

# Joni and Friends Total Access

From the beginning of Joni and Friends International ministry we have been confronted with the absence of accessibility in developing Nations. Each International outreach reminded us how difficult it

was for those with disabilities to get around. In 2004 we began discussing ways to address this critical need. Our first "Accessibility Team," went to Ghana and Romania to make some buildings accessible. The positive reaction confirmed our direction. Out of this trip came the idea behind the Joni and friends Initiative, *Total Access*, (TA)

The vision for *Total Access* is to partner with churches, ministries and individuals in the US. They would put together small teams made up of construction professionals and support people. That team working with our International Partners would labor side by side. In the beginning they would be basic, ramps, widening doorways, etc. Someone, possibly the team leader, would do a "planning trip" first. They would meet with our in-country partners to look at several possible projects. They would



choose those they knew the team could accomplish in the time allotted. Our in-country partner will gather all the needed materials and necessary permits, before the team arrives. The time frame would vary depending on the project and team's availability. The model is, the US team will train nationals with the goal of them continuing the work year around. In some cases our teams will need to return several times. ***With evangelism as the focus, each team will have Bibles and materials to hand out. Our in-country partner churches will handle the evangelism and follow up.***



suggestions of some simple projects to start with. *TA* is a great tool for our Field Offices to help their International Partners, and is a wonderful opportunity for any size US church. It will work well as a stand alone Harvest Project, or in combination with another JAF Initiative. The Field Office will decide whether *TA* will be a Harvest Project or not. If need be our *TA* Planning team will work with the Field Office to help select projects. As they learn more the nationals will be able to do projects on their own.

*Joni and Friends (JAF)* has developed a *Total Access* Manual to help potential partners understand this program and how they can get involved. It explains what tools are required for most projects and



We would like to see a *TA* manual in the hands of every evangelical church in the country. We want them to understand what a *Total Access* Team is and how they can partner with us. We will approach churches that are involved with JAF in other ways, or have a disability ministry to see if they want to include this Program in their Missions Outreach. Working with other *JAF* departments we will make sure we take advantage of every opportunity God sends our way.



Since 2006, Joni and Friends has done several *Total Access* projects. We continue to learn as each project is completed. Our goal is to have this program be a "next step" in all the countries where we have done other *JAF* Initiatives. We would like to see this program in every country we are ministering in.

**JOIN US!**

For more information on our Total Access Outreaches, please contact us at:  
[Familyretreats@joniandfriends.org](mailto:Familyretreats@joniandfriends.org) – Subject Line: Total Access Teams