

## A Father's Love

A woman relates that when she was a little girl, her father, an artist, would often be busy at his easel, mixing oils and painting on his big canvases while she sat nearby on the floor, working just as hard as he was with her own set of crayons and a coloring book.

Many times, he would set his brushes aside, reach down and lift her up onto his lap. Then he would curl her little hand around one of his brushes, enfolding it with his own, larger and stronger hand. And ever so gently, he would guide her hand and the brush, dipping it into the palette and mixing the burnt umbers and raw siennas, and then stroke the wet, shiny paint onto the canvas before them both.

The little girl watched in amazement as, together, they made something beautiful.

Little did the father know that he was giving his daughter skills that would bring great solace and fulfillment to her life. Today, Joni Eareckson Tada – a quadriplegic since a diving accident during her teen years – is still painting, but this time with a paintbrush in her mouth. The results are beautiful and inspiring works of art.

Much of Tada's earnings is channeled into ministry to help others. Her compassion, too, is a reflection of that shown by a loving, tender father.

Love is like that. It pays off in wonderful and unexpected ways.

In the centers of Life Care and American Lifestyles, and in the work of Life Care at Home, show an extra measure of love today. The benefits may surprise you.

--Beecher Hunter