

Contributing Author Biographies

Joni and Friends is grateful for the gifted group of authors who contributed to the second edition of *Beyond Suffering: A Christian View on Disability Ministry*. Their diverse voices and shared expertise remain one of the strong points of the course. The plurality of voices reflects that this ministry flourishes when partnering with friends who share the same mission and vision.

Kimi Archer

Kimi Archer serves as the Senior Director of Joni & Friends Global Missions & Internships. Kimi has served as a volunteer seating therapist with Wheels for The World India since 2004, serves as the Director of Women's Ministry at her home church, and is a worship leader and pianist in adult and children's ministries also in her home church in California. From 1994 to 2016, Kimi was the Director of Rehabilitation Services for Arnot Health in Bath, NY. From 1987 to 1994, she worked as a Physical Therapist at the same hospital system. Kimi holds certification and training in Wheelchair Service Training, Lead Like Jesus Leadership Encounter, *Beyond Suffering: A Christian View on Disability Ministry*, Advanced Management, and Joint Education and Training. Kimi holds a BA in Chemistry with a pre-medical emphasis and a minor in Biology, and a master's degree in physical therapy.

Dr. Mark W. Baker

Dr. Mark W. Baker is the Executive Director of La Vie Counseling Center and a best-selling author. He received a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology and a Master's degree in Theology from Fuller Graduate School of Psychology, as well as a certificate in Psychodynamic Psychotherapy from the Southern California Psychoanalytic Institute. Dr. Baker is licensed as a psychologist and as a Marriage and Family Therapist. He has published numerous articles in professional psychological journals and has appeared on television and radio programs to discuss his ideas regarding psychology and spirituality. Dr. Baker's bestselling book, *Jesus, The Greatest Therapist Who Ever Lived* has sold almost 2 million copies worldwide. Dr. Baker's books, videos, radio interviews, and professional writings are available on his web site at <https://www.drmarkbaker.com>

Dr. Michael S. Beates

Dr. Michael S. Beates is husband of Mary and father of seven children, the eldest born with profound disabilities. He earned the M.Div. and S.T.M. degrees from Biblical Seminary in Pennsylvania and the Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) from Reformed Theological Seminary Orlando. Mike served as dean of students at RTS (1996-2003) and at The Geneva School in Casselberry, Florida (2011-2020). He now serves as Chaplain and Bible teacher at Geneva. Mike also served on the International Board of Directors at Joni and Friends from 2000-2023. He has written magazine articles, editorial columns and has contributed chapters to several books, including "God's Sovereignty and Genetic Anomalies" in *Genetic Ethics: Do the Ends Justify the Genes?* (Eerdmans, 1996). He is the author of *Disability and the Gospel: How God Uses Our Brokenness to Display His Grace* (Crossway, 2012).

Clay Boatright

Clay Boatright, and his late wife Carole, have three daughters, including identical twins who both have severe autism and intellectual disabilities. In addition to his professional career in the consumer package goods industry, Clay served as President of The Arc of Texas, founding Chairman of Texas legislature-created IDD System Redesign Advisory Committee, and was appointed by the President of the United States to the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities. Clay is the author of "God's Plan, Our Circus", a humor and faith-based story which inspires people going through extreme challenges, and advises families and companies on ways to achieve a life well lived for people with disabilities.

Renee Bondi

Renée Bondi is a popular speaker and recording artist. She has been featured in magazines such as *Today's Christian Woman* and *Woman's World* and on various radio and television shows, including "Hour of Power," *The 700 Club*, and *Aspiring Women*. Renée has released six inspirational CDs and is the founder of Bondi Ministries. The Evangelical Christian Publishers Association nominated her book, *The Last Dance but Not the Last Song—My Story* for the Gold Medallion Award. Among her many awards and honors is Woman of the Year from the California State Senate and recognition for Outstanding Service to the Community from the U.S. House of Representatives. Renée has a BA in Music Education.

Steve Bundy

Steve Bundy brings 25 years of experience in nonprofit leadership, both domestically and internationally. The last 17 years have been at Joni and Friends, where he has launched multiple initiatives and now leads our international efforts around the world. Previously he has served as an executive at the US Center for World Mission, as a missionary in Eastern Europe, and as a pastor of disability ministry.

He is a published author and co-author with Joni Eareckson Tada on projects such as *Beyond Suffering: A Christian View of Disability Ministry* and the Telly-Award winning television episode, *Making Sense of Autism*. He has also co-authored, *Another Kind of Courage: God's Design for Fathers of Families Affected by Disability*.

Steve and his wife Melissa know firsthand the joys and challenges of parenting a child with disabilities, as their son, Caleb, was born in 1999 with muscular dystrophy, intellectual disability, and autism. Their second son, Jaron, is a musician and produces Christian worship music. Steve holds a B.A. in Theology and Missions from Bethany Global University, an M.A. in Organizational Leadership from Biola University, and certificates in executive management from Harvard and Stanford.

Dr. Megan Brown

Dr. Megan R. Brown is an Assistant Professor of Education at Cedarville University. After receiving her B.S. in Elementary and Special Education from Messiah University (Messiah College), she taught K-6th grade in numerous positions in public elementary schools in New York before obtaining her Ph.D. in Teaching and Learning from The Ohio State University with an Interdisciplinary Specialization in Disability Studies. She also received an M.A. in Children's Literature from Hollins University. Certified in elementary and special education at the elementary level, Megan teaches undergraduate-level primary and special education literacy

methods, children's literature, and assessment courses. Her research interests include disability in children's literature, semiotics, scripture and literature connections, and preservice teacher literacy education. She also trains teachers in the women's ministry at her local church and volunteers in the children's ministry.

Nigel M. de S. Cameron

Nigel M. de S. Cameron, Ph.D., is President Emeritus of the Center for Policy on Emerging Technologies, and he has been a Research Professor and Associate Dean at the Illinois Institute of Technology where until 2008 he was Director of the Center on Nanotechnology and Society. In 2003, he co-founded the Institute on Biotechnology and the Human Future. Cameron has served on numerous advisory boards and represented the U.S. on delegations to the UN General Assembly and UNESCO, and been a participant in the U.S./EU dialogue Perspectives on the Future of Science and Technology. He is a member of the Executive Committee of the U.S. National Commission for UNESCO, and has testified before both houses of Congress, the European Parliament and the European Commission's Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies. In 2008, he was the U.S. Government's nominee to the UN Human Rights Council as Special Rapporteur for the Right to Health. A naturalized citizen of the U.S., he is a native of the UK where he studied at Cambridge and Edinburgh Universities and the Edinburgh Business School.

Chuck Colson

Chuck Colson (1931 – 2012) was a popular and widely known author, speaker, and radio commentator. A former presidential aide to Richard Nixon and founder of Prison Fellowship, Breakpoint, and the Chuck Colson Center for Christian Worldview, he wrote many books—including *Born Again*, *Loving God*, *How Now Shall We Live?*, *The Good Life* and *The Faith Given Once, for All*—that have shaped Christian thinking on a variety of subjects. In 1993, Chuck was awarded the prestigious Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion. In 2008, President Bush conferred on him the second highest civilian award of the U.S. government, the Presidential Citizen Medal for his humanitarian work with Prison Fellowship. He was a graduate of Brown University and George Washington Law School, and received his juris doctor with honors. He served in the United States Marine Corps, attaining the rank of Captain. He and his wife Patty have three children and five grandchildren.

Dr. David Deuel

Dave Deuel, M.A., Ph.D. (Cornell University and The University of Liverpool) is Senior Research Fellow Emeritus at the Christian Institute on Disability at Joni and Friends as well as Academic Dean Emeritus of The Master's Academy International, and Catalyst for Disability Concern and Young Leaders Generation leadership development for the Lausanne Movement. Dave served as Regional Director for Joni and Friends in the San Fernando Valley, CA and in board positions for The North Los Angeles Regional Center, All Children's Hospital (Los Angeles), Direct Link for the Disabled (Solvang, CA) and the California State Council on Developmental Disabilities (Sacramento). He currently Serves as Chairperson for the New York State Council on Developmental Disabilities and participates in several working groups at the United Nations. Dave focuses his ministry interests on developing young disability leaders and their ministries globally and writing ministry materials and research publications on disability-related topics.

Rebekah Dyer

Dr. Rebekah Dyer, a full professor at Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, AZ, is an esteemed educator and advocate for individuals with disabilities. As the special education content lead, she is deeply committed to fostering inclusion across all settings. Dr. Dyer's passion extends to her involvement with the Lopes Academy, an advisory board where she teaches classes in a two-year certificate program, providing opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities to experience college. She organizes an annual Disability Week on campus, promoting awareness and inclusion. With a research focus on Autism Spectrum Disorder, Dr. Dyer has presented internationally and published multiple articles, elevating discussions on special education, dyslexia, differentiated instruction, and disability ministry. Her teaching strengths lie in building relationships, effective communication, and engaging classrooms.

Joni Eareckson Tada

Joni Eareckson Tada is a global Christian stateswoman and an internationally renowned advocate for people with disabilities. She is the Founder and CEO of Joni and Friends International Disability Center, a nonprofit organization with a worldwide outreach to people with disabilities and their families. A diving accident in 1967 left Joni, then 17, a quadriplegic in a wheelchair. Since then, Joni's wisdom and influence have been shared with the world through Christian books, the media, speaking, and her service in disability advocacy. She served on the National Council on Disability under two U.S. Presidents; during her tenure, the Americans with Disabilities Act was drafted and passed into law. Joni has also served on the Disability Advisory Committee to the U.S. State Department. Her driving desire is to see every person with a disability find hope, dignity, and their place in the body of Christ. Joni and Ken Tada have been married since 1982.

Michael J. Easley

Dr. Michael Easley is a gifted Bible teacher and church leader with over four decades of ministry experience. He has pastored four churches, served as the eighth president of Moody Bible Institute, and was the featured speaker on Moody Presents. Michael earned his B.S.Ed. from Stephen F. Austin and his Th.M. and D.Min. from Dallas Theological Seminary, where he received the John G. Mitchell Award for outstanding scholarship. He is the author of *Interludes: Prayers and Reflections of a Servant's Heart* and co-author of *The Da Vinci Code Controversy*. Michael now hosts the podcasts *Michael Easley in Context*, *Michael Easley Sermons*, *Ask Dr. E*, and *The Big Book: Cover to Cover*. Learn more at michaelincontext.com.

John Ebersole

Jon Ebersole has over 25 years' experience working with people affected by disabilities. He and his wife have three children, two with cerebral palsy, making his experience with disability very personal. He served with Joni and Friends for over 15 years, overseeing Joni and Friends' Area Ministry Offices around the United States. Jon earned a Masters in Social Work from the University of Illinois and completed a Seminary Certificate of Biblical Studies at what is now Trinity International University.

Chuck Edwards

Chuck Edwards is an author, researcher, and speaker. He is the co-author of the biblical worldview Bible studies, *Thinking Like A Christian*, and *Countering Culture* and a contributing writer/editor for *Understanding the Times*, 2nd Edition.

Ryan Faulk

Ryan Faulk is passionate about seeing local churches welcome people with disabilities with the love of Christ, and help them find their place in the body of Christ. He has an Master of Arts (Theology) from the Talbot School of Theology, and has worked with Joni and Friends since 2018 to develop resources that equip the church to evangelize, disciple, and serve those living with disabilities. He and his wife live in Southern California with their two children.

Rev. William Gaventa

Bill Gaventa is an author, speaker, trainer, and consultant primarily in the arena of faith and disability. He is the founder and Director Emeritus of the Summer Institute of Theology and Disability and the current Director of the National Collaborative on Faith and Disability. He was the Director of Community and Congregational Supports at the Elizabeth M. Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities in New Jersey from 1995-2013. Primary areas of experience and expertise include spiritual and faith-based supports with people with disabilities, training for clergy, seminarians and community services staff, aging and end of life/grief issues in intellectual and developmental disabilities, cultural competence, and community building. He served as the President of American Association of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, 2016-2017. He was Editor of the *Journal of Religion, Disability and Health* for 14 years, and is author of *Spirituality and Disability: Recovering Wholeness* published by Baylor University Press in 2018.

Janice Ho

Janice Ho is an advisor to the Koinonia Inclusion Network. She previously served on KIN's staff team. A registered pediatric occupational therapist, she has served persons with disabilities in both acute and community settings.

Stephanie Hubach

Stephanie Hubach is a Research Fellow in Disability Ministries and a Visiting Instructor in Educational Ministries in affiliation with Covenant Theological Seminary. From 2007-2016 she served as Mission to North America's Special Needs Ministries Founding Director. Mission to North America (MNA) is associated with the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA). Steph is the author of *Parenting & Disabilities: Abiding in Gods' Presence* (P&R Publishing, 2021), *Same Lake, Different Boat: Coming Alongside People Touched by Disability* (P&R Publishing, 2006; Revised and Expanded 2020), and director of a Christian Education DVD series based on *Same Lake, Different Boat* (available on YouTube.) Stephanie is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of McDaniel College, has an MA in Economics from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and an MATS from Covenant Theological Seminary. Steph and her husband Fred have two deeply loved sons: Fred and Tim, the younger of whom has Down syndrome.

Chantal Huinink

Chantal Huinink, Mdiv, MSW, RSW, is a motivational speaker, author and social justice advocate who serves as a Chaplain and a Regional Counsellor in Waterloo, Ontario, Canada. She holds a Master of Divinity and Master of Social Work. Her education and experience as a woman with physical disabilities makes her passionate about fostering leadership by people with disabilities in the church and wider community, to honour all God's image bearers and reap blessings from the widest array of God-given skills and talents.

Connie Hutchinson

Connie Hutchinson was the Director of Disabilities Ministry at the First Evangelical Free Church of Fullerton from 1992 – 2018. She has spoken at conferences and colleges nationwide as an advocate for people with disabilities. Connie has traveled to Romania, China, and Northern Africa to speak to parents, educators, church leaders and government officials on the value of all people—with or without disabilities. She also traveled to Ghana with a Wheels for the World team. Currently Connie and her husband Mike are enjoying this season of life, traveling and spending time with their adult children, 7 grandchildren, volunteering in the Women's Ministry and Indispensable Special Needs Ministry at Kindred Community Church in Anaheim.

Julie Keith

Julie Keith received a BA degree in Associate Ministry with an emphasis in Disability Ministry, a MA degree in Marriage Family Child Counseling from Pacific Christian College and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Southwest Theological Seminary. Julie has served as Disabilities Minister at several churches, including 12 years as Special Needs Pastor at, First Church of the Nazarene in Pasadena, she currently serves as Associate Pastor to Children and Families at Tehachapi First Church of the Nazarene where she ministers with several families affected by special needs. Julie has also worked in social services with individuals who have developmental disabilities and conducted training and education for staff in this field. She is also the Southwest Region's Disability Representative for the Church of the Nazarene.

Rick Langer

Rick is a professor at Talbot School of Theology, the Director of the Office of Faith and Learning at Biola University, and co-director of the Winsome Conviction Project—a grant-funded project which seeks to depolarize discourse in both the church and the public square. He has authored several books and has published numerous academic journal articles applying theology to a wide variety of disciplines including business leadership, disability, suffering, bioethics, and vocation. He served as a pastor of a large evangelical church with an active disability ministry for 20 years before joining the faculty of Biola University in 2005. Rick earned his Ph. D. in Philosophy from the University of California, Riverside, and his Masters of Divinity from Talbot Seminary.

Wen-Pin Leow

Wen-Pin Leow is the chairman of the Koinonia Inclusion Network. An ordained minister of the gospel, he serves as a pastor with Bethany Evangelical Free Church, Singapore. He also serves as a catalyst for disability concerns with the Lausanne Movement.

Lori Lucore

Lori Lucore formerly served in correspondence with Joni and Friends, overseeing resources at Joni and Friends. She studied International Relations and earned her B.A. in Business Administration. Above all, she enjoys being a mom—to Violet and her brothers and sisters.

David Lyons

David Lyons has served with The Navigators for since 1985, as International Vice President from 2009 to 2024. He oversaw international initiatives, communications, and networking of their five thousand staff in more than one hundred countries. David loves photography and hiking in the mountains of Colorado. David and Renee are the parents of seven children. David's personal experience with losing a son to cancer led him to helping others to grow through their pain through writing *Don't Waste The Pain* and through creating www.dontwastethepain.com.

Dr. John MacArthur

Dr. John MacArthur is pastor-teacher of Grace Community Church in Sun Valley, California, as well as a best-selling author, conference speaker, chancellor of The Master's College and Seminary, and featured teacher with the Grace to You media ministry. John has written hundreds of study guides and books, including *The Gospel According to Jesus, Our Sufficiency in Christ, Strange Fire, Ashamed of the Gospel, The Murder of Jesus, The Prodigal Son, Twelve Ordinary Men, The Truth War, The Jesus You Can't Ignore, Slave, One Perfect Life, The Gospel According to Paul, Parables, and One Faithful Life*. John and his wife, Patricia, live in Southern California and have four married children: Matt, Marcy, Mark, and Melinda. They also enjoy the enthusiastic company of their fifteen grandchildren.

Rev. Dan'l Markham

Dan'l Markham's life focus has been serving Christ by developing Christian programs and organizations that focus ministry to those on the margins of society. He serves as the Partnerships Director for the Everett Gospel Mission. Dan'l has worked as a county commissioner, founding and senior pastor, and Managing Director of U.S. Operations at Joni and Friends. He's generated numerous articles including a contributing writer for *Disability Advocacy Among Religious Organizations*. Dan'l is author of *Contagious Love* regarding Christ's call to those affected by disabilities and *The Cultic Phenomenon: A Revealing Look at Ourselves*, dealing with abusive churches and religions. He writes and produces his radio Gospel cowboy yarns called CountryUp.org. A cast member of the Long Ride Home Christian-biker reality TV show, he loves to laugh and make people laugh. He holds a bachelor's degree in biblical studies and has taken course work at Reformed Theological Seminary.

Doug Mazza

Doug Mazza is the former President and Chief Operating Officer of Joni and Friends, having served the ministry for 20 years before he retired in 2019. He oversaw a period of tremendous growth in the ministry, firmly establishing the organization as an authoritative voice on Christian outreach to the world's disabled population. Prior to joining Joni and Friends, Doug built a distinguished career in the automotive industry. As the American Senior Executive for American Suzuki Motor Corporation, Doug wrote the marketing plan that successfully launched Suzuki automobiles in this country. He later joined Hyundai Motor America to serve as Chief Operating Officer. Doug also served in the U.S. Army from 1970 to 1972. Doug and his wife,

Lorraine, have five adult sons, including Ryan, who is severely disabled. The wheelchair ramp in the Joni and Friends International Disability Center is named Ryan's Run in honor of Ryan Mazza.

Jeff & Kathi McNair

Jeff and Kathi McNair are career special educators. They have been involved in ministry to adults with intellectual disabilities since 1974 the last 30 years of which have been at their current local church. Jeff is a Professor of Special Education and the director of the credential program in moderate to severe disabilities at California Baptist University. He is widely published in the area of church and disability and has conducted trainings in more than 25 countries and across the United States. Kathi recently retired from K-12 teaching and is supervising special education credential candidates and doing some university teaching.

Dr. Kathy McReynolds

Dr. Kathy McReynolds is the former Director of Academic Studies for Joni and Friends. Kathy has a B.A. in Christian Education from Biola University, a M.A. in Systematic Theology from Talbot School of Theology and a Ph.D. in Ethics from the University of Southern California. She has taught in the Biblical Studies Department at Biola University and served on ethics committees for hospitals and universities. Kathy has received numerous prestigious awards, including the Leading Health Care Professional of the World by the International Biographical Center in 2009.

Payton Miller

Payton Miller has a PhD in New Testament focusing on disability and Biblical studies from the University of Aberdeen. She is an Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies at Fresno Pacific University where she teaches courses on disability ministry, theology, and the Bible. In addition to her volunteer work with Joni and Friends in Central California, she co-facilitates a Bible study for adults with intellectual disabilities in Fresno, California along with co-facilitator Erin Webb, Ministry Operations Manager for Joni and Friends California.

Jackie Mills-Fernald

Jackie Mills-Fernald was the director of Access Ministry at McLean Bible Church in Washington, D.C. Her relationship with Access Ministry began in 1999 as a volunteer. Jackie joined the ministry staff that same year and in 2000, became the Assistant Director of Staff and Volunteer Development with a focus on recruitment, training, and overall program development. Since December of 2003, Jackie had served as the Director of Access Ministry and also oversees the Signs of Life deaf ministry.

Gene Newman

Gene Newman has worked in Los Angeles with special-needs students as a Special Education Teacher, Special Education School Principal and District Office Administrator. Additionally, he has been involved in disability ministry through the training of churches to effectively include individuals with special needs into church life, and also by volunteering with Joni and Friends to lead wheelchair-distribution teams to South Asia, the Middle East, and the Caribbean. After retiring from public education, Gene joined a mission agency that is engaged in disciple-making among the least reached people groups of the world. Gene has been married to Monique for

over 40 years and their family includes two sons and their wives, six adorable grand kids, along with Labrador Retriever puppies being raised to become Service Dogs for special-needs individuals.

Kevin O'Farrell

Kevin O'Farrell is Director of Theological Education & Engagement for the Christian Institute on Disability at Joni and Friends. He is responsible for the implementation of *Beyond Suffering* programming around the world. He has published on disability theology, biotechnological enhancements, and the theology of Dietrich Bonhoeffer. His most recent book publication is *Dietrich Bonhoeffer and a Theology of the Exception* (London: Bloomsbury, 2024). Kevin holds a Ph.D. in Divinity from the University of Aberdeen.

Sarah & Grace Phua

Sarah Phua & Grace Phua are hearing daughters of Reverend Barnabas and Angela Phua. Reverend Barnabas is an ordained pastor of Deaf Faith Fellowship (of World Revival Prayer Fellowship, WRPF), the first fully deaf congregation in Singapore. Sarah is currently studying at the Biblical Graduate School of Theology and is a part-time pastoral staff at WRPF, where she worships with her husband, Barnabas Ramesh. She is also the co-founder of Genesis Consulting and Solutions, a professional accounting & consulting firm which seeks to embody and redeem Christian values in the workplace. Grace is the author of *Mommy, Can You Hear Me* (a children's book on living with deaf parents), and is the founder of O'live & Write, a copywriting and design agency that provides creative content solutions for businesses on tight budgets. They also have two brothers, Samuel and Sean.

Dr. Jim Pierson

Dr. Jim Pierson devoted his life to meeting the spiritual needs of people with disabilities and training students with a similar desire at both Johnson University and Milligan College. Jim was the Executive Director of the East Tennessee Children's Rehabilitation Center between 1967 and 1984, and the founder and Executive Director of the Christian Church Foundation for the Handicapped (CCFH Ministries) between 1984 and 2009. His education in speech pathology and special education, his work at the children's rehabilitation center and adult residential programs, and authorship of five books about disability ministry set him apart as one of the world's leading thinkers on ministering to both children and adults with disabilities. Jim received an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Milligan College in 1991 and was the 2003 recipient of the Henri Nouwen Award presented by the Religious and Spirituality Division of the American Association on Persons with Intellectual Disabilities.

Chris Ralston

D. Christopher Ralston, PhD, MA is a freelance writer/editor and an Adjunct Professor of Bioethics at Trinity International University in Deerfield, Illinois, where he is also a Fellow in The Center for Bioethics & Human Dignity's Academy of Fellows. From 2013-2020 he worked in the publishing and public policy departments at Joni and Friends, during which time he served as Senior Editor of *The Journal of the Christian Institute on Disability*. He is co-editor of *Philosophical Reflections on Disability* (Springer, 2009) and for several years taught courses in Disability Studies at California Baptist University. He is a graduate of Rice University (PhD, Philosophy), Trinity International University (MA, Bioethics), and Biola University (BA,

Communications; MA, Philosophy of Religion and Ethics). His research, writing, and public speaking draws on his own experience as a person with a physical disability, and centers around issues at the intersection of disability, bioethics, philosophy, and theology.

Judy Redlich

Judy Redlich has 38 years of experience in various aspects of the media industry. For twenty years Judy hosted and co-produced a television interview show. For eighteen years she has been hosting and co-producing various weekly radio talk shows. For eighteen years she has been producing and hosting various weekly radio talk shows. While at Joni and Friends Missouri, Judy was responsible for administrating and implementing all of the programs in Missouri and Southern Illinois. Judy completed her Bachelor of Science in Journalism and Psychology from Missouri Valley College. In 2009, The National Association of Professional and Executive Women named Judy “Woman of the Year” in Media Relations, and she received the 2006 Bronze Telly Award. As an ICF certified Christian life coach, Judy focuses on helping her clients discover their purpose and ways to reach their highest potential.

Linda Lyons Richardson

Linda Lyons Richardson was a merchandise-display artist and garden gift shop owner. She graduated from Montgomery College, University of MD, and studied at Corcoran School of Art. Unfortunately, Linda passed away in 2011. She is survived by her husband Steve and two children.

Dr. Michael Sleasman

Michael J. Sleasman, Ph.D., is Director of Bioethics Degree Programs and Associate Professor of Bioethics at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. He previously served as Managing Director and Research Scholar for The Center for Bioethics & Human Dignity, as well as an affiliate professor, adjunct instructor, and online course tutor in philosophy, theology, and cultural engagement at the undergraduate and graduate level. He is the editor of *Ethics & Medicine: An International Journal of Bioethics* and co-editor of *Everyday Theology: How to Read Cultural Texts and Interpret Trends*. He has been interviewed on a range of bioethical issues by print and radio media, and has delivered workshops and presentations for a number of churches, universities, and professional societies. His research includes the theological engagement of bioethical issues with emphasis on biotechnologies, other emerging technologies, and human futures, as well as the intersection of technology, ethics, and culture in general.

Linda Smith

Shortly after graduating from Houghton College, Linda Smith became involved in disability ministry and has served in that field for over 45 years. Linda has served on staff with Joni and Friends New England and most recently with Young Life Capernaum, ministering with teens and young adults with intellectual disabilities. She is the author of *Beyond Limits*,¹ and ², two volumes of Bible curriculum designed for teens and adults with cognitive disabilities. (beyondlimitscurriculum.com) She also serves as legal guardian and roommate/caregiver for a woman with physical and cognitive disabilities. Linda's passion is seeing people with intellectual disabilities growing in their relationship with Christ and being received as valued members of the Body of Christ.

Ken Tada

Ken Tada taught Government and US History at John Burroughs High School in Burbank, California, until he retired in 2003. He serves as the Director of Ministry Development for the Joni and Friends International Disability Center. Ken and Joni Tada lead a team of disability ministry workers worldwide, providing practical services and spiritual help to people with disabilities and their families. Working together, Ken and Joni have helped millions of people in this nation and in forgotten corners of the world. Ken and Joni have been married since 1982 and reside in Calabasas, California. Ken shared his story in his first book, written with Joni and co-author Larry Libby, entitled *Joni & Ken: An Untold Love Story*, which was released in 2013.

Pat Verbal

Pat Verbal is the former Sr. Manager of Publishing and Ministry Resources at Joni and Friends Christian Institute on Disability, where she served as managing editor and contributor for their cornerstone curricula: *Beyond Suffering: A Christian View on Disability Ministry* (2011), *Beyond Suffering for the Next Generation* (2015), and the *Beyond Suffering Bible* (2016). Pat is a well-published author and featured speaker and has served in leadership with the National Day of Prayer, the World Prayer Congress, the International Network of Children's Ministry, and the Billy Graham School of Evangelism. Her passion for disability ministry comes from twenty-five years as an associate pastor, school administrator, and caregiver for family members. Pat is the author or coauthor of several books, including *The Gospel in Hard Times, Real Families Real Needs, Special Needs Ministry for Children, Special Needs Smart Pages*, and *Life in the Balance*. She graduated from Azusa Pacific University and holds an M.A. in pastoral studies from the School of Theology, where she served on the Council of Church Leaders.

Dr. Larry Waters

Dr. Larry Waters was Associate Professor of Bible Exposition at Dallas Seminary and taught for their World Missions and Intercultural Studies department. He served as a missionary in the Philippines from 1973 to 1999. His worldwide ministry included serving in the Philippines. He is the author of Bible and Missions curriculum for the Internet Biblical Seminary connected with BEE World, and a New Testament Survey for a large missionary organization. Larry also served as a Member of the Bibliotheca Sacra Editorial Advisory Committee.