



**KEN TADA**  
**Director, Ministry Development**

Ken Tada is the husband, champion and friend of Joni Eareckson Tada, serving as the Director of Ministry Development for [Joni and Friends International Disability Center](#) (JAF).

The son of Japanese parents, Ken grew up in Burbank, California, a home and community he loved so much that he turned down a football scholarship to the University of Hawaii because he didn't want to be too far away. Instead, Ken went to San Fernando Valley State College (now California State University at Northridge) and majored in history, despite his father's desire for him to become a businessman.

Eventually, Ken became a well-loved leader, teacher, mentor and coach for the students of John Burroughs High School, the same school he attended as a teenager. He taught world history, African-American studies and government. He was also a football coach and involved with Young Life as a leader.

Ken and Joni met in 1980 at Grace Community Church, where both attended worship services. They were married on July 3, 1982, with their pastor Dr. John MacArthur conducting the ceremony.

After accompanying Joni on many ministry trips through the years, in 2003, Ken began serving at Joni and Friends upon his retirement from teaching and coaching football for 32 years. Ken and Joni Tada lead a team of disability ministry workers worldwide, providing practical services and spiritual help to people with disabilities and their families. Working together, Ken and Joni have helped millions of people in this nation and in forgotten corners of the world.

Ken is an avid fly fisherman and helps to lead Wild Adventures, a fishing ministry for men.

In 2001, Family Life Today awarded Ken the *Robertson McQuilkin Award* honoring "the Courageous Love of a Marriage Covenant Keeper." Ken and Joni are known as "one of the world's most admired couples." Their marriage and faith have only strengthened through tough circumstances, including overcoming Joni's stage-3 breast cancer.

Ken shared his story in his first book, written with Joni and co-author Larry Libby, entitled "Joni & Ken: An Untold Love Story," which was released in 2013. Ken and Joni live in Calabasas, California.