“...whoever welcomes a little child like this in My name welcomes Me.”
Matthew 18:5
When I reflect on 40 years of Joni and Friends’ outreach, I’m breathless with wonder at God’s faithfulness. I started this ministry because I was stirred by the command of Jesus in Luke 14 to “Go out, find the disabled, the lame and the blind… and bring them in.” God had brought me into His fold, and I couldn’t wait to help bring others with disabilities before the Throne of Jesus. And so, in 1979, with a big vision, lots of prayer, and help from friends like you, Joni and Friends was on its way. At first, we literally went from church to church, giving disability-ministry training to congregations like yours. As we grew from those humble beginnings, we kept asking the Lord to show us more creative ways to reach the disabled with His hope and help. Life doesn’t have to be hopeless. You can be used by God to give disabled people the perfect gift – a wheelchair (mobility made just for them) and the Good News (salvation purchased for us all). You can be used by the Lord to connect them to caring Christians who have learned how to embrace them into the church family. On our 40th anniversary, I’m so grateful to God for you. You, too, have been stirred by the command of Jesus in Luke 14… through your prayers and gifts, you are touching the lives of people like Abujah! From the bottom of my heart, thank you. I pray you and I can keep serving the Lord Jesus together for decades to come!“Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way; say to those with fearful hearts, ‘Be strong, do not fear; your God will come… He will come to save you.’ Then will the lame leap like deer…” — Isaiah 35:3-6

Joni’s First Trip to Ghana

Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone—especially to those in the family of faith.

Galatians 6:10

5-year-old Amezash is used to seeing her world from the ground. Born with a disability, Amezash cannot walk or use her legs and her mother, Akli, carries her around on her back.

Akli and her husband love and care for Amezash dearly, but a wheelchair costs more than a year’s salary! They felt defeated knowing they could never afford one for their precious daughter.

Now, because of your prayers and generosity, Amezash and her family have much to smile about and praise God for today. You sent a wheelchair and a Bible in their language to Amezash! Akli told us, “My daughter will not crawl anymore. We will try to take her to a special needs school now, so she can learn.

Thank you for the help that you’ve given to my daughter. We appreciate the wheelchair and Bible you sent.”

Thousands of disabled children and their parents are crying out for help right now. God does not ignore their cries and neither can we. Hope Overflowing: 100,000 by 2020 is a bold Joni and Friends initiative to deliver wheelchairs and the Gospel to 100,000 disabled children and adults by the year 2020!

Visit joniandfriends.org/100kby2020 to change a life today!
God can lead you in amazing ways to serve disabled people worldwide!

Meet, Bernie Punte, who heard about our ministry on the radio. After learning about Wheels for the World, he asked himself, “What have I done in my life to serve others?” He decided to travel with us overseas as a wheelchair mechanic on a Wheels team.

For Bernie, serving on the Wheels team was life-changing. It was a chance to make a real impact on the lives of needy, disabled people, giving them not only wheelchairs but Bibles and the message of salvation. When we sensed his enthusiasm, Bernie was asked if he would also like to collect wheelchairs for Joni and Friends.

That was fourteen years ago, and Bernie continues to faithfully collect wheelchairs in the Baltimore area and beyond. As a Chair Corps volunteer, Bernie has made great friends with all sorts of leaders from community organizations and businesses. He’s building relationships and sharing seeds of the Gospel. Bernie has collected thousands of wheelchairs and serves as a mechanic every year with Wheels for the World.

Serving on outreaches and fitting restored wheelchairs for people affected by disabilities moves Bernie’s heart. It energizes him to keep on collecting wheelchairs because every year he sees new people whose lives are changed by the gift of mobility and hope in Jesus. God led him all this way... so that he could be used of the Lord to bring people to Jesus.

Watch Bernie’s story at jonianfriends.org/bernie

March is Wheelchair Collection Month

Since 1994, you’ve delivered over 165,000 wheelchairs in 19 different countries worldwide! This month, you can serve with Wheels for the World by joining the efforts of your nearest Joni and Friends location. Search your garage and basement, and check with your neighbors and community to find any unused wheelchairs and bring them by your local collection site!

Every wheelchair you bring will be refurbished and sent with a Bible to someone in need across the globe.

Visit us at jonianfriends.org/chair-corps or call 818.707.5664 to find a collection site near you!
We gratefully acknowledge contributions given in memory or in honor of loved ones to further ministry in the disability community. To give a gift in memory of a loved one or in honor of a special occasion, visit joniandfriends.org/donate or contact Joni and Friends at 818-707-5664.

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