

*...Those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles.... — Isaiah 40:31 (NRSV)*



# Wings

**A FAITHLETTER FOR UNITED METHODISTS WITH DISABILITIES AND THOSE WHO CARE ABOUT THEM**  
 Summer 2011 — Vol. 22 Issue 1 No. 85



## FROM WHERE I SIT: A WINGS ENCORE—MS. DISABILITY ETIQUETTE

By Jo D'Archangelis

(Reprinted below is “Ms. Disability Etiquette,” a From Where I Sit column which originally appeared in the Fall 1997 issue. Due to no demand whatsoever, Ms. DE may be found again on page 6 of the current issue in the first of a possible new series of columns in the area of social propriety and disability to be featured on a semi-regular basis. — Editor)

**Q.** Dear Ms. Disability Etiquette, What is the proper procedure for shaking hands with someone with an obvious disability whom I meet in church? How about hugging? I don't want to hurt or embarrass anyone.

*Temporarily Able-Bodied  
But Friendly in San Diego*

**A.** Dear Friendly TAB in San Diego,

Your desire to learn ‘the proper procedure’ for making socially-acceptable tactile contact with PWDS (persons with disabilities) is commendable. Too often TABS will shy away from even saying ‘hello’ to us, least of all placing their hand upon our persons.

There are certain peculiarities and obstacles involved, not for all situations, of course, but for some. For example, Ms. DE glides around in a power chair and, because of muscular weakness, is

unable to lift her hand from the joystick. Consequently, people have sometimes taken to shaking her index finger which is always somewhat extended, albeit, she hastens to add, in a non-obscene manner.

At other times, they have pressed their hand on top of hers, which is a lovely gesture, but it inadvertently moves the joystick causing Ms. DE to suddenly careen past them (or into them) leaving them to wonder what her goldarned problem is.

Ms. DE's rule-of-thumb for handshaking is, if in doubt, i.e., if the PWD seems unwilling or unable to extend her/his hand, then ask, “May I take your hand?” If there is affirmation, take the hand (right or left, whichever one is indicated), gently shake it, and—this is most important—*return it to where you found it.*

If handshaking is out of the question,

as in the case of some amputees, then one might briefly place one's hand on the PWD's shoulder or upper arm, but not on the top of the head. Do not *pat*, as patting signifies “you poor little thing you,” and it is never good manners to signify pity or condescension.

As for hugging, Ms. DE is generally in favor of it. Rest assured, rarely does a friendly hug injure an unsuspecting PWD. On the other hand, an overly enthusiastic embrace may disrupt delicately-maintained balance, and one doesn't want one's huggie to fall into one's arms, does one? (Well, maybe one does, but that's a different topic...)

Again, it is best to simply ask, “May I give you a hug?” And then if the answer is “hey, why not?” or something similar, be prepared to work around braces, crutches, unco-operative limbs, footrests, joysticks, guide dogs, and/or eyeglasses (Ms. DE's glasses tend to wind up askew when she is hugged). It is, however, well worth the effort for both the hugger and the huggie.

Now Ms. DE presents even more interesting complications to would-be huggers for she has severe scoliosis (or  
*(FWIS: A WINGS ENCORE cont. on p. 6)*

### INSIDE

<b>MY LITTLE WHITE BOARD AND ME</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>UM CHURCH RESTROOM MAKEOVER PROVIDES...</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>BECOMING FAMILY</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>LITTLE TO GIVE</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>ASK MS. DISABILITY ETIQUETTE</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>A FRIEND WHO CARES</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>NEW “VOICE” SOUNDS FOR UNITED METHODISTS...</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>INDIANA UM CHURCHES CELEBRATE DISABILITY...</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>IT SAYS HERE IN THE UMC BOOK OF DISCIPLINE...</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>WRESTLING WITH GOD OVER PAIN: AN...</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>THE POWER OF LOVE</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>WHO SHOULD READ THE BIBLE?</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>WINGS HONOR ROLL OF APPRECIATION</b>	<b>8</b>

Been There,  
Done That!

## MY LITTLE WHITE BOARD AND ME By Rev. Rick Uhls

(Uhls is pastor of the First United Methodist Church in Redondo Beach, Calif. After surgery to remove benign growths from his vocal cords, he was unable to talk for several weeks and communicated with others by writing messages on a small white board he carried around with him. Below are a couple of encounters he had while running some errands. — Editor)

First stop that day was at a service station to exchange my empty propane tanks for some full ones. I went inside, smiled at the attendant and wrote on my white board, "I can't talk. And I need to exchange my propane tanks."

The response from the attendant was, "Oh, you can't talk. Uh, okay, let's see here..." She then began to speak

very loudly telling my how much it would be.

I smiled, nodded my head and pulled out my credit card. The attendant looked surprised, smiled at the other attendant and nodded her head towards me as if to say, "Look, this idiot knows how to use a credit card!"

After the transaction was complete she began speaking even louder asking

me where my car was, complete with a whole string of gestures trying to describe a car and pretending to use a steering wheel.

I wasn't sure if I should laugh or just try and use my voice to say, "I'm not deaf or stupid, I just can't talk!" I decided neither was a good option and just politely smiled, exchanged my propane tanks, and went on my way.

On another day, I had a very different experience. I had to take my nonfunctional MacBook to the Apple store for repairs (yes, Macs can break down too—much to my chagrin).

I got to the door and was greeted by one of the Apple care folks who asked how he could help me. I showed him my white board with my note, "I can't talk." He said, "Oh, okay. Can you hear?" I nodded my head yes and he said, "Okay, let's see how I can help you." He said it in a way that made me feel as though I were the 10th person that had shown up that day with "I can't talk" written on a white board.

Not wanting to waste time, I began writing frantically on the board. He said, "It's okay. Take your time. You don't need to rush." I breathed a sigh of relief and explained the problem with my computer.

Within a few minutes he had me set up to see the person I needed to see. With hardly any effort, this young man had made me feel like I was just another customer in the store. It was a good feeling. It was a feeling I hadn't experienced before in my outings with my white board.

### Note To Reader:

If you are a computer user who receives the paper-and-print version of *Wings*, would you consider switching to *E-Wings*—either in the PDF version or, for use with a screen reader, in the MS Word Document version? Please e-mail me at: [jdarchangelis@roadrunner.com](mailto:jdarchangelis@roadrunner.com)

Jo D'Archangelis, Editor



A non-official quarterly newsletter for United Methodists with disabling conditions and all others interested in the issues of disability, accessibility, and the church

### FOUNDER/EDITOR COMPUTER LAYOUT/GRAPHIC DESIGN

Jo D'Archangelis

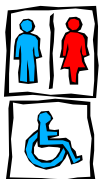
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**E-WINGS** Two electronic versions of *Wings* are available: 1. A full newsletter-formatted version with color graphics in PDF format, and 2. A partially-formatted text-only version without graphics in Microsoft Word Document format (screen readers seem to work best with the Word Document version). Attached files in PDF format can be opened with Adobe 6.0 or higher software which is easily downloaded from [Adobe.com](http://Adobe.com) at no charge.

**WINGS ON THE WEB** Selected back issues of *Wings* in PDF format and Word Document format plus information about the newsletter and its founder/editor may be found at the United Methodist Association Of Ministers With Disabilities (UMAMD) website, [www.umdisministers.org](http://www.umdisministers.org). Click on the *Wings* banner near the bottom of the home page.

**DONATIONS** *Wings* is an all-volunteer undertaking, but financial assistance is needed for printing and mailing costs as well as for the purchase and maintenance of the computer equipment used by the editor. Most of our funding comes from reader donations. There are no subscription fees. If you think *Wings* is worth it, please make out a check or money order payable to "Fallbrook United Methodist Church" (or "FUMC"), mark it "Wings," and mail it to Fallbrook United Methodist Church; church address: 1844 Winterhaven Road, Fallbrook, CA 92028; phone: 760-728-1472; fax: 760-728-7433; e-mail: [FUMC1887@sbcglobal.net](mailto:FUMC1887@sbcglobal.net).

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## UM CHURCH RESTROOM MAKEOVER PROVIDES DISABILITY ACCESS

(The following consists of excerpts from the Pacific Beach (Calif.) United Methodist Church newsletter, *Beach Breeze*, detailing the timeline of the church's restroom remodeling project from inception to successful completion. — Editor)

**JUNE 2010** – Good news: the beam under the men's social hall bathroom is even more rotten now than it was six months ago! Okay, that may not sound like such good news, but think of it this way: we are now blessed with the opportunity to act swiftly to make necessary repairs and improvements. At its May meeting, PB-UMC's trustees agreed our goal is to end up with men's and women's bathrooms that meet ADA standards, are sparkling clean, attractive, and safe.

We all will enjoy the results of a bathroom makeover. Whenever the church is engaged in mission and ministry, these are the bathrooms that are open and in use. From Sunday morning worship and Sunday School, to Wednesday Night Ministry, to Friday NA, to Saturday Prayer & Share or Prayers and Squares, to Tuesday evening meetings, we've all had occasion to stop in the social hall restrooms. They were last remodeled in the 1970's, which gives us perspective on the importance of the investment we will soon make....

[Church members] have already stepped up to offer coordination, design, and grant-writing services respectively. As we did with the church kitchen, we expect to fund the work with a combination of contributions from within the church and the community....

So, once again, (as so often in the past) we are looking forward to being amazed by how much God can accomplish when God's people are willing to become God's partners in ministry. In the hopeful and happy words of Ken Callahan, "God invites us to the future

God has promised and is preparing for us."

**JULY 2010** – Our future is joyful because our faith in God calls us forward to continue in compassionate service to our community and in hospitality to our church family, friends, and neighbors. Sometimes we face obstacles: the support beams under the bathroom are rotting; the economy is adversely affecting members of the church. Yet we know that God has always helped God's people in the past when they stay focused on Christ's ministry with generosity and hope. As Galatians 6:9 affirms, we know "we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up!"

As of the end of June, we have raised our first ten thousand dollars toward our goal of fifty thousand. Five thousand received from church members and friends has been matched by five thousand from the Prewitt estate, and we are twenty percent of the way! That's because "whenever we have the opportunity" we "work for the good of all." (Galatians 6:10) New and improved social hall bathrooms will be good for all of us—Sunday school fami-

lies and children, Wednesday night guests in need of a nutritious meal and medical care, meeting attendees, and those enjoying receptions following weddings or funerals. The fact of the matter is, clean, accessible and functional bathrooms are essential to our ministry!...

We are grateful for the gifts sent by our extended family of faith, spread throughout the country. It's good to be reminded that they have faith in us and what we are doing here to make a home for Christ's ministry in San Diego. May God bless us as we all step forward to do what we can to help build PB-UMC's joyful future.

**AUGUST 2010** — ...Creating access is a challenge, since the space available is oddly shaped and non-negotiable. Good minds are working on it, however, and materials are under consideration. Meanwhile, 39 gifts (ranging from \$5 to \$1000) totaling \$7885 have been received. When matched from Prewitt contribution, we have \$15,770 to put toward "Our Joyful Future."

**SEPTEMBER 2010** — Our fund has reached \$8,605, which, when matched by the Prewitt estate, becomes \$17,210. The grant application has been submitted to the Congregational Loan Committee of the [California-Pacific] Annual Conference [of the United Methodist Church] and will be reviewed on September 11. Bids

(UM CHURCH continued on page 4)

### BECOMING FAMILY

From his cross, Jesus created a community that was to become family to the widow, the orphan, the outcast, and the stranger. Only when we have learned to offer welcome to the modern equivalent of people such as these do we come close to Christ's intention. It is not "family churches" but "church families" that the world needs.

—Peter Storey—

From *Alive Now* (May/June 2011). Reprinted from *Listening at Golgotha: Jesus' Words from the Cross*. Copyright © 2004 by the author. Published by Upper Room Books.

(UM CHURCH continued from page 3)



have confirmed that the project will cost in the 40- to 45-thousand dollar range. A contractor has been identified. Thank you for your on-going prayer and support.

**OCTOBER 2010** – All members of PB-UMC are invited and encouraged to be present on Tuesday, October 5, beginning at 7:15 pm as we welcome our [San Diego] District Superintendent, the Rev. Myron Wingfield, and share highlights of our ministry. The regional body of our denomination, known as the California-Pacific Annual Conference, has offered to help us with a donation of \$14,000 toward our bathroom renovation project. We will vote on acceptance of this gift....

**OCTOBER 2010** – With the vision before us of safe, new, clean, and more accessible social hall bathrooms, members and friends of PB UMC contributed \$11,000. Then, on September 11,

a committee of the California-Pacific Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church voted to grant us \$14,000. The contributions and the grant combine for a total of \$25,000. Matched by the generosity of the Prewitt estate (from the portion of the funds given to be used as most needed), the total now available (\$50,000) should provide sufficient resources to complete the project. Hallelujah! Thanks be to God and to all kind and generous givers....

**NOVEMBER 2010** – Thanks to 53 generous givers, the vision and graciousness of the Prewitt estate, the partnership of other United Methodist Churches (in the form of a grant from the Annual Conference), lots of prayer, the dedication of project supervisor Richard, the pro bono design consulting services of Megan, and the steadfast love of God, the social hall bathroom renovation project is now underway! Stage one is demolition. Lots of rubble

has been hauled away. Next will be the installation of new, solid support beams and sub flooring. After that, the creation of the new bathrooms can begin! The project is expected to take about a month....

**JANUARY 2011** — Thanks be to God, the bathrooms are finished and available for use! Three cheers for all who visualized, designed, donated, and managed the project.

## AFTERWORDS

(In an e-mail to the editor, Rev. April Herron, pastor of Pacific Beach United Methodist Church, gives more details as to how the restrooms were made disability-accessible.)

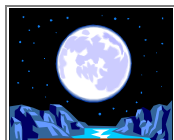
We reduced number of stalls in the women's bathroom from three to two so that one stall could be handicap accessible. In the men's room we reduced the number of urinals from two to one so that the stall could be handicap accessible. We went from having cabinets under the sinks to just having counters so there is no obstacle for a wheelchair or scooter to approach the sinks.

We installed an electronic door on the women's bathroom entrance because the entrance is at the end of a narrow hall so this way it's easy to go straight in. There is plenty of turning radius inside the women's bathroom.

Previously, our only handicap accessible bathroom was adjacent to the sanctuary. Now we have these in the social hall as well.

Because we were reducing "capacity," which was a concern for our Wednesday Night ministry when we gather about 200 people for a meal and offer medical clinics which are open for four or five hours, we decided to make our "choir room" bathrooms available on Wednesday Nights as well.

Because of their location, this was a simple matter of installing an interior security gate which can be closed or opened depending on the needs of the situation.



## LITTLE TO GIVE By Angie Scheerer

You say you have little to give,  
That your talents are meager,  
That your shortcomings define you?  
A harsh judgment, my friend.  
For who among us  
Has gifts in full measure?  
Who among us can be content  
With his own abilities?  
Life is not what we are  
But what we become.  
You say you have little to give?  
Who among us has more?  
Offer the little you have  
With a generous heart.  
Someone will accept it.

Perhaps many will accept it,  
And treasure it,  
And see your beauty,  
And bask in your light.  
Offer the little you have.  
Little is more than enough.  
For what is the moon  
But a pitted mass  
Of rock and clay?  
Yet, how beautifully  
She reflects the light  
Of Creation --  
And oh, how constantly  
We love her!

**From *Alive Now* (January/February 2009).  
Scheerer—wife, mother, grandmother—resides  
in Hagerstown, Md. Her interests include science,  
art, and the spiritual development of children.**



## INDIANA UM CHURCHES CELEBRATE DISABILITY AWARENESS SUNDAY

The Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church hosted its first statewide Disability Awareness Sunday March 20. Churches across the state observed the day with special litanies, music, drama, and sermon topics.

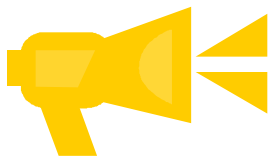
"Disability Awareness Sunday is simply a way to acknowledge that our hearts, minds and doors are open to all people with disabilities," said Beth DeHoff, who leads the Indiana Conference Disability Concerns Team.

Why hold a Disability Awareness Sunday? Chances are good that you have children and adults in your church who have disabilities. Chances are greater that you have many others who live in your church's neighborhood without a church home, as fewer than half of families who have a family member with a disability attend church....

All of them are children of God. All of them have unique gifts and personalities that transcend—or perhaps illuminate—disability. It is this large body of individuals with disabilities and unique gifts that we celebrate on Disability Awareness Sunday.

That is all Disability Awareness Sunday needs to be—a celebration of all God's people. The Indiana United Methodist Conference ([www.inumc.org](http://www.inumc.org)), as well as the United Methodist Church's national Task Force on Disability Ministries ([www.umdisabilityministries.org](http://www.umdisabilityministries.org)), provides resources for prayer, liturgy, presentations, and music for worship....

**Abridged and adapted from Voice, the e-newsletter of the United Methodist Disability Connection (March 2011).**



## NEW "VOICE" SOUNDS FOR UNITED METHODISTS WITH DISABILITIES

The United Methodist Task Force on Disability Ministries (the former UM Task Force on Developmental Disabilities) has announced a new resource available to help United Methodist churches and agencies become more inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities. "The *VOICE* of the United Methodist Disability Connection" is a monthly electronic newsletter that keeps United Methodists abreast of current events and programs within churches and conferences.

According to its editor, Lynn Swedberg, the *VOICE* "is a means for the Task Force to tell the denomination about our activities, such as the General Conference petitions we are submitting." Recent topics have included inclusive and specialized camping programs, a conference-wide Disability Awareness Sunday celebration [see article at left], and programs that reach out to unemployed young adults with disabilities.

The newsletter also lists upcoming UM disability-related conferences and workshops, and every issue contains

links to practical resources to strengthen ministry with persons with disabilities.

"The response to the newsletter has been very positive," says Swedberg, who also serves as Task Force chairperson. "People who thought they were the only ones doing this type of ministry realize they are not alone and begin to connect with others offering similar programs. We pray that the stories will motivate other churches and conferences to begin new intentional outreaches and continue accessibility efforts."

To see the first issues of the *VOICE* in the archive and to subscribe to the newsletter, go to the Task Force website [www.umdisabilityministries.org](http://www.umdisabilityministries.org) and navigate to the "Get Involved" page. To submit workshop/conference dates or articles, write to the editor at [umtfdm@gmail.com](mailto:umtfdm@gmail.com). (It is advisable to submit dated material well in advance of event.)

**Adapted from a United Methodist Task Force On Disability Ministries press release, May 2011.**



### IT SAYS HERE IN THE UMC BOOK OF DISCIPLINE...

#### General Provisions Regarding Churchwide Special Sundays With Offerings (Paragraph 265)

4. Disability Awareness Sunday—Disability Awareness Sunday shall be observed annually on a date to be determined by the annual conference. Disability Awareness Sunday calls the Church to celebrate the gifts and graces all of persons with disabilities and calls the Church and society to Full inclusion of persons with disabilities in the community. If the annual conference so directs, an offering may be received and the funds used by the annual conference to promote the creation of architectural and attitudinal accessibility in local churches. The observance of Disability Awareness Sunday shall be under the general supervision of the General Board Of Global Ministries.

**From the 2008 Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church  
(Editor's Note: This provision was submitted and approved by  
the 1996 General Conference of the United Methodist Church.)**

(FWIS: A WINGS ENCORE cont. from page 1)



what we refer to as a “sexy, sinuous, sensual, C-shaped curve”) and sits low in her chair. Thus one has to bend way down to Ms. DE’s level without audibly creaking (a common problem with friends of ‘a certain age’) and get one’s arm around her spatially-compressed body without causing either dislocation or embarrassment.

Ms. DE herself prefers that one place an arm lightly about the shoulders and give a little squeeze. An additional but optional move—depending on the level of affection and agility of the hugger—is to place one’s cheek next to the huggee’s (this is where Ms. DE’s glasses often wind up askew, but it is a small price to pay).

Finally, dearest TAB, if showing friendly respect or affection to a PWD appears, at first, to be fraught with frustration, consider the frustration some PWDS feel in not being able to initiate handshakes or hugs or to return them in kind—at least not in the brief, cursory way in which most such social contacting take place.

However, Ms. DE finds the most effective action any PWD can take, with or without handshakes and hugs, is really quite simple: a friendly smile and/or a spoken “I’m so happy to meet you—see you—know you.”

(With sincere and profound apologies to Miss Manners.)



## ASK MS. DISABILITY ETIQUETTE: “OH SAY CAN YOU SEE...?”

**Q.** Dear Ms. Disability Etiquette,

*I am an able-bodied college student. In one of my classes is a student with a hearing-impairment who can’t talk. Sometimes we use words referring to talking and hearing in class discussion or general conversation. Does this bother the guy who is deaf?*

*Wondering In Indiana*

**A.** Dear Wondering In Indiana, The best way to ascertain if another person is bothered by one’s words is, of course, to ask that person directly. Ms. DE suspects that in the situation you describe the answer will most likely be “no, not at all.”

We PWD’s are fully aware that we will often be participants in, or audience to, conversations and discussions referring to physical or sensory activities that we can no longer engage in (or never have been able to engage in). With the exception of those few among of us who suffer from terminal hypersensitivity, we will not normally find such things bothersome.

One might also note, while we are on the subject, the number of colloquialisms and slang terms in our language that metaphorically allude to physical and sensory capabilities—for example, a “real stand-up guy” who is “hidden in plain sight.”

And simply consider the first few

lines of the national anthem. When called upon to “say” if we can “see” what we have previously “hailed” (the latter referring either to a shouted greeting or to an arm-lifted salute), do we PWD’s take justifiable umbrage and respond with an emphatic “heck no”? Heck no.

Having said that, however, situations do arise in which the use of words signifying physical or sensory capabilities may prove somewhat annoying to PWD’s—when someone will, for instance, direct a person who is hearing-impaired to “listen to that,” or a person who is visually-impaired to “look this over,” or a person who is mobility-impaired to “walk this way.”

Now Ms. DE realizes that some disabilities are not readily apparent and in those cases it is best to respond to the *faux pas* (which, incidentally, is French for “false” or “wrong step,” wouldn’t you know?) by politely indicating in some fashion that one is unable to carry out the action requested.

In those cases where the disability is fairly obvious—perhaps the wheelchair or the guide dog or the sign-language interpreter gives it away—and the speaker expresses some embarrassment at his/her momentary lapse of attention, one may perhaps add a bit of humor to put the speaker at ease, as in “I’m afraid I can’t walk *this* way, but I can roll *that* way.”

If, however, the speaker remains in a chronic state of cluelessness in regard to his/her verbal blunder and does not even have the good sense to be subsequently embarrassed by it, all one can do is smile through gritted teeth and—uh—move on.

**If you have an inquiry in regard to disability and etiquette, please e-mail or write the editor, Jo D’Archangelis, at the e-mail address or mailing address given on page 2.**

### A FRIEND WHO CARES

**W**hen we honestly ask ourselves which persons in our lives mean the most to us, we often find that it is those who, instead of giving advice, solutions, or cures, have chosen rather to share our pain and touch our wounds with a warm and tender hand. The friend who can be silent with us in a moment of despair or confusion, who can stay with us in an hour of grief and bereavement, who can tolerate not knowing, not curing, not healing and face with us the reality of our powerlessness, that is a friend who cares.”

—Henri J. M. Nouwen—

From *The Road to Daybreak: A Spiritual Journey*.



## WRESTLING GOD OVER PAIN: AN INTERVIEW WITH JONI EARECKSON TADA (PART I) By Robin Russell

**J**ohn Wesley once wrote, “The readiest way to escape from our sufferings is to be willing they should endure as long as God pleases.” Joni Eareckson Tada, a quadriplegic since she broke her neck in a diving accident as a teenager, lives that out daily. Ms. Tada is the founder of Joni and Friends, a California-based ministry for persons with disabilities, and Wheels for the World, which distributes wheelchairs to the disabled poor. She recounts her current struggles with chronic pain in her new book, *A Place of Healing* (David C. Cook, September 2010). Ms. Tada was recently diagnosed with breast cancer, but spoke with [UM Reporter] managing editor Robin Russell on July 30, 2010, the 43rd anniversary of her accident.

*What prompted you to write about this new chronic pain that you’ve been experiencing?*

Part of the reason is I needed to take a closer look at some of those Scriptures that were so helpful to me when I was first injured. Having that pain at times was so challenging, so consuming. I had to look back at God’s word and ask, “Now Lord, what is it that you taught me? What did I learn? Will I have to live with this chronic pain?”

Little did I realize that I was also carrying this cancer. I was shocked and stunned to get this new diagnosis. The manuscript was being sent off to the publisher, and I had to modify the epilogue. But thankfully, in the last year, I had gone back and looked at those Scriptures and studied them. So there was no doubt or fear. I had the confidence of a good year of difficult study to rest on as I got this new diagnosis.

*You talk about your fears of wearing out your friends and your husband with the physical assistance you’ve needed. How hard has it been to accept that increased help, and what’s been their response?*

My husband, Ken, has been such a support to me through this time of pain, and of course in our 28 years of marriage with my quadriplegia. But in the last month with this cancer, we’ve grown even closer. I think it’s again an affirmation that it is more blessed to give than receive. Ken is getting blessed

from helping me, serving, supporting, cheering me on, taking me to these medical appointments—and next week it will be chemotherapy.

I think God is pouring out upon him a grace, a special endowment, a blessing of contentment and deep profound peace for having served me. I think Ken’s focus is serving God. It just so happens that God’s got him married to me, and I’m in a wheelchair with cancer. Ken’s getting the blessing for it.

That’s the way I tend to look at my friends who help me. Each one of them, I know, will receive that gracious endowment from God, that sweet replenishment of peace and joy in serving. And so I’m happy for that, that they’ll be drawn closer to God through this as

well.

*You also wonder: “Have I reached a limit in what I can endure?” Where do you find encouragement?*

Well, the Gospel of John talks about how God gives grace upon grace. And there’s no grace available for next week’s worries about chemotherapy. I can’t be stewing this week about my concerns next week of nausea, losing my hair, bone pain from the chemo drugs they’ll be giving. There’ll be no grace for that yet, only grace for today. This whole thing has challenged me and taught me to take one day at a time. Because God only gives grace for today, not grace for next week’s problems or next month’s heartaches or next year’s. And as long as I keep that perspective, I have a lot of peace about this whole situation.

*You’ve obviously come to terms with the fact that you have not been healed, and even with the increased pain and now a battle with breast cancer. I’m curious about how you have learned contentment in what God has allowed?*

That’s a good question. I think my contentment comes from—well, it’s something that you learn, isn’t it? The apostle Paul said, “I have learned to be content in whatsoever state I’m in.” It’s something you learn; it’s not natural.

*(WRESTLING continued on page 8)*

### THE POWER OF LOVE By Jeral Williams

*Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. -- 1 John 4:7 (NRSV)*

**O**ur mentally disabled friend Harry sits beside us in church. One Sunday, my wife and I stood to sing one of the great old hymns of the church. Harry did not stand because he did not know the words. When he knows the words, he stands and sings loudly—and usually off-key.

In the pew behind us, a woman began to cry as we sang the hymn. Not wanting to embarrass her, we worshipers around her pretended that we did not notice her tears. That is, all the worshipers except one. Harry got up, went back to the woman, and gave her a warm hug. It was one of the most touching acts of compassion I have ever witnessed.

Harry may be limited in some ways, but he taught me something about the power of love. Love acts when someone is in pain.

*From The Upper Room (January/February 2003).*

(WRESTLING continued from page 7)



I'm not humanly inclined to be content living as a quadriplegic in a wheelchair with chronic pain and cancer. That's a combination that just makes for lot of anxiety and worry and frustration. But I think what I've learned is 1 Peter 2:21: To this you were called—that is suffering, a life of hardship. Because life is wired to be difficult; life is supposed to be difficult. And Christ left an example that you should follow in his steps. And those steps lead me in a closer, more

warm, vibrant, personal intimacy with the Lord Jesus. You can go through almost anything if you know that you are not alone, if you know that God's there with you. And that is what I've sensed, especially in the last couple of weeks.

(Part II will appear in the Fall 2011 issue of *Wings*)

Adapted from the United Methodist Portal website ([www.umportal.org](http://www.umportal.org))—Nov. 12, 2010; originally published Aug. 20, 2010.

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### WHO SHOULD READ THE BIBLE?

- The Young - To learn how to live.
- The Old - To know how to die.
- The Ignorant - For wisdom.
- The Learned - For humility.
- The Rich - For compassion.
- The Poor - For comfort.
- The Dreamer - For enchantment.
- The Practical - For counsel.
- The Weak - For strength.
- The Strong - For direction.
- The Haughty - For warning.
- The Humble - For exaltation.
- The Troubled - For peace.
- The Weary - For rest.
- The Doubting - For assurance.
- The Sinner - For salvation.
- The Christian - For guidance.

—Author Unknown—



### *Wings Honor Roll Of Appreciation*



We thank the following people or organizations whose gifts of time and/or money have made possible the publication and mailing of *Wings*:

**Pete Sciumbato & Family** (in memory of Ruth Sciumbato)

**Bill & Wilma Chain**  
Jill Halley  
Gerald Carne

**Rev. Dr. Kimball & Pam Coburn**  
Charlotte Tarr

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