

## *God Had a Better Idea*

In 1967, a teenage girl dived into a lake, having no idea how shallow it was.

Crashing into the bottom, she broke her neck and was paralyzed from the shoulders down. For the next several years, she wrestled mightily with the person of God. What kind of God was He? Why had He allowed this to happen? And, most of all, why didn't He use His power to heal her of her disabilities?

Joni (pronounced Johnny) was named for her father, John Eareckson, who participated in the 1932 Olympics as an alternate for the United States wrestling team and was honored as a Distinguished Member of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in 1996.

With the example of her parents, Joni lived a very active life through her growing up years. She enjoyed riding horses, hiking, tennis and swimming.



Most Christians are familiar with Joni Eareckson Tada's life story. When all of her physical power was taken from her as a teenager, and God's power to heal unavailable, she asked her friends to help her commit suicide. Fortunately, they refused. In time, God revealed an inner, spiritual power through Joni that overshadowed anything she could have accomplished physically.

During her two years of rehabilitation, Joni learned to paint with a brush between her teeth and began selling her artwork. She also writes this way, although for most writing tasks, she relies on voice-recognition software. To date, she has written more than 40 books, recorded several musical albums, starred in an autobiographical movie of her life, and is an advocate for people with disabilities.

Among other accomplishments, Joni founded Joni and Friends in 1979. It is an organization to "accelerate Christian ministry in the disability community" throughout the world.

Joni married Ken Tada in 1982. For many years, Ken was a high-school history teacher and coach, now retired. Ken and Joni live in Calabasas, California.

Books, art, music, advocacy for the disabled, films, radio, congressional testimony on cloning and human rights – God has touched more people through Joni in a wheelchair than she ever imagined He could.

(more)

Are you in a situation that is not changing for the better?

Ask God to release His spiritual power through you. God has more than one kind of power. The kind He sends you is the kind you need.

*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me* (Philippians 4:13 NKJV).

– Beecher Hunter