

ABLE MINISTRY

PARTNERING WITH
BUILDING THE BRIDGE (BTB) MINISTRIES
TO REACH THE BLACK/AFRICAN-AMERICAN DISABILITY COMMUNITY



What is Building the Bridge (BTB) Ministries?

BTB Ministries promotes outreach and evangelism within African American/Black communities across the U.S. and Canada. Its mission is to empower UPCI leaders with resources, local and national training, outreach partnerships, and guidance on matters vital to the African American/Black communities.

What Does BTB Do?

Evangelism: We share the Gospel message with the Black community in North America.
Inclusion: We advocate for including Black people in all aspects of the UPCI.
Education: We equip UPCI leaders with resources and guidance to better understand and serve the Black community.

BUILDING THE BRIDGE MINISTRIES

Why It Matters

- **Underdiagnosis & Misdiagnosis:** Black children, especially Black boys, are often underdiagnosed with disabilities like autism and ADHD or misdiagnosed with behavioral disorders rather than learning disabilities.

- **Delayed Diagnosis:** Studies show that Black children with autism in the U.S. are diagnosed, on average, 1.5 years later than white children, limiting early intervention opportunities.

- **Limited Advocacy Support:** Parents of Black children often face systemic barriers when advocating for Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) or 504 Plans, hindering access to necessary educational accommodations.

- Many **Black families turn to faith-based communities for support and guidance** on disability-related challenges.

- Some religious beliefs may influence perceptions of disability, viewing it as a challenge to overcome rather than a condition requiring medical or educational intervention.



- Disability is sometimes viewed through a religious or spiritual lens, with beliefs that it is a test of faith or something that can be overcome through perseverance.

Source: APA.org

ABLE & BTB Collaboration

Our collaboration supports BTB's evangelism efforts by helping to reach and support minority families navigating disabilities. ABLE Ministry will equip church leaders with resources needed to reach their diverse congregations, while BTB will assist with disability advocacy within local congregations.

EVANGELISM:
Conference Attendance

BTB has national and regional conferences that will be attended by ABLE representatives to ensure disabled attendees are supported

INCLUSION:
Marketing & Promotions

Marketing and training materials must reflect racial diversity and be inclusive of differently-abled individuals

EDUCATION:
Increased Awareness

ABLE trainings must show an understanding of cultural nuances, racial disparities, and issues affecting minority communities

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Feel free to contact me with additional questions

