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*MNA Special Needs
Ministries
is the recipient of the
2010 WIC Love Gift!!*



From the Director's Desk

My youngest son, Tim, is notorious for his inability to keep a secret—especially at birthdays and Christmas. I don't know if it's the sheer excitement or the power of possessing valuable information—but he just can't seem to contain himself. For my husband Fred's 50th birthday in November, the extended family pooled resources to buy him a gas grill. But I knew this surprise would never last if I actually shared this information with Tim. Being both an engineer and a caring man who always thinks of his family first, Fred had asked for a very practical gift: attic insulation. I don't know about you, but I didn't find that gift idea to be a particularly inspiring celebration of half-a-century-well-lived! However, it made for the perfect decoy for Tim. He was convinced that Fred was about to have his life-long dream of attic insulation fulfilled. And he couldn't wait to tell him! Sure enough, one Saturday morning, Tim sat down with Fred, pointed dramatically to the ceiling and said, "Mom! Does he know about the YOU-KNOW-WHAT?" I'd been feeling a tad guilty about not including him in on the real information about the surprise, until—once again—Tim proved himself entirely predictable. You've just got to love him.

Imagine Tim's excitement (and mine), now that we can openly share with you that MNA Special Needs Ministries is the recipient of this year's 2010 Women in the Church (WIC) Love Gift! The purpose of the annual WIC Love Gift is to provide an opportunity for PCA women to love and support the Church, and to educate our membership about the various ministries of the PCA. The gift rotates annually among all the PCA Committees and Agencies. We are tremendously blessed to be this year's designated organization. Our theme is "Hear the Call of the Kingdom." Please go to www.pca-mna.org/specialneeds to watch the DVD on YouTube, order the DVD and bulletin inserts for your congregation, or to learn more about how the funds will be used. So, go ahead and follow Tim's example: tell everybody! We need you to help us spread the word! In His Name, Steph Hubach

Read "The Rest of the Story..."



Meet Chad, Jennifer and
Benjamin Smith on
www.pca-mna.org

You can read
"The Rest of the Story"
there...

This year's 2010 WIC Love Gift for MNA Special Needs Ministries is a great opportunity to promote ongoing interest in how God is clearly at work in the lives of individuals, families and congregations touched by disability. The 2010 WIC Love Gift DVD gives you a snapshot of that, but we knew it would only leave viewers longing for more. So, as Paul Harvey used to say, we're providing "The Rest of the Story" on our MNA Special Needs Ministries website. Each month, you'll be able to read about "The Rest of the Story" of one of the families or congregations featured in the video. We think you'll be encouraged to see how the work of God is displayed in their lives in meaningful and diverse ways. These families and churches are eager to testify to God's grace and faithfulness in their midst, and hope that you will be blessed by hearing their stories.

The first story "Behind the Scenes: How the 2010 WIC Love Gift DVD Was Made" is already posted, and will be followed soon by other personal accounts. Lois Denier of Tenth Presbyterian Church and Margaret Ramage of Providence Presbyterian Church are working together to write these for your edification and enjoyment. Please check in regularly, and share this web page with others who may be blessed by it!



Joni and Friends Television Series



Watch, download or purchase episodes from the Joni and Friends Television Series at www.joniandfriendstv.org

At MNA Special Needs Ministries, we're always looking for good resources. Our mantra is "If we don't know the answer, we'll help you find it!" Many of the resources we recommend are books, articles or audio files of workshops and keynote talks. But good video resources on disability ministry are in relatively short supply.

That's where the ministry of Joni and Friends is making a difference. In 2009, Joni Eareckson Tada began a TV series that airs on cable TV. But you don't have to have access to cable to watch the episodes. You can view on or download from the internet, and you can purchase the DVDs as well. Some of these are inspirational stories that can be used as

discussion starters. But others—such as their recent two-part series on Autism—are excellent training resources. If you purchase the Autism two-part series, it arrives with a study guide included. For educational purposes, you can send the link to special needs ministry volunteers who can watch online at home. (Important note: their approach used to distinguish between Autism and intellectual disabilities differs from ours.)

P.S. Among the interviewed guests, you'll recognize names familiar to many people in the PCA—Nancy and David Guthrie, Chuck Colson, R.C. Sproul, and Ken Tada—whose families have been touched by disability. Please visit www.joniandfriendstv.org today!

Upcoming Opportunities!



MNA Special Needs Ministries is partnering with Joni and Friends Jackson, MS

In our earliest planning phase for MNA Special Needs Ministries, we determined that we would "partner wherever possible." Our goal is to point PCA congregations to existing resources, to find ways to put into place additional Christian resources that may be lacking, and to work with existing organizations to strengthen our collective influence on the PCA and the Church. I hope you can see that commitment reflected in the types of opportunities we present to you in this portion of the newsletter.

Here are some upcoming opportunities for *all of us* to continue to learn and grow in our understanding of disability ministry:

- PCA Mercy Ministries Conference. "Enriching the Kingdom: The Gospel in a Broken World," 11-13 March 2010, Chattanooga, TN (www.pacep.org/mercy)
- Joni and Friends/MNA Special Needs Ministries Conference. "Worldview Matters: A Biblical Perspective on Disability and the Church," late March 2010, date/time TBD, Jackson, MS. Contact Martie Kwasny by email at (jmkwasny@bellsouth.net)
- Accessibility Summit 2010, 23-24 April 2010, McLean Bible Church, Tysons Corner, VA (www.mcleanbible.org)

Your Prayers Matter...

*"For the Lord gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding."
Proverbs 2:6*

- Praise God for providing for the financial needs of MNA Special Needs Ministries! We received over \$30,000 in gifts in 2009!
- Please pray for on-going, generous financial support. While the 2010 WIC Love Gift will fund future projects, *it does not fund staff.*
- Praise God for the partnership opportunities that continue to come our way! Pray that we would choose our partnership activities wisely.
- Praise God for ALL the opportunities that the 2010 WIC Love Gift provides to the PCA. We are so thankful for the privilege of sharing the message!