

Year of the  
true woman 08



Nancy Leigh DeMoss

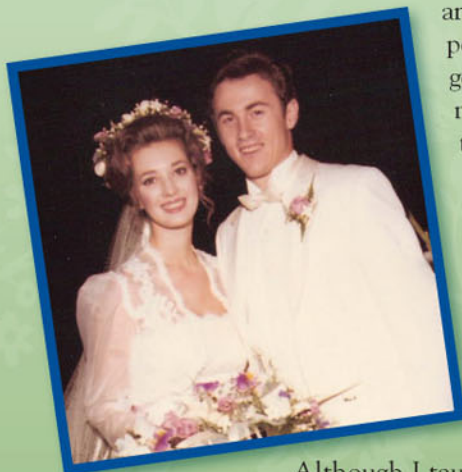
# Kim's Story

The dictionary describes a *shrew* as a woman with a violent, scolding, or nagging temperament. I don't know of any woman who wants to be described that way, but underneath my smiles and appropriate behavior, that's exactly what I was.

The only thing that kept me from leaving my husband was my commitment to Christ. We had been married almost fifteen years and much of that time had been filled with pain and hopelessness.

When we got married, my pastor husband had been a likeable, outgoing young man with an uncanny ability to communicate easily with anyone. But he had changed.

He no longer smiled much; I rarely heard him laugh. It took great effort for him to have a conversation with anyone, to be around people, or to even get out of bed in the morning. He seemed to resent me with an underlying coldness that resulted in dark depression. He acted like a totally defeated man, and I couldn't understand what his problem was.



Although I taught a weekly Bible study, disciplined women, and never missed my "daily quiet time," I think I actually hated my husband. I knew my feelings were wrong, but I justified my resentment every

time I saw his dark countenance. I prayed for his depression to lift, thinking, "If he would just get right with God we could have a happy marriage!"

I didn't realize that every time I questioned his decisions—from how he parked the car to who he chose to fill a Sunday school position—I was whittling away at his masculinity, eroding his confidence to lead, and tearing out his heart. Worse, I was treading dangerously close to the fearful warning of Titus 2:4–5:

"that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands . . . being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored."

What a fearful indictment: to dishonor—or blaspheme—the Word of God! And yet, that is what I was doing.

I said that my husband was to be honored and respected as the spiritual head and leader of our home. But in practice, I was determined to be the "neck" that turned him whatever way I wanted. My motives were good—I was always focused on improvement and spiritual growth—but I was the one in the leadership position, *not* my husband.

I am so thankful that God rescued me from *myself*! One weekend I headed out to a cabin to write a Bible study for the women of our church. While packing my bags for my "retreat," I was totally unaware of the fact that God was preparing to confront me with reality. As I settled into the comfortable solitude of the cabin and opened my Bible, I noticed a little booklet tucked away in the back flyleaf. The booklet was entitled, *A Biblical Portrait of Womanhood* by Nancy Leigh DeMoss.

Curiously I opened the booklet, and immediately the Holy Spirit began using the Scripture quotations and diagnostic questions to examine my heart. He opened my eyes to my willful spirit and prideful attitudes. He showed me that I was treating my husband disrespectfully by my tone of voice, critical communication, and facial expressions.

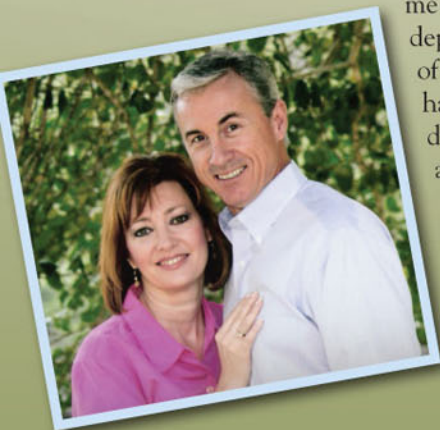
I pled and argued throughout the first hours of this painful process. I threw up to God the years of pain—the lack of communication, the coldness, the days of dark depression. Wasn't my husband supposed to be the spiritual leader? It's *his fault* that our marriage is suffering—he is the one responsible!

God patiently kept bringing me back to Titus 2:4–5. I had to admit that I was dishonoring the Word of God by how I was conducting myself as a wife. I was not responsible to “fix” my husband; I was responsible for my own heart.

When I returned home I asked for a “family conference.” I sat down with my husband and our children and confessed that I had lived in disobedience to the Word of God by not honoring their father and walking in submission to his leadership. I asked their forgiveness and made a commitment to submit to the authority of God's Word in honoring my husband.

That was the turning point in my life. Little by little, as I have grown in the Lord, He has begun to replace a harsh spirit with tenderness, a prideful heart with brokenness, a know-it-all attitude with a teachable one.

My husband eventually felt safe enough to open up and confide in me that for years he had been intimidated by me and even fearful of me. His depression was largely a result of a crisis of faith. You see, he had watched me begin every day on my knees in prayer and in diligent study of the Word, and yet I was a terror to live with. He struggled with the question of how God's Word could be so ineffective in transforming my character.



Kimberly Wagner is married to LeRoy Wagner, the pastor of Dayspring Church in Hot Springs, Arkansas. They have two children, Rachel and Caleb. Kim has a BA in Biblical Studies, has served as a pastor's wife for over 26 years, has taught in Christian schools, is a women's Bible study teacher and conference speaker, and is a frequent panel guest on *Revive Our Hearts*.

He struggled with the fact that God did not seem to hear his prayers for a miracle to take place in our marriage. He began to struggle with whether God even heard or cared at all!

It has been a joy to watch God heal our marriage—in His timing and without my help! My husband is no longer cold and distant—we laugh a lot together. I am so thankful he sees the difference in me. But more than that, I am grateful that he sees the power of the Gospel at work in my life.

Many wives long for their husbands to lead their families spiritually; but I fear that many of these women become discontent and bitter when their husbands fail to fulfill that role. What would happen if every truly regenerate woman would live out the instructions found in Titus 2 and 1 Peter 3? How would our husbands and children respond to that kind of radical transformation? Would our men be inspired as they watch the transformational power of the Gospel? Would they hunger to know God more intimately? Would they begin to feel the freedom and confidence to take on the role of spiritual leadership? Could the watching world begin to see a difference in our families? Could the same power of the Gospel begin to affect them? Could revival occur?

Visit [ReviveOurHearts.com](http://ReviveOurHearts.com) for a free download of the booklet *A Biblical Portrait of Womanhood*.

*“Wasn't my husband supposed to be the spiritual leader?”*



# A Conversation with Joni Eareckson Tada on Biblical Womanhood

**Joni, as you strive to be a biblical woman—especially in your relationship with Ken—what are some things the Lord has taught you?**

Well, most people know I'm a quadriplegic. I cannot fold clothes; but I can pray for, cheer on, encourage, support, listen to, applaud, and praise my husband. The secular feminist movement has virtually neutered men's masculinity. As women, we can help reinforce those characteristics about a man that are truly praiseworthy. In so doing, we not only fulfill our Genesis 2 role of being a helpmate, but we help our husbands be the men God designed them to be. That's a marvelous vocation.

**You minister worldwide to people affected by disabilities. How does this idea of true womanhood help you reach out uniquely with the love of Christ?**

Women have been wired by the Creator to be compassionate, to assess a need by sheer intuition, to respond with help and hope. When there's a disability in the picture, the femininity of women and the masculinity of men is virtually flattened. The roles, expectations, and responsibilities change. Often people with disabilities lose their sense of femininity or masculinity, and

I think it is so important to remind disabled women that, yes, you are essentially feminine. God made you. God built you for relationship, prayer, service, support, nurturing, and worshiping God in a way that is very different from men. That's an exciting thing for women with disabilities to discover.

**What does a "true woman" look like today?**

A true woman is able to take her innate giftedness—the ability to reach out, connect, and relate—and find creative ways to share the love of Christ in this anti-biblical generation. Today's Christian woman can truly model through genuine relationships what it means to be female—to be loved by God, and to be a friend to and relate to others.

**Who do you think of when you think of the phrase "true woman"? What woman you have known best exemplifies this phrase?**

My friend Bunny Worlun. She is so approachable, so interested in others. If there's a need, Bunny will fill it, and she'll do it without a lot of fanfare. When I was in bed with pain sometime ago, Bunny gave up three weeks to help me. A woman who loves Jesus Christ is a woman who loves to serve, because her Savior came not to be served, but to serve. That's what the true woman looks like. She is a servant of Jesus.

**What are the characteristics of a biblical woman?**

The Bible has a lot to say about that. According to 1 Timothy, the biblical woman has a *submissive spirit*; not a rebellious spirit. According to 1 Corinthians 11, she's *marked by a life of prayer*. According to Genesis 2, she *helps her husband*. Proverbs 31 marks her as an *industrious and frugal woman*; one who *cares for others*, especially the poor and needy. In the book of Acts, countless women *delight in serving in their home*. What better way to communicate the love of Christ than to draw people out of their isolation and connect them with the God who loves them. Women are so good at doing this.

**Apart from physical differences, what makes a woman truly distinct from a man?**

Genesis chapter two says, "The LORD God said it is not good for man to be alone. I will make him a helper suitable for him." The role of men and women in ministry is complementary. True enrichment for both Christian men and women comes when these roles are fulfilled side-by-side. Why? A woman's ministry is primarily maternal in flavor and style, and the man's is primarily paternal. This marvelous and rich role difference should be celebrated and reflected. It's *cooperative* ministry. Oh, that we would see more women—and men—give care to the weak, minister the Word together as a team, nurture families and children, visit the sick, reach prisoners, ad infinitum. Let's enjoy our different roles—which are complementary—and get on with ministry.

**Joni Eareckson Tada is the Founder and CEO of Joni and Friends, an organization that promotes Christian ministry in the disability community. Ken Tada, Joni's best friend and her husband of 25 years, serves with her as the Director of Ministry Development. Joni will be speaking at True Woman '08.**

**Joni, on True Woman '08:**

**"This conference is a Titus 2 opportunity to teach women what is good and what is glorifying to our wonderful God."**

Believing God for a  
counter-cultural revolution.

true woman 08  
NOW IS THE TIME

- Don't miss True Woman '08, where you'll hear Joni Tada, Nancy DeMoss, and other dynamic speakers cast a refreshing, biblical vision for true womanhood.
- Register at [www.TrueWoman.com](http://www.TrueWoman.com) by August 1 to save \$30!
- Watch the complete interview with Joni Eareckson Tada on [www.ReviveOurHearts.com/Resources/Videos](http://www.ReviveOurHearts.com/Resources/Videos).

# Revive Our Hearts™

## Summer '08 Broadcast Schedule

### True Woman Interviews

July 7–8	Embracing God's Gift of Children (Holly Elliff)
July 9–11	Feminine Appeal (Carolyn Mahaney)
July 14–16	Healing from Bitterness (Yvonne Welch)
July 17–22	Rebuilding After Pornography (Pam Vuke [and husband Tony!])
July 23–25	Disciplines of a Beautiful Woman (Anne Ortlund)
July 28–29	Home-making Is Not a Dirty Word (Dr. Pat Ennis and Dr. Lisa Tatlock)
July 30–August 1	The Politically Incorrect Wife
August 4–8	Becoming a Woman of Discretion
August 11–12	Discovering Biblical Womanhood
August 13–19	How to Pray for Your Children (Fern Nichols and Marlae Gritter)
August 20–Sept. 1	Avoiding a Critical Spirit

## Become a Ministry Partner

Dear Friend,

Do you have a burden for women to live God-glorifying, Christ-centered, joyous lives? If so, I invite you to become a *Revive Our Hearts* Ministry Partner. (If you're already a partner, I can't thank you enough for your support!)

**You can make a difference in women of this generation and the next** by doing three things:

- *Intercede* on behalf of *Revive Our Hearts* and women worldwide
- *Interact* with others about the message and ministry of ROH
- *Invest* \$30 a month or more in the ministry

You will receive an exclusive monthly resource with regular updates, access to the Ministry Partners' website, a free conference registration each year (yes, you can use this for True Woman '08!), and a complimentary copy of one of my books.

To become a Ministry Partner, send us the enclosed reply form, or sign up online at [www.ReviveOurHearts.com/Difference/Partner](http://www.ReviveOurHearts.com/Difference/Partner).

Thank you for playing a vital part in  
*The Year of the True Woman*,



"I have never known an organization that personally ministers to their supporters like ROH!"  
—Carol



"There is no greater, more satisfying, purposeful goal in life than participating in our Lord's work through a ministry such as *Revive Our Hearts*."  
—Twila

