



***Joni Erickson Tada: "The real miracle means sitting in this wheelchair and smiling."***

A friend reminded me this week of being open to the possibility of God using our painful, past experiences to help and minister to others. On Sunday we will be looking at Joseph once more and seeing how his pain was ultimately used for God's glory. In my own life, the things that have encouraged and challenged me most in my faith are the ways that others have glorified God through their suffering. Joni Erickson Tada is one of those people and here is an extract from one of her recent articles.

God bless, Peter.

Today is the anniversary of my diving accident. Well-intentioned Christians have sometimes looked at my wheelchair and said, "Think of what a witness to the world you would be if God raised you up out of that chair!" They assume that all the unbelievers who have ever seen or heard of me would, by that miracle, be convinced of the power and truth of God.

I say, "A miracle will not do the convincing." That's the Holy Spirit's job. True, the Spirit may use occasional miracles to augment his work, but even when men were raised from the dead by the power of the Spirit, people were not persuaded. And if a dead man raised out of the grave doesn't convince, I'm not so sure a paralyzed woman raised out of a chair will, either. People would probably say, "She was never paralyzed in the first place."

Do we look for signs and wonders, hoping these will entice unbelieving friends into the kingdom? "If God would heal her baby, I know she'd believe." That's presumption and perhaps a lack of faith. God needs neither dead men walking nor paralyzed people dancing. The real miracle of the Spirit is to "convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me" (John 16:8–9). It is the sinful heart he wants to heal.

For me, the real miracle means sitting in this wheelchair and smiling. Every day I experience miracles of patience and perseverance, endurance, and self-control. This ordinary (which is so *very* extraordinary) work of the Spirit is sufficient. I'm concerned more with a heart that works than with hands that function.

## Our Sunday Service:

Please join us (online!) for our Sunday Service. Go to Exwick Community Church's Youtube Channel, and find the Service for today. We'll gather at 11 am to 'share' as a family together. You can then sing along to the songs on the video, words below!

Good morning,

I've made a few phone calls this week. The first couple I phoned the husband had just come out of hospital, the next couple I phoned, the husband was in hospital. I then phoned some friends in Scotland only to find the husband had just come home from hospital, having been there for a month, after having a stroke.

Each of these wives said the same thing: they missed their husbands as they weren't allowed to visit, they missed the hugs from friends because of social distancing, but they experienced a closeness of Jesus, who never seemed to leave their sides.

I love this old hymn:

*I serve a risen Savior, He's in the world today.  
I know that He is living, Whatever men may say.  
I see His hand of mercy, I hear His voice of cheer  
And just the time I need Him He's always near.*

*He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today!  
He walks with me and talks with me along  
life's narrow way. He lives, He lives,  
salvation to impart!  
You ask me how I know He lives? He  
lives within my heart.*

God bless,  
John & Dorcas



## VERSE OF THE WEEK:

***I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.***

*Romans 8:18*

### A prayer from the team at Baptist House in Didcot, sent to us this week:

*Teach us to pray, Lord. Teach us to pray in the storm, in these uncertain times.*

*Teach us to pray, Lord. Teach us to pray as we look at our friends who seem to have everything sorted and all going well.*

*Teach us to pray, Lord. Teach us to pray as we scroll through our phones, through the newsfeeds, Twitter, Facebook and more.*

*Teach us to pray, Lord. Teach us to pray as we fear for the future, even though we know we should hope for today.*

*Teach us to pray, Lord. Teach us to pray in the dark of the night when sleep never comes and our thoughts are all mangled.*

*Teach us to pray, Lord. Teach us to pray as walk in community. As we see the young man curled up on the bench and glimpse sadness in the young woman's eyes.*

*Teach us to pray, Lord. Teach us to pray, to listen, to sit in the stillness and breathe in the depth of your love.*

*Teach us to pray, Lord. Teach us to pray, to lift up your name and to call for your Kingdom to come here on your earth.*

# Sunday Worship Songs

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## **GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD**

Our God and King  
His love endures forever  
For He is good He is above all things  
His love endures forever  
Sing praise sing praise

With a mighty hand  
And an outstretched arm  
His love endures forever  
For the life that's been reborn  
His love endures forever  
Sing praise sing praise  
Sing praise sing praise

*CHORUS: Forever God is faithful  
Forever God is strong  
Forever God is with us  
Forever forever*

From the rising to the setting sun  
His love endures forever  
And by the grace of God  
We will carry on  
His love endures forever  
Sing praise sing praise

Chris Tomlin © 2001 sixsteps Music

## **I CAST MY MIND TO CALVARY**

Where Jesus bled and died for me.  
I see His wounds, His hands, His feet.  
My Savior on that cursed tree

His body bound and drenched in tears  
They laid Him down in Joseph's tomb.  
The entrance sealed by heavy stone  
Messiah still and all alone

*O praise the name of the Lord our God  
O praise His name forever more  
For endless days we will sing Your praise  
Oh Lord, oh Lord our God*

Then on the third at break of dawn,  
The Son of heaven rose again.  
O trampled death where is your sting?  
The angels roar for Christ the King

He shall return in robes of white,  
The blazing Son shall pierce the night.  
And I will rise among the saints  
My gaze transfixed on Jesus' face

Marty Sampson Dean Ussher Benjamin Hastings  
© 2015 Hillsong Music Publishing

## **ENTER IN THROUGH THE GATES**

Enter in here with praise  
Come before Him come bring your song  
We are His people He is our God

*For the Lord is good and His love  
endures  
His love endures (x2)  
Forevermore His faithfulness it has no  
end  
For the Lord is good and His love  
endures  
His love endures*

Enter in to His courts  
Enter in with grateful hearts  
Come before Him come bring your song  
We are His people He is our God

Raise Your voice  
Shout for joy all the earth  
We sing a new song now  
We sing a new song now

Chris Tomlin | Jason Ingram © 2014 Open Hands  
Music

## **BOOKS to encourage you!**

I have a number of Christian books that you can borrow; I'm happy to deliver! Phone Sandy on 01392-676968 if you'd like one.

- Hope has wings The story of Mission Aviation Fellowship
- My Dear Child (Colin Urquhart) Meditations on God's Heart
- A Shepherd looks at Psalm 23 W. Phillip Keller
- The Heavenly Man (Brother Yun) House churches in China
- He cares, He comforts Corrie Ten Boom
- The Bible in 100 pages (Phil Moore) Seeing the big picture in God's great story
- The Poverty and Justice Bible The Bible in contemporary English with notes



### **CONTINUING THROUGH AUGUST: SUNDAY Share and Chat:**

**Every Sunday 12:00 – 1:00 pm**

<https://zoom.us/j/96462571023?pwd=YXJECdNNSlphUIBSY1phYms4bXFRUT09>

Meeting ID: 964 6257 1023  
Password: 477398

### **Friday Friendship online:**

*Every Friday 10 – 11 am*

<https://zoom.us/j/97278523026?pwd=bWtNVUlrQzIVdTNEbGVHMy9rMUNzUT09>

Meeting ID: 972 7852 3026  
Password: 527972

***(Midweek Bible Studies will resume  
in September.)***

### ***Pastor Peter is on holiday!***

*Peter is taking a well-earned break  
10-16 August. If you need to contact a  
member of the Leadership Team  
during this time, please get in touch  
with Sandy (07796 404575), John S.  
(07905 314532) or Harri (07969  
604071).*

*Have a  
good rest,  
Peter!*



### ***PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR:***

Hilary and Jimmy and their family, John, Ena and Bunty, Bill and Carol, Ann, Roger and Jonathan, Arthur and Liz, Trevor Sharp and the family as they gather for Julia's funeral on Wednesday\*, Jessie and the whole Geelan family as they mourn the loss of John.

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*\*If you would like to attend Julia Sharp's funeral, please contact Harri Sharp so she can have numbers: 07969 604071*