Join Ken and Joni as they celebrate one anniversary after another this month, and look inside to hear Joni’s heart as she asks the Lord, “Who am I, and what is my family, that you have brought me this far?”

Celebrating Milestones & Looking to the Future!
Who am I, Lord God, and what is my family, that you have brought me this far?
1 CHRONICLES 17:16

“Who am I, God, that you have brought me this far?!”
Lately I’ve looked up to heaven, smiled from the heart, and whispered this question in breathless wonder. Who am I that you have brought a platform on national radio for 40 years? Who am I that I should be so blessed in a marriage with Ken for 40 years? And how did I ever have the strength to survive 55 years as a quadriplegic in a wheelchair?!

The answer lies with Psalm 31:15, “My times are in your hands.” The years may shift and change, but they change according to God’s unchanging love, and they shift according to the One with whom there is no shadow of turning. With each special milestone, I praise my sovereign God who has held ‘my times’ in his loving hands.

And to what end has he “brought me this far?” That my ministry on the radio might be to the praise of his glory. That my marriage to Ken Tada might be a testimony of his guidance and grace. And that I might view my remaining years in this wheelchair as gifts of God to invest in his kingdom work for, “my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me – the task of testifying to the good news of God’s grace” (Acts 20:24).

Anniversaries are milestones in which we joyously rededicate ourselves to the tasks the Lord Jesus has given us. So here and now, I want you to know that I am re-dedicating myself to the task of testifying to the Good News of God’s grace in a world that needs Jesus desperately. And I am so grateful to God that you have come alongside me in this glorious task!

I cannot bear to think of the untold numbers of people with disabilities across the globe whose suffering is only a dark omen of hell, should they not have the chance to embrace Christ as Savior. Yes, together we have before us the heart-stirring task of sharing the Good News with them through Joni and Friends!

So, thank you for ‘pushing my wheelchair into the future’ as you and I finish the race and complete the task, praying, serving, and giving so that children and adults who struggle with disability will find hope and help in Jesus Christ! It is indeed why God has brought us all ‘this far’!

Joni

What a joy it is to share the hope of Jesus with Cassie and so many other friends at Family Retreat this summer!
“Countless thousands have yet to hear this astounding message of salvation in Jesus Christ. We won’t stop sharing the Gospel all over the world until God’s house is full!”

“When a broken neck totally upended my life 55 years ago, leaving me devastated, I never imagined that God would birth an international disability center through my affliction,” says Joni.

“JONI’S MESSAGE

“When disability hits we look for answers in the Bible. But I’ve learned we can never separate the Bible’s answers from the God of the Bible. It was my message then, and it’s the same now.”

“There are more important things in life than walking or having use of your hands. The most important thing is hearing God say, ‘I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you.’” (Ezekiel 36:26)
Happy 40th Anniversary KEN AND JONI!

"In 1982, we started our new life together in marriage and in ministry," says Joni.

"Ken and I give our time and energy to serving families living with disability all over the world for we consider our lives worth nothing if only we may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given us - the task of testifying to the Gospel of God’s grace."

(Acts 20:24)

Celebrating 40 Years of Radio Ministry!

"My first radio program aired in 1982, the same year I married Ken Tada. To my amazement, all these years later, I am still sharing fresh lessons from this wheelchair and from the Word of God. One of my greatest joys has been to keep passing on the heart-pumping, faith-strengthening insights I have gleaned over these 55 years living as a quadriplegic. I look forward to helping listeners strengthen their hope in Christ in this thrilling new season of radio outreach.

Thank you for tuning in!"

Joni Eareckson Tada

SHARING Hope
“Meshing the Message of Jesus with Disability is What We’re All About!”

JONI EARECKSON TADA

Three-year-old Woodlove has cerebral palsy. The left side of her body is especially weak. Every time little Woodlove would try to walk, she’d trip over her left foot. Her future looked bleak, and her mother wondered how she’d ever be able to carry Woodlove once she got older.

But when our Wheels for the World team brought God’s love to Haiti, Woodlove got her very own pediatric wheelchair – giving her and her mother a whole new outlook on life!

Woodlove wasn’t the only one who received God’s love during that Wheels for the World outreach. We custom-fitted 149 wheelchairs in Pignon, Haiti, during that trip – sharing the Gospel with each and every family. Twenty people accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior as a result! Thank you for your prayers and support that send the Gospel to more and more families living with disability!

Our volunteer physical therapist worked tirelessly to ensure a perfect fit for Woodlove!

Scan here for Woodlove’s touching story!
Ryan and Christen have four children: Logan (14), Luke and Sophie (both 12), and 7-year-old Leo, who has spina bifida. Over the years of living with disability, their family became worn out and weary, each in individual ways. Thankfully, all that changed at Family Retreat. Christen explains, “This was our first year at the Family Retreat and it was far beyond my expectations. It was a truly incredible week for each member of our family. The service and kindness of the volunteers was honestly something we had never experienced. Leading up to the camp our family had been feeling pretty burnt out. I didn’t realize until we were there how much my husband and I and our four children needed this time.”

“I think the most valuable part of Family Retreat was connecting with other families who are experiencing similar struggles and challenges. It can be so lonely and isolating for our children with disabilities, for their typical siblings and also for us as parents. My teen kids absolutely loved the “sib time” (sibling time) at night where they were able to hang out, play games and laugh with other kids their age. Each of us was able to make meaningful and healing connections throughout the week, and it was a timely reminder that we have a community and support available to us,” says Christen.

“My husband and I kept saying that the people at the retreat were the most genuine and real people we had ever spent time with. I’m so grateful to the staff and volunteers for giving our family such a life changing experience,” says Christen.

Joy (on the far right) shines the light of Christ at the Family Retreat Talent Show!

Leo thrilled everyone with his wheelchair headstand at the Talent Show. The crowd went wild, and Leo received an outpouring of joy and love from all the volunteers and other families!

When she was little, Joy missed a few developmental benchmarks. She cried often, had seizures, and couldn’t walk. She was eventually diagnosed with development delays and epilepsy. Her mother, Rose, was advised to commit Joy to an institution. But Rose wouldn’t give up on her daughter – she decided to “love her through it.”

Together, Joy and Rose have endured hours of treatments and therapies, and often had to deal with their challenges with little support.

As for many, the pandemic added new hardships for Joy and Rose. Joy’s care program shut down and she began to regress in her social skills.

Despite the isolation and obstacles, Joy and Rose have a safe haven in Joni and Friends. Rose says, “Family Retreat is a place where people remember your name, and they smile, and they are glad you are here!” says Rose. “And Joni and Friends doesn’t stay at Family Retreat. I take Joni and Friends to work, and to the market, and everywhere. I choose to see the good (God) in other people because Joni and Friends saw the good (God) in us.”

From Ohio ▼
Brittney, a young woman with cerebral palsy, was born in Ukraine. After living in a Ukrainian orphanage as a child, Brittney was adopted by an American family. But when she lost her adoptive family, Brittney fell into profound loneliness.

Her local church connected Brittney to Joni and Friends, where she formed fast friendships with other young women living with disability. Together they attended our Mississippi Barnyard Dance, participated in a weekly Bible study, and worked on projects in our Joni and Friends office.

Still, Brittney longed for a family. Thankfully, with the support of Joni and Friends and a local church, Brittney met Angie and Wayne, loving parents of an adult son with disabilities named Peter. Angie and Wayne became Brittney’s legal guardians, giving her the family she had been praying for!

Their beautiful family attends Family Retreat together. “Family Retreat for our family is a week of spending time in God’s Word, rejuvenation, rest, catching up with old friends, and meeting new friends. Missing Family Retreat, for Peter and Brittney especially, is not an option,” says Angie. Thank you for your generosity that helps set the lonely in families.

From Houston

Years after Jacob’s autism diagnosis, his family still struggled to meet his needs and find community. They couldn’t find a church with a disability ministry, and resources often felt scarce. Jacob’s parents, Allison and Cret, often felt like the world was against them.

But all that changed when they got connected to our Joni and Friends team in Houston! We provided Allison with resources she could use to help develop her church’s disability ministry – serving Jacob and many other children and adults with disabilities in her community. And now Allison has become part of our Joni and Friends Houston team, replicating disability ministry in the lives of other families longing to be included in the body of Christ.

“Joni and Friends is led by a true hero of the faith,” says Allison. “Joni is dedicated to showing the world that everyone is created in the image of God and that they are valuable members of the church!”

A father to the fatherless… God sets the lonely in families...

Psalm 68:5, 6

The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.

Psalm 126:3
Joni & Ken: An Untold Love Story
By Ken and Joni Eareckson Tada

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