Dear (Contact First Name),

I have a confession to make: At one time, I didn't know how to talk to a blind person. Does that sound silly?

Before my association with Christian Record, I knew of one or two blind people in my church, and I'd seen several individuals going about their day with their trademark white canes (which I thought all blind people used), but I had no reason to go out of my way to say 'hi' or offer help. They looked like they were doing just fine without me.

I have since had my vision sharpened! Some of my dearest friends are people who are inconvenienced by their vision, and I am always learning new ways to look at the world through their unique perspective.

So, what changed? Me. I had to make the first move. Make mistakes. Learn to assume nothing. Ask questions that I thought were dumb (but they really weren't).

This month's edition includes an article about the upcoming Annual Day of Giving project. It may challenge you in the same way I was regarding people who are blind. Hopefully you, like me, will face this challenge head-on and look for ways to befriend and include people who are blind or visually impaired in your life and in your church.

Jeri Lyn Rogge
ENews Editor

Annual Day of Giving to Emphasize Inclusion and Involvement

What would you do if a person who is blind or visually impaired sat down next to you in church, on the bus, at the doctor's office, or elsewhere? Would you engage the person in conversation, or... would you sneak away, hoping the person wouldn't notice?

They would notice, by the way.

Christian Record is taking a fresh approach with its Annual Offering, now known as the Annual Day of Giving, and is tackling this question: Are...
blind people unwanted?

The title unwanted? comes from a comment made by someone who was interviewed for the film. Other blind people share similar notions.

To make a change, we should reflect and do something. What can we do to include people with vision impairments in church and everyday activities? What can be done to equip people who are visually impaired for Christian ministry? How do I befriend a person who is blind?

A special website, www.CRSBgift.org, has been established as a forum for information and is the page where both project videos, unwanted? and you can help them if you care can be viewed and shared. Additional materials, such as the meme graphic shown above, are available for sharing on social media pages.

Seventh-day Adventist churches in North America will be viewing unwanted? as part of the 2013 Christian Record Annual Day of Giving on April 13. If you are interested in receiving a copy of the DVD for your church, please contact AliceJean Baker at the Christian Record home office at 402-488-0981.

A Sailboat and Bowline Knot Help Build Confidence: March Giving Focus

"I've never been on a sailboat before!" exclaims Brian.

Staff members help campers apply a preventive layer of sunscreen . . . and help put on lifejackets. Next, Josh and Brian feel the edge of the sailboat, exploring its texture and its size. Katie and another staff member help them climb in and find a place to sit.

"Feel the mainsail," instructs Katie. "It's attached to a long pole called the boom." Katie continues to educate her passengers about the main parts of the sailboat and safety. "We can't sail directly into the wind. We will have to zigzag. This will make the mainsail on the boom switch sides. When I say, 'duck,' bend way down, lower than the boom, so it doesn't hit you." Again

Brian enjoys steering the sailboat at an NCBC summer camp.
the campers reach out and feel the boom. This time they practice ducking.

More . . .

May 16 is Give to Lincoln Day

Blind adults and children in Lincoln, Nebraska, need a big piece of the pie! You can help give it to them on May 16.

That third Thursday of May 2013 is Give to Lincoln Day. And on that day, Christian Record Services for the Blind will be eligible for a piece of the $200,000 challenge match offered to nonprofits located in beautiful Lincoln, Nebraska. The size of the piece is determined by the CRSB proportion of total Give to Lincoln gifts made on that single day. Thanks to website technology, donors need not be located in Lincoln. They can be anywhere in the world. Gifts will focus on serving the 80 active clients in Lancaster County (Lincoln's home county), thus freeing up funds for other needs as we serve blind individuals in the United States and beyond.

Last year, on the first-ever Give to Lincoln Day, Christian Record was one of 187 participating nonprofits dividing the $200,000 matching challenge fund.

Lincoln has been "hometown" for Christian Record since its 1904 move from Battle Creek, Michigan, when the organization was barely five years old. Its name originates from the flagship braille magazine, The Christian Record, which was launched in 1899 by a young blind man named Austin Wilson. Joined since by eight other magazines produced at CRSB in braille, audio, or large-print format, today Christian Record holds the world record as the longest-published braille magazine.

More information about Give to Lincoln and how you can help will come in the April edition of the CRSB ENews. Please mark your calendar for May 16 and plan to help Christian Record on this special day.

Service Focus: Lending Library

For more than 100 years, Christian Record has maintained a free circulating lending library. Initially distributing only braille books in 1909, the library expanded to offer audio materials in 1950. Within the last five years, CRSB has made available selected materials on the Christian Record website for download.

Audio services are free to anyone who qualifies for services
through the National Library Services for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS). NLS supplies the player that's required for the digital books that are in Christian Record's holdings. Topics include adventure, biography, Bible stories, music, devotional, and inspirational material. Almost all the books are nonfiction, and cover all reading-age levels. **Browse the online library**

To enroll in Christian Record's free library service, which includes receiving login information for downloadable content, click **here** for the services application.

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**What is Christian Record?**

Christian Record Services for the Blind (CRSB) offers materials, programs, and friendship to children and adults who are blind or visually impaired.

Free services are offered to all who qualify.

- Magazines and resources in braille, large print, and audio
- Audio lending library
- Bible school
- National Camps for Blind Children (NCBC)

To learn more about Christian Record and to request information about enrolling in services, click **here**.

All services and programs offered by Christian Record Services for the Blind are funded by generous financial gifts. Would you consider **giving a gift today** to help a person who is blind see Jesus?
"I've never been on a sailboat before!" exclaims Brian.

Staff members help campers apply a preventive layer of sunscreen . . . and help put on lifejackets. Next, Josh and Brian feel the edge of the sailboat, exploring its texture and its size. Katie and another staff member help them climb in and find a place to sit.

“Feel the mainsail,” instructs Katie. “It’s attached to a long pole called the boom.” Katie continues to educate her passengers about the main parts of the sailboat and safety. “We can’t sail directly into the wind. We will have to zigzag. This will make the mainsail on the boom switch sides. When I say, ‘duck,’ bend way down, lower than the boom, so it doesn’t hit you.” Again the campers reach out and feel the boom. This time they practice ducking.

“I was born premature,” relates Brian as they slowly sail along. He’s used to being asked about his sight loss. “I’ve been through a lot of eye surgeries. And we’ve even tried laser surgery. The doctor gives my right eye no hope. My left eye has ten percent of sight.”

Brian trails his fingers in the warm water. Being adventuresome, Brian soon asks to steer the sailboat. Katie again provides Brian how-to information and assistance. When Brian jerks the tiller, Katie steadies his hand. “Move it slowly so we don’t tip over,” she advises. “Don’t let go of the tiller. The sailboat would put its nose into the breeze and not fill the sail.”

With his hand on the tiller, you sense Brian’s ah-ha moment. There is a connection between slightly moving the tiller, filling the sail with air, and the change of movement by the sailboat, wind, and water. The breeze tousles his blond hair. You feel his thrill. Brian flashes a big smile of success.

With lifejackets secure, Brian and Josh take turns jumping into the lake. “Stingray,” yells one of them (instead of “Geronimo”). Led by laughter, they swim to the back of the sailboat and climb aboard.
A camp JetSki carefully pulls alongside and takes Josh for a fast and bouncing tubing ride. You can tell Brian can hardly wait for his turn. While he waits, Katie teaches him how to tie the bowline – a useful knot all sailors need to know.

Have you ever tried to describe knot tying to someone who can’t see you make the knot? “The rabbit goes around the tree and back down the hole,” instructs Katie as she guides the rope and Brian’s hands. With a little patience and practice, Brian conquers the bowline.

While any child would love a day at camp like this, a blind camper seems to experience each moment deeper. They soak up the atmosphere and lessons learned. You actually see the “light bulb” moments as they understand or do something they have only heard about.

Your support for NCBC helps these special children experience a much bigger world. You’ll help them “see” that they can do nearly everything sighted people can do . . . maybe even things many of us never will.

Most of all, you’ll give a sightless camper confidence and a reason to hope for a bright, independent future. What these campers accomplish in one week at NCBC can help determine how they will live the rest of their lives.

One day of this life-changing experience for one camper costs $97; an entire week costs $679. I know that can be lot. That’s why I want you to know any amount you can give will help with the cost of meals, lodging, and special activities.

Brian grew a lot this week – he really is more confident. Perhaps you will understand it best when he says, “My favorite song is the Mustard Seed song.”

Faith of a mustard seed is all I ever need.

I can move mountains out of my way.

Speak to the storm cloud that darkens my day.

I can speak peace and it shall be still.

I can do all things in His will. I can do all things.

You, or someone like you, believed in Brian. In turn, Brian’s faith grew. Thank you in advance for caring – and for your gift to help change the world of a blind child like Brian.
Your gift, today, helps a blind camper grow his faith, skills, and confidence. Thank you for making a difference!