ALL CONFERENCE

#FINC4A

MARCH 10-12, 2023



<https://faithinclusionnetwork.org/>

**GUEST  
PRESENTER**

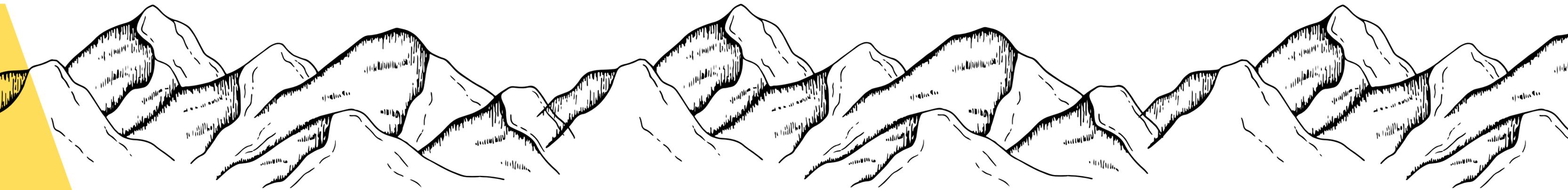
*Dr. Ronita  
Edwards*  
DMIN Christian Leadership, Regent University

**PRESENTATION**

## "DISABILITY: MOVING MOUNTAINS"

The interactive presentation discusses the results of maintaining focus on God and faith when confronting the cultural barriers and stigma of disability. Furthermore, it brings an awareness of how embracing some of the religious models has become an immovable mountain for the Body of Christ. Dr. Edwards uses several supporting Scriptures, and personal challenges and victories of rearing a daughter with Down Syndrome, to raise the audience's level of faith and promote advocacy.

***Zechariah 4:7 “What are you, mighty mountain? Before Zerubbabel you will become a level plain; and when he sets the capstone of the Temple in place, the people will shout: ‘God bless it, God bless it.’”***



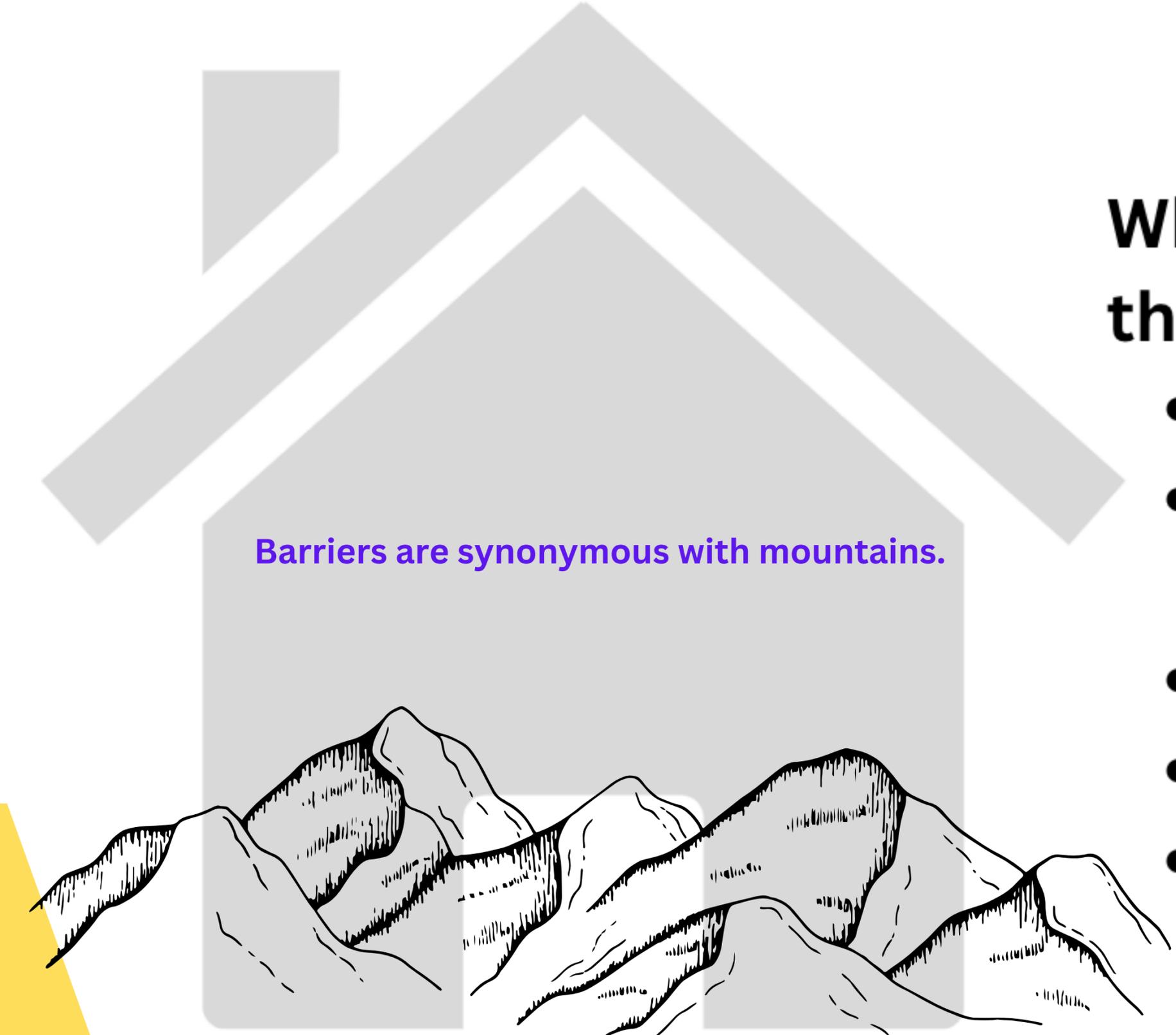
**Awareness**

**Ability vs (dis)Ability**

**Assignment**

**Agents of Change**

**Acceptance**



Barriers are synonymous with mountains.

## What barriers are in place that we can help remove?

- Physical barriers
- Communication and information barriers
- Attitudinal barriers
- Financial barriers
- Evangelistic barriers

**MARK 2:1-5, 11-12 KJV** And again he (Jesus) entered into Capernaum after some days; and it was noised that he was in the house. **2** And straightway many were gathered together, insomuch that there was no room to receive them, no, not so much as about the door: and he preached the word unto them. **3** And they come unto him, bringing one sick of the palsy, which was borne of four. **4** And when they could not come nigh unto him for the press, they uncovered the roof where he was: and when they had broken it up, they let down the bed wherein the sick of the palsy lay. **5** When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee. **11** I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy bed, and go thy way into thine house. **12** And immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went forth before them all; insomuch that they were all amazed, and glorified God, saying, We never saw it on this fashion.

**Awareness:**

**PT 1: (Mark 2:4)**

**Is the location *accessible* to individuals of  
all abilities? What can I do to move that  
mountain?**

## **Awareness: (Mark 2:4)**

**The "*trained eye*" is aware of a problem and seeks a solution. What can I do differently to assist/partner with those who are uniquely-abled?**

# Ability vs (dis)Ability:

PT 2: (Mark 2:4)

*It is not the (dis)ability that prevents the moving of mountains!* What **ability** has God given me to assist/partner with individuals of unique abilities?



**Assignment:**

**PT 3: (Mark 2:3)**

**The four men serve as a Point of  
Contact and support system.**

**What is my *God-given assignment*?**

# Agents of Change:

PT 4: (Mark 2:12)

**This miracle impacted everyone! A change agent enables change to occur within any setting.**

***Am I a change agent?***

**Acceptance:**

**PT 5**

**The four carriers represent social connections.**

***What does the absence of being personable and  
relatable do for individuals with unique  
challenges?***

# 4 MODELS OF DISABILITY [BRIEF OVERVIEW]

## *Disability as a disease*

The medical model views disability as a problem of the person, directly caused by disease, trauma, or other health condition which therefore requires sustained medical care provided in the form of individual treatment by professionals.

## *Disability as an act of God*

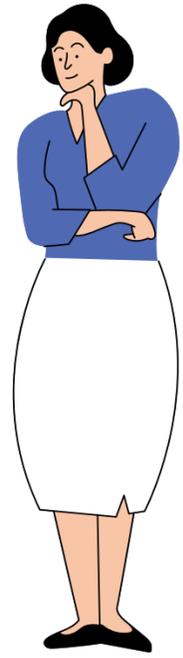
God is shown as the maker of good and evil, disasters and plagues.

## *Disability as a sin*

Disability was seen as a result of sin. Therefore to become disabled or to have disabled children was a result of wrongdoing or a lack of faith.

## *Disability as virtuous suffering*

This model supports the premise that having disabilities is a temporary affliction that must be endured to gain heavenly reward.



# REFLECTIONS



**NOTES:**



**THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!**