From a Wheelbarrow to a Wheelchair
—Josleen from Haiti
Read her incredible story inside
As a photojournalist for Joni and Friends, I have the privilege to see firsthand the life-transforming work that Jesus is doing around the world through your prayers and generosity. Along with many joyous moments, I’ve also seen the hopelessness and devastation that families living with disability experience in developing nations.

In February, a small team of us traveled to Haiti, a truly dark place overrun with political turmoil and poverty. There are many heart-wrenching stories of people I’ve met over the years; memories that I’ll forever hold close to my heart. One of those stories is of Josleen from Haiti whose mother brought her to our Wheels for the World outreach in Haiti in a wheelbarrow...

“You may not have the opportunity to meet someone like Josleen like I did, but as someone who’s seen Jesus work through your prayers and your generosity, I want you to know that you’re truly transforming lives for eternity.” — Jean

"Wheelbarrows are Made for Dirt, Not People"

A first-hand account of the way Jesus worked in Josleen’s life through your prayers and gifts

Continued on next page
To put this in perspective, wheelbarrows are made for dirt, not people. You could see that Josleen’s family had done their best to make the wheelbarrow comfortable for her, but she was in desperate need of a properly fitting wheelchair.

When I approached this young girl, I could see she was wearing her Sunday best to receive her wheelchair. But it was apparent right away that she had not been bathed for some time. As I bent down to talk to her, touch her sweet face, and welcome her to the outreach, I noticed flies buzzing around her and a strong odor. She was 16 years old but so thin and frail.

We led the family inside the church to fit Josleen’s wheelchair. There was no air conditioning, and the only fans we had stopped working. While the mechanics worked on her wheelchair, I sat beside her, and fanned her with a sheet of paper as I sang Jesus Loves Me. My hope was to bring her some comfort, something that she had probably never experienced from a stranger before.

People with disabilities in countries like Haiti are not used to being interacted with, touched, spoken to, or even looked at. They are typically ignored and neglected. So, any simple human interactions such as a gentle touch, eye contact, or a smile go a long way.

When her wheelchair was ready, the team carefully lifted her out of the wheelbarrow and placed her, for the first time, in a seat of dignity. The Haitian pastor came over to Josleen and her family and gave her a Bible in her language. He shared the Gospel with them for the first time.

Josleen was able to hear and know that Jesus loves her and created her for a purpose. And her mother was able to hear the comforting words from Psalm 139:14 that their daughter was “fearfully and wonderfully made” by Jesus.

You may not have the opportunity to meet someone like Josleen, but as someone who’s seen Jesus work through your prayers and your generosity, I want you to know that you’re truly transforming lives for eternity.

What a blessing you are to this ministry, and thank you for serving alongside us. Together, we reach many more children and adults impacted by disability and their families, so that they can learn about and love our amazing Savior.

To God, be the glory!

Jean

“I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

PSALM 139:14”
How do you get everything done?! Joni, you do so much!” I laugh, because I agree. How do I find time and energy to lead this ministry, connect with friends, serve at church, and most importantly, be a good wife to Ken?! Well, I do know this: I live wisely, trying to make the best use of the time and opportunities God gives (just as Ephesians 5 tells me to do).

And I love this advice from Charles Spurgeon: “Serve God by doing common actions in a heavenly spirit, and then, if your daily calling only leaves you cracks and crevices of time, fill them up with holy service.” I delight in filling the cracks and crevices of my days with service to the Lord Jesus and others.

It’s why I’m an avid user of my Joni Planner. Sure, to stay up with the times, I use a digital calendar on my iPhone. But when it comes to planning “common actions in a heavenly spirit,” everything gets written in my Planner. Whether it’s scheduling the girls who get me up in the morning or help me to bed at night… or jotting reminders about upcoming luncheons or a friend’s spur-of-the-moment prayer need? It all goes in my Planner. To me, the Planner seems more personal than digital reminders!

And I encourage you to get your Joni Planner for 2020. In celebration of our 40th anniversary at Joni and Friends, I created a fresh, updated look for next year’s Planner and designed new features on the interior pages. It’s available now – and remember, every purchase goes to support our excellent programs at Joni and Friends! In 2020, plan to fill the cracks and crevices of your days with Spirit-inspired service… and have fun doing it using my new Joni Planner!

Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity...

EPHESIANS 5:15-16

In 2015, we invited you to join our Hope Overflowing Campaign! Because the need for wheelchairs is so great worldwide, together with your prayers and support, we’re on track to send another 100,000 wheelchairs to disabled children and adults by the end of 2020.

The gift of a wheelchair enables a child to go to school, or an adult to go to work and support their family. Most important, you give them hope, dignity, and the gift of eternity by providing a Bible (included with every wheelchair given) in their language as local pastors share the Gospel with every wheelchair recipient and their family.

So many disabled children and adults are waiting for the gift of a wheelchair and Bible. Join us today in this bold, God-inspired, vision!

$150 sends a restored adult wheelchair
$220 sends a brand-new pediatric wheelchair

While we are close to reaching this milestone, the need is so much greater. Millions of people with disabilities around the world are waiting for a wheelchair and the hope of Jesus for generations to come!

Join Us Now!
Celebrating 40 Years
Special-Anniversary Joni 2020 Planner

New Features

Durable cover made to last all year

Gold Foil Accents

A collage of Joni’s floral artwork

Gold Spiral

Available exclusively from Joni and Friends.
Scripture, inspiring messages, and quotes from Joni throughout the Planner
$16 CP2020
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.

Honor a Loved One, Transform a Life

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Stay God-focused as you plan out your days, weeks, and year
Special-Anniversary Joni 2020 Planner

Designed from a collection of Joni’s floral illustrations, this beautiful special-anniversary 12-month agenda Planner provides generous space for jotting down your plans for the year. Get organized with monthly and weekly spreads that include Bible verses, inspirational quotes, and new devotionals by Joni. This is a perfect gift to give for all occasions and most important, all proceeds go to further disability ministry worldwide!

Available exclusively from Joni and Friends.
Scripture, inspiring messages, and quotes from Joni throughout the Planner

Product Details:
- Size: 7”W x 9”H
- NIV Scripture text
- 12-month agenda planner
- Updated content for monthly and weekly sections
- Chronological Bible Reading Plan
- Gold foil accents on cover
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$16 CP2020

Every purchase you make from Joni and Friends goes to support disability ministry!