

Joni Eareckson Tada Diagnosed With Cancer

Joni Eareckson Tada, an internationally known advocate for people with disabilities, has received a cancer diagnosis for the second time.

The founder and CEO of Joni and Friends in Agoura Hills, California, Tada, 69, is also an award-winning artist, speaker and author of more than 50 books.

A seasoned warrior when it comes to dealing with serious health issues, Tada has endured 51 years of quadriplegia, chronic pain and a previous battle against stage 3 breast cancer eight years ago. In 2010, Tada underwent a mastectomy and chemotherapy treatment; after five years, she was declared cancer-free.

With her husband, Ken, at her side, Tada underwent tests last week on a small nodule which had developed over the site of her mastectomy. After biopsies, doctors discovered a small cancerous tumor within the nodule.

“When I received the unexpected news of cancer from my oncological surgeon, I relaxed and smiled, knowing that my sovereign God loves me dearly and holds me tightly in His hands. What good is it if we only trust the Lord when we understand His ways? That only guarantees a life filled with doubts,” said Tada.

Tada shared with her Joni and Friends staff that she will undergo outpatient surgery to remove the cancer on Monday, Nov. 26.

“I am inspired by the many valiant people with disabilities and their families whom we serve every day at Joni and Friends; they are people who constantly persevere through

personal crises. They do not doubt God's glorious purposes for their lives, why should I?" {eoa}

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