

Disability in Namibia: Religious and Cultural Perspectives

15th March 2021

Protea Hotel, Ondangwa

09:00 Welcome

An introduction to the Exeter-UNAM Project by Dr Helen John (Exeter)

09:30 Experiences of Disability/Disability issues

1. What are the challenges facing people with disabilities in Namibia?
2. What are the disability-related challenges facing communities in Namibia?
3. What challenges do clergy and churches face in ministering to people with disabilities?

10:45 Break

11:00 Contextual Bible Study 1 – Mark 10:46-52

- 1) What, from your own experience, are your first reactions to this text and its characters?
- 2) What are the experiences of the characters presented here? (You may want to consider location/access/social attitudes etc.)
- 3) How in your view has/could this text shape attitudes towards disability?
- 4) From your own context and experience what could this text offer to more inclusive attitudes with relation to disability?

12:00 Lunch break

13:00 Disability and Religion/Culture – Stigma and Marginalisation. Dr Helen John (Exeter) will discuss her research on attitudes to disability in Owambo proverbs. Q&A.

14:00 Break

14:15 Contextual Bible Study 2 – 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

- 1) What are your first reactions to this text?
- 2) What are the features of Christ's body here?
- 3) How in your view has/could this text shape attitudes to disability within communities?

15:15 Break

15:30 Feedback from December workshop and How the Church might respond

1. What did PWDs, activists, UN representatives understand to be the major challenges facing PWD in Namibia?
2. How can clergy and the churches respond to these challenges and work towards improved attitudes to disability and increased inclusion of PWD?
3. Closing remarks and informal discussion.

17:00 End