

## HYMN SING WITH JONI



Wednesday morning, April 11, our Commons was packed as hundreds came to enjoy a Hymn Sing with Joni Eareckson Tada, her husband Ken, Ralph Carmichael, and Cliff Barrows (via Skype). Hosted by Closer Walk Bible study, the morning was filled with music and worship, classic hymns and a chance to speak with Joni personally.

“It was a wonderful time of worship, music, laughter, tears, joyful expressions and some great mini-messages from Joni, Ralph, Cliff and Rich Buhler [in the final stages of pancreatic cancer],” observes Pastor John Coulombe. “It was one of those incredible paradoxes—the weak and dying bringing messages of hope and joy to the hope-less and joy-less. What a great God we have when He enables the weak to say ‘I am strong in the strength of the Lord and I will trust in Him!’”

Several responded with heartfelt thanks for the morning:

*“We had a young lady in our group who had come with her parents [and] is going through some rough times with medical issues that are causing some disability issues in her life. She came away with new assurance that God is in control and that what she is going through will bring honor to Him.”*

*“This morning was such a sweet time of inspiration and devotion . . . we know it must have been a lot of work for Al [Sanders], John [Coulombe], Paul [Sailhamer] . . . to pull this morning together. Thank you for all your work; it was worth it. Joni’s words of encouragement always touch my heart . . .”*

*“What a great morning and what a great Spirit-filled lady. We all experienced a little bit of heaven through Joni. Amazing what GOD can accomplish through a person genuinely yielded to Him.”*



Al Sanders was with Joni and Ken Tada for lunch after the Hymn Sing and heard Joni share, “The entire time was worth it just to hear from one man who told me he had walked away from the truth many years ago. ‘But now,’ he said, ‘I’m coming back.’”

Pastor John wrote to Joni afterward, “We see you leaning into the discomfort and pain and by faith opening your heart and mouth and hands to reach out

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to people. When we bump into you, joy and grace spills all over us, and we were drenched yesterday.”

Joni’s response? (in part): “No wonder I came to work today singing ‘The Hills are Alive with the Sound of Music!’ What a beautiful day that was yesterday—the incredible hymns, hearing from Ralph and Cliff, hearing the guitar and violin underneath ‘The River is Wide,’ watching Margaret [Sanders] play, pledging allegiance to the flag, and, of course, the many people we spoke to afterward! Those melodies will be ringing in my heart for days to come.”

*All photos by Phil Solomone*



## RESONATE 2012

New Beginnings Christian Fellowship has been meeting bi-monthly at our church for several years, and is a dynamic body of largely Indian nationality believers. They have long had a heart for missions and particularly gospel expansion in India.

Now, they are creating a new paradigm, according to leader Hubert Frederick, “Starting this year, we have come up with a framework to send 100% of our fellowship’s offering to missions support. Yes, that is 100% of our offerings going to mission support and the minimal administrative costs that we incur are pledged upfront by the core group. God has been sufficient for us and He is helping us serve many missions. We are able to financially support them . . . We are able to morally support them by visiting them in the mission field. We are able to provide awareness support by taking their message to other bodies of Christ in Southern California.”

New Beginnings invites all from our church to join them May 6, at 4 pm in NC multipurpose room for fun, fellowship and food as Resonate 2012 celebrates their new vision.