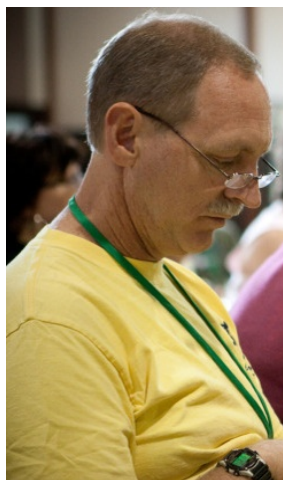




## Joni and Friends Greater Philadelphia Goes to Seminary

Joni and Friends Philadelphia was excited to partner with the Biblical Theological Seminary (BTS) in Hatfield, PA, by offering a class called Theology of Suffering and Disability. The class was co-taught by Jerry Borton, Director of Joni and Friends Philadelphia and born with cerebral palsy, as well as Kevin Cain. Kevin and his wife have a 17-year-old daughter with cerebral palsy. Their family regularly attends *Family Retreat*.



Kevin Cain, co-teacher prepares to share God's Word with students.

The class represents a new focus of Joni and Friends and our Christian Institute on Disability (CID), which is to partner with leading seminaries offering curriculum focused on disability. Sixteen students took the class at BTS and had the opportunity to interact with a variety of people affected by disability, including those with disabilities, parents of children with disabilities, and spouses of persons who are disabled.

The class had a huge impact on those who attended, as one student shared:

*"The whole course was a major eye-opener for me into the world of disability that I have largely (to my shame) ignored .... Also, the interviews with real disabled guests, their*

*transparency and fervor for the Lord in spite of huge challenges, were extremely powerful. I think this is a class everyone needs to be exposed to .... Class lectures from those who 'are there' brought authority, compassion, and hope to the subject .... More importantly, I came away with a much more biblically accurate perspective on the worth and dignity of ... people that are an important part of the body and His Kingdom and have been personally challenged to put feet to the knowledge."*



Small group discussion during the Theology of Suffering and Disability Class at Biblical Theological Seminary.

For more information on the CID or this new curriculum, please contact Jerry Borton at [jlorton@joniandfriends.org](mailto:jlorton@joniandfriends.org) or call 215-799-2304.



*Moms and Wives enjoy fellowship and pampering at Caregiver Day.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- November 2 Dads Group Lansdale
- November 4 Moms Club Hatfield
- November 7 Caregiver Day of Pampering
- November 17 Through the Roof Church & Disability Network Meeting
- November 20, 7:00 pm Talent Show Quakertown
- December 2 Moms Club Hatfield
- December 7 Dads Group Lansdale

Call for Wives Club

Family Retreat Dates 2010

- June 21–26
- June 26–July 2
- August 2–6

*For more information, please see our website  
[www.philadelphia.joniandfriends.org](http://www.philadelphia.joniandfriends.org)  
 or call our office at (215)799-2304.*

**Visit our office and see Joni's 2009 Christmas cards and 2010 Planner as well as great gift ideas and ministry resources. We're offering a 10% discount on special items during the month of November. Can't come by? Call (215) 799-2304 or email [greaterphilly@joniandfriends.org](mailto:greaterphilly@joniandfriends.org) with your order. We'll throw in free shipping!**

## More Than A Phone Call

Sometimes ministry gets personal, or, as Joni calls it, "Christianity with its sleeves rolled up." Recently Joni and Friends Philadelphia received a call from a mom who called to RSVP for our upcoming Caregiver Day of Pampering. She shared how challenged yet blessed she was to have a son with a disability. Program Manager Joan Borton was able to share with her that she understood because she was married to a man born with a disability and knew first-hand the extra work it adds, yet also the joy and blessing. As the mom began to weep on the phone, she shared how she had been saddened to think that no one would ever love her son and how lonely he might be as an adult, because she did not know of any married adults born with disabilities. What an encouragement to her to hear that someone could possibly choose to marry her son someday! God uses everything to encourage, even something as simple as a call.

If you are a mom, wife, or caregiver in need of encouragement, we invite you to join us at one of our Moms Clubs, Wives Clubs or our Caregiver Day of Pampering. Hope to see you there!

This newsletter is published by



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