

## **John Register Speaking Introduction**

When was the last time that you experienced a bad time in your life? How did you handle it? Did it make you bitter or better? Today we will hear from an individual who has had plenty of experience with this topic. He is going to speak to us about: "Hurdling Adversity"!

Hard times are going to come in our lives, how we handle them is a direct reflection of our true character. We don't have to settle into our setbacks, but rather we can soar forward with confidence in knowing that we are not alone in our struggles, and that there are individuals in our midst who have overcome tremendous odds.

Our speaker today is an over comer! His track and field accolades include him being a collegiate three times All-American long jumper and hurdler while at the University of Arkansas. He twice qualified for the Olympic Trials once in the 110m high hurdles in 1988 and once in the 400m intermediate hurdles in 1992.

In 1994 he had a crippling injury that resulted in the amputation of his left leg. Yet, 18 months later he competed in the 1996 Paralympic Games in Atlanta, Georgia as a swimmer anchoring the 4x100 medley relay! Two years later he returned to his first love of track and field and qualified for the 2000 Paralympic Team that competed in Sydney Australia and he set an American record in the process while becoming one of two athletes in the world to have jump further than 18 feet without a leg or knee.

His courage in the face of uncertainty has inspired audiences young and old. He has been featured on numerous television shows such as, "It's a Miracle with Host Richard Thomas", "Weekend Today Show" with host Sara James, and "The Edge" with former host Paula Zahn! His story most recently aired on the 700 Club. This year he was appointed by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice as one of eight members to advise the Secretary on Foreign policy Issues regarding disability.

Please give a warm welcome to our 2000 Paralympic Silver Medalist...Mr. John Register.