



## A Challenge from Joni

Joni Eareckson Tada was the commencement speaker at Wheaton College last May. Wheaton's president, Duane Litfin, introduced her by recapping the storyline of "Million Dollar Baby," this year's Academy Award winner for Best Picture. The story tells of Maggie Fitzgerald, a female boxer who was tragically paralyzed from the neck down and whose story ultimately ended with her trainer's taking her life "in an act that the film portrays as both tragic and heroic." A clear contrast to Maggie Fitzgerald's life, Dr. Litfin, said, is the life of Joni Eareckson Tada, a former athlete who was also paralyzed in an accident.

Joni began her speech by confessing, "I remember the time when I was first injured in that diving accident, when I would wrench my head back and forth on the pillow at night, hoping to break my neck up at a higher level so that I might kill myself that way." But Christian friends came into her life, opening up the Word of God to her, so that a year later she whispered a prayer, "Oh God, if I can't die, will you please show me how to live?" God not only answered that prayer in the affirmative, but through her testimony God has shown countless others how to live.

"Every time I flipped through Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, there He was, hanging out with someone else with a handicap—hob-knobbing with people with disabilities, reserving His most gentle touch for the blind and counseling the fathers of little boys with seizures. He seemed to go out of His way to strike up conversations with guys who were paralyzed . . . ."

Mid-speech, Joni said this: "Don't think that the cross is simply the wheelchair, or an irritating job, or an irksome mother-in-law. No, the cross is the place where you die to the bitterness about the wheelchair, or the ho-hum attitude about the bad job, or the anger against the mother-in-law. The cross is the place where you die to sin and live to God."

The point of our taking up the cross is not just to help us deal with life's circumstances; it's about how to think, how to get past the bitterness, how to reorient our minds. Thanks, Joni—that's a vision into where we live.

G. Crowe

## Boot Camp

I have never been through boot camp. But I understand the connotation when someone mentions it in conversation. People use the phrase boot camp in reference to almost anything that they find too demanding, too strenuous, too overbearing, too difficult, or too required of them.

Is it possible that we have turned our lives with God into a spiritual boot camp? Is it possible that we have reduced our walk with God to something obligatory, something required of us, or something overbearing?

God does not want to be penciled in as another obligation; He does not want to be seen as yet another burden that life has to offer; and He does require a lot from us. He requires everything, our entire lives. As a popular Christian author, Dallas Willard, said: "Grace is free, but it isn't cheap."

It isn't cheap at all . . . because God doesn't just want your Sunday and he doesn't just want your money. He never has. He wants your heart, every bit of it. But, on the upside (which far outweighs the cost....see *The Parable of The Pearl of Great Price*), when you give it all up to God and surrender it to Him, you are not left with a spiritual boot camp existence. Indeed, it is at this point that God becomes a life-giving, burden-removing part of your life. In fact, he doesn't just become a better part of your life, He becomes your life.

~Dan

# Men's Retreat 2005



This year's **Men's Retreat** will be held at the Tecumseh YMCA Camp at Brookston, Indiana, this weekend **October 21, 22, 2005**. Friday evening begins with dinner at 5:30 PM and all activities conclude Saturday afternoon. Inspirational messages on becoming more Christ-like will be presented by **Ken Chaffin**, former minister at Elmwood, currently preaching in Wake Forest, North Carolina. The theme of this year's retreat is **"Husbands Love Your Wives"** as presented in Ephesians 5:22-23. Men of all ages, married or single are invited to attend.

We'll enjoy a special treat as Ken will stay to preach on Sunday morning at both services. His lesson, **"Yesterday, Today, and Forever,"** explores the mission of the church.

## Prayer Concerns...

**David Swank**, son of Vernell & Pete Swank, will see an oncologist October 26 to determine how they will treat his lymphoma....**Kaleb Anderson**, 4-year-old son of Kenny & Mandy, had biopsies of lymphoids found in his colon and esophagus. They will know results in about 3 weeks....**Alice Follick** is at St. Anthony's Health Care, room F160....Rose Hunt's brother, **Jeff Beghtol**, had surgery for cancer on Monday in Florida....Continue to pray for **Elizabeth Tinkle, Natasha Risley, Nancy Minor, Lucie Levy, Marie DeWoody, Merville Zin, Mark Eddy, Geneva Hamilton, Terry Pepper, Anna Dale, Eunice Whitesell, Ramona Farris, Irene Fox, and Delpha Allen**. Those in Rosewalk Village: **Paul & Ruth Marks, Minnie Scott, and Burnell Gulden**

Serving in Iraq: **Dustin Holley** (*relative of Paul & Argie Verett and Pauletta & Rob Smith*), and **Brad King** (*Joe and Sandy Seele's neighbor's son*).



## Elmwood Nursery School Fundraiser

The Elmwood Nursery School and Pre-K is selling Home Interiors candles as a fund raiser to raise money to buy educational materials. If interested, you can place an order from Tuesday, October 18, through Monday, November 7. Contact Sue McClain to place an order.

**October 16, 2005**

Class: 222    Worship: 319    Contribution: \$5,989  
Budget: \$8,100

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## Elmwood Boys sing at Carpenter's Son

The Elmwood Boys (**Ben, Patrick, Josh & Andrew**) will be singing at The Carpenter's Son on Saturday, October 22, from 12 noon until 2:00 PM. Please join them as they praise the Lord in song! The Carpenter's Son along with Trinity Mission will offer free chili and have book signings that day at their book sale.



The food pantry is in need of **canned fruit** and **canned peas** this week.

*Thank You!*

*I wish to thank everyone who sent me cards, and also for the phone calls for my 96th birthday. They were all very greatly appreciated. Thanks again. In Christian love,*  
Delpha Allen

## Attention Parents:

Since this Sunday, **Oct. 23**, is the fourth Sunday of the month, there will be **no Children's Church for grades 1-5**.

*-Joe Ruhl*



## Katrina Victims Still Need Help

I have gotten reports that we have students who have been relocated by Katrina in many of our schools. I have seen that several apartment complexes are offering a free month (or two) of rent for Katrina victims. A couple weeks ago, we sent \$12,000 to the gulf to help families in the area hit by Katrina. But the truth is, help is still needed. Our family moved here over seven years ago, by choice and with the Lord's leading...and there were still challenges. I can't imagine what challenges these displaced families are facing – let's help!

The Lafayette area churches have received an S.O.S. from the Red Cross to help with 15 families who need clothing. The clothing is needed ASAP...they really wanted to have it in place already. If you could help, you might even bring the stuff this Sunday morning. Elmwood has been asked to help with two gentlemen: John 62 years old (Family #26) and Horacio, 51 years old (Family #12). John wears pants size 34 X 32, shoes size 11 and large shirts, jackets, etc. Horacio wears pants size 34 (not sure of length), shoes size 9, and shirts and jackets, etc., in medium. Neither of these men is ready for the winter...in more ways than one, remember they are from Louisiana. As you are purchasing these new clothes (no used clothing, please), it would be most helpful to put the "gift receipt" from the store where the items were purchased in the bag the clothes are in. Big piece of help in purchasing clothes – think COLD. Please be sure to put the family number of the man you are buying for on the outside of the bag. You may leave the bags in the new foyer on Sunday morning...we will attempt to have a separate location for each man we are helping. Thank you in advance for helping in this special way!

## It's That Time Again...

What time, you ask? It is time for me to be unpopular, again. I know that many of you feel the same way as I do, but I have a more public platform, so here we go. In a couple weeks, many will be participating in "Halloween festivities" (?), and it is really tough as a parent of younger children to explain why we need to be careful. Regardless of the difficulty, please do be careful! Christians do not need to portray or support anything evil, scary, or harmful at any time. We are actually told to stay away from the very appearance of that which is evil. That is why we are hosting the "Noah's Ark Night" here at Elmwood on November 5. I realize this is after the day "everyone else" will be participating, but it is always great fun for the whole family...and you don't have to worry about where your kids got the candy you are eating from their bags! Hope to see you all here on the 5<sup>th</sup>! – Lee

## Thanksgiving Dinner Tuesday, Nov. 22



Elmwood's annual Thanksgiving Dinner and devotional will be **Tuesday, November 22, at 6:00 PM.** Don Vice needs volunteers to cook the meal (5 cooks), serve the meal (6 servers), help in the kitchen (4 kitchen help), and 6-8 people to help with clean-up. Call Don at 471-8653 or email at donaldpattyvice@netzero.net if you can help. Sign-up sheets will be posted in the Farris foyer.

## Race Against Katrina

The Air Force ROTC Attachment 220 at Purdue University is sponsoring a 5K Run-Walk on Saturday, October 22. Registration begins at 7:00 AM in room 101 of the Purdue Armory. The race begins at the Armory at 8:00 AM. There is a registration fee of \$15.00. All proceeds from this event go to help the victims of Hurricane Katrina. If you have questions, contact Robbie Mullinax at 812.583.0528 or rmullina@purdue.edu.

## Noah's Ark Night November 5



**Noah's Ark Night**, scheduled for **November 5<sup>th</sup>**, is fast approaching. If you would like to help plan, or help in any way, contact Lynae Stafford. Lynae needs help with collecting boxes for the maze. Call her (474-8478) for details.



**October 19, 7 PM...**Bible classes for all  
**Oct. 21-22...**Men's Retreat at Camp Tecumseh  
**October 23, 8:00 & 10:45 AM...**Ken Chaffin will preach Sunday morning at both services  
**Nov. 5...**Noah's Ark Night

*Read:*

Jeremiah 38–Lamentations 5;  
II Timothy 4–Hebrews 2  
Psalms 88–94; Prov. 26:9–23

# 2005 Spiritual Adventure

## Week 44: October 31–November 6

When I sold cars, I would occasionally sell them to people who never came into the store; they would just call and tell me what they wanted. If I had the right vehicle, we would work out the price and strike the deal over the phone. One particular deal, I sold a new car to an acquaintance who had a trade-in that I had always wanted to spend some quality time in. The BMW 850i looked like a Ferrari and had a 400 horsepower twelve cylinder engine to match the looks.

The trip to Chicago was uneventful, besides the normal traffic of a large city at rush hour. After signing papers, going over the new vehicle and getting a check, it was time to get the trade. He asked if I wanted to stay for dinner, but it was late and I wanted to get on the road for my "test drive."

The 850i drove without hesitation, easily moving around slower moving traffic all the way past Merrillville. When I saw the lights, I was going well in excess of the legal posted limit. The officer did not even give me the opportunity to answer the standard "do I know how fast I was driving?" and wrote me the ticket on the spot.

Later, when I looked over the ticket, I noticed that there had been an error! I had often heard stories of tickets being dismissed for such errors. However, the more I thought about it the more I realized that I should not fight the ticket. I was, after all, breaking the law and I did deserve to pay the fine.

In Titus 3:1, Paul speaks about respecting rulers and authorities. We need to take this to heart in our own lives, whether it is with our parents, boss, or the local police officer. At the time, doing the right thing can be more painful and in my case, costly. Still, by taking this route we are not only obeying our heavenly Father, but allowing our lives to show the difference He has made as our ultimate authority.

**–Chad Pitt**