

SHARING *Hope* THROUGH HARDSHIP

A photograph of a man with a grey baseball cap and a white surgical mask around his neck, holding a young girl in a wheelchair. The man is leaning in close to the girl, who has dark hair and is wearing a black long-sleeved shirt. The wheelchair has a red backrest and a blue strap. The background is slightly blurred, showing an indoor setting.

Serving
Needs &
Transforming
Hearts

Four-year-old Maria received her first wheelchair at our recent *Wheels for the World™* outreach in Guatemala.

Read more stories from this miraculous trip inside!

from the heart

For this is what the Lord has commanded us:
'I have made you a light... that you may bring
salvation to the ends of the earth.'

ACTS 13:47

At night when I lie awake and cannot sleep, I always pray. I ask God to give his Gospel great success through Joni and Friends. Especially through *Wheels for the World*™. Each wheelchair given and every Bible placed into the hands of a weary parent with a special needs child provides the perfect chance to say, "Jesus loves you... and let me explain how you can know him as your Lord and Savior!"

It's the heart and soul, it's the primary purpose of *Wheels for the World*. As you can see from our recent outreach into Guatemala, it's all about evangelism. Just look at all the people with disabilities and their family members who were saved out of the kingdom of darkness and into the kingdom of Christ! Praise God!

But the need is so great. We simply *must* grow *Wheels for the World* so that we can tell more weary and wounded people about Christ. It breaks my heart when I consider that a person's suffering might only be a dark omen of worse things to come in an eternity without Jesus. (I can barely think of such hellish misery.) And so, the Joni and Friends team and I are fully committed to wring every drop of ministry possible out of each *Wheels for the World* outreach. In this broken, bruised world we must not forget the "least of these." They must have the chance to hear the salvation message of Christ.



Ken loves sharing the Gospel and delivering Bibles - on our *Wheels for the World* trips and every day!

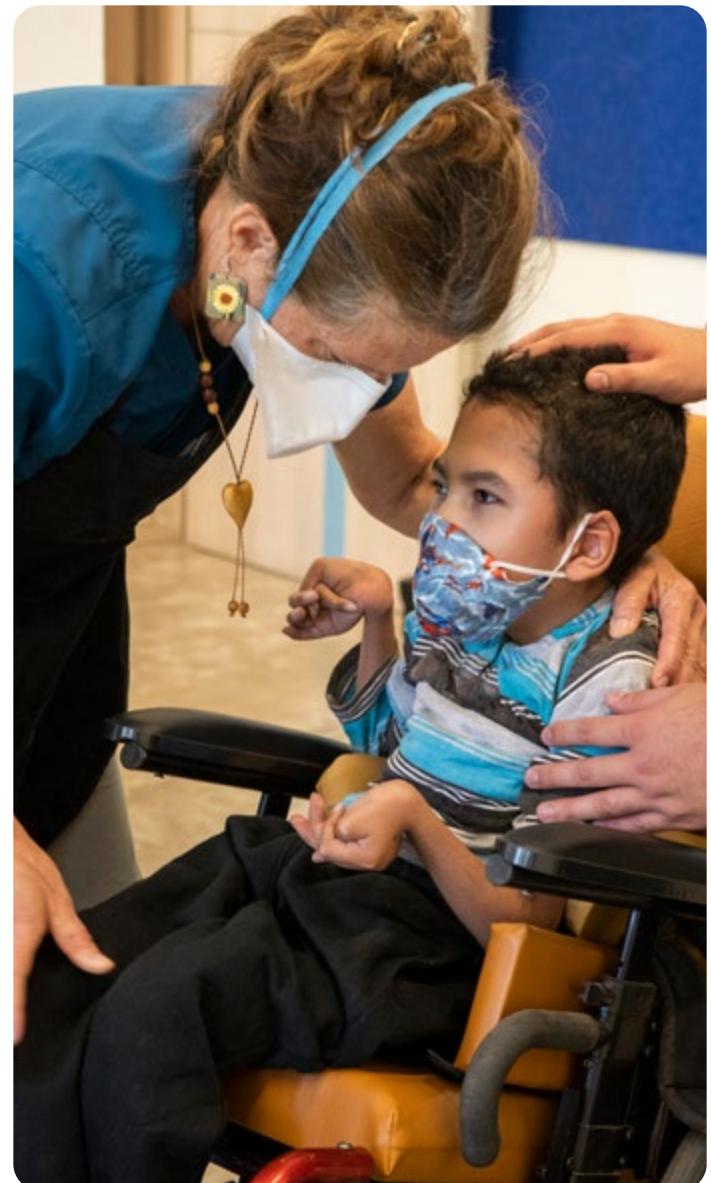
John Piper said it best, "The Gospel is not a way to get people to heaven; it is a way to get people to God. Life is too short, too precious, and too painful to waste on worldly bubbles that burst. Heaven is too great, hell is too horrible, and 'forever' is too long that we should putter around on the porch of eternity." Oh, friend, I'm not about to "putter around" in my wheelchair, so join me in pushing back the darkness and proclaiming the Good News. As Acts 13:47 says, "For this is what the Lord has commanded us...to bring salvation to the ends of the earth." So, let's get at it!



Advancing the Kingdom of Christ in Guatemala!

Your love sent wheelchairs and the Gospel to hundreds of families buckling under the strain of poverty and disability in Guatemala through our recent *Wheels for the World* trip. Children like 12-year-old Carlos got their very first wheelchair after waiting for over a decade for help and hope.

Carlos suffered from a very high fever as an infant that left him with severe intellectual disabilities and violent seizures that would literally throw him out of his seat, but now that he has a properly-fitted wheelchair complete with a safety harness, Carlos can start attending school and church. *Thank you for giving Carlos and his entire family new hope in the midst of their hardships!*



Christopher is 11 years old and has hydrocephalus and severe seizures. He was abandoned by both of his parents when he was born because of his disability and is unable to do anything for himself.

Christopher was adopted by a kind widow who has dedicated her life to his care. When he received his first wheelchair and she heard the life-changing Gospel of Jesus, she saw what the love of a father really looks like – in spirit and in truth! *Thank you for sharing the love of Christ with widows and orphans!*

Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress.

JAMES 1:27

God's Love is Never-Ending!



Dylan has spina bifida and was forced to crawl, roll or drag himself whenever he wanted to move from one place to another. Can you imagine living that way for over 12 years... feeling degraded and humiliated by such dire circumstances? No wonder Dylan beamed with pride once he was placed into his new seat of dignity at our *Wheels for the World* outreach in Guatemala! He is finally able to hold his head up high and experience life at eye-level instead of solely from the floor.

“The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy!

PSALM 126:3

Josue is also 12 years old. As a small boy, he experienced a head injury while running away from a dog. He required surgery, but complications resulted in an infection that eventually lead to meningitis – leaving Josue paralyzed. Now, because of the wheelchair you sent him, Josue will be able to go to school and become part of his community! You have given Josue and his family much to celebrate!



Teresa became paralyzed as a baby after she contracted meningitis. She also has severe autism, and although she's 22 years old, she received her very first wheelchair at our recent *Wheels for the World* outreach in Guatemala. She can hardly contain the joy in her heart, which is written all over her beautiful face! And Teresa's family is overjoyed, too, because they have experienced the love of Jesus in new and powerful ways!

Yet Teresa wasn't the only one who learned about Jesus during that outreach event. Because of your prayers and the Bibles you sent, 26 people accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior that day! There are now 26 new members in the body of Christ – 26 more hearts transformed by our Father's never-ending love!

The seeds of God's Word and truth were planted in the hearts of everyone in that tiny village that day, and the visible Gospel came to life right in front of their very eyes through the wheelchairs and Bibles you sent! *Thank you for letting the Lord use you to impact hundreds of families – in Guatemala and all over the world!*

“See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!

And that is what we are!

1 JOHN 3:1

Where Faith and Disability Come Together!

From Minnesota ▶

Scott and Laura have adopted six children with special needs that include cerebral palsy, intellectual disabilities and mental health issues. Their lives overflow with medical and therapy appointments, and while they need to be connected with many resources in their community to help manage their family's multiple challenges, they only found what was really missing through Joni and Friends. "Through Joni and Friends, we finally found a place where our faith and life with disability came together."

Scott explains, "Nowhere else could I find the two most important things in my life – my faith and being a family with disability – and merge them in such a powerful and amazing way. Even in 2020, when we couldn't meet in person, the staff and volunteers brought *Family Retreat at Home* to us. We had camp brought to our home for three days in a row! This speaks to the commitment and passion of those at Joni and Friends." Every member of Scott and Laura's family has been transformed through Joni and Friends Minnesota.

"We feel a freedom at *Family Retreat* that we find nowhere else. We feel very comfortable there, knowing that our children are loved, cared for, and valued. We don't have to be hyper-vigilant like we do everywhere else. It's a break and respite like no other. Our children have found total unconditional acceptance through Joni and Friends. They are valued and welcomed!"

"We are truly thankful to be a part of this ministry because of the message of hope. When the tough times have come, it has been good to know that our lives are holding on to the hope in Jesus both in this life and for eternity. What we get at Joni and Friends is truly a gift."

We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.

HEBREWS 6:19



Rachel and her buddy Krista found the hope of Jesus at *Family Retreat*.

Blessing the Whole Family!

From Missouri ▶

Bryan and Cheryl have two beautiful daughters Sonya and Sophia. Sophia has Down syndrome as well as a heart defect that has required four open heart surgeries.

The blessing Sophia is to her family doesn't discount the stress Bryan and Cheryl experience on a daily basis, but through *Family Retreat* and the marriage support group provided by Joni and Friends Missouri, Sophia's whole family gets closer to each other and closer still to Jesus.

"Through the marriage group, we're gaining the skills to make our marriage stronger," explains Cheryl. And Bryan shares, "Joni and Friends has been incredible for our whole family!"



Sophia and her buddy Dianna found the joy of Jesus at *Family Retreat*!

From Central California ▶

With her unique set of disabilities, Nicole is extremely "high risk" when it comes to COVID-19. She and her family were grateful when our Central California *Family Retreat* turned into *Family Retreat at Home*.

The very best part of each day for Nicole was spending time with all her *Family Retreat at Home* buddies. They always had something new in store for Nicole, like doing chalk art on her sidewalk, bringing her daily notes of encouragement, and even conducting a front porch concert! Nicole was overcome with the joy that these visits brought and told us that she absolutely treasured her buddies and her *Family Retreat at Home* experience. *Thank you for bringing the love of Jesus door to door!*



Nicole and her buddies enjoy sweet fellowship during *Family Retreat at Home*!

God's Love Knows No Boundaries!

From New England ▶

Joseph and Ana have three sons: Samuel, Daniel and 2-year-old David, who has Down syndrome. They were abundantly blessed by *Family Retreat* in Thailand, which is connected to Joni and Friends New England.

"We had never heard of anything like this," Ana shares. "Joni and Friends knew exactly what our family needed. We arrived at *Family Retreat* anxious and concerned about medical needs for David and received such a warm welcome. The many personal touches that first day made us more comfortable. We connected right away."

"We met other parents raising children with disability for the first time," Joseph explains. "One couple we met had an older son with Down syndrome. They have walked the same road that we are now on. Our God is amazing. I wanted to talk about David with them and learn from their experience. They understood like no one else."



From Pennsylvania ▶

Baile, who has cerebral palsy, received a wheelchair during our recent *Wheels for the World* event in China, which was facilitated by our Pennsylvania team. Though his mother explained that taking care of Baile's daily needs is exhausting, she was overwhelmed with gratitude by the gift of his wheelchair and said, "It is amazing that Baile can go to school now! His classmates will not leave him behind! Baile has dreams of moving around freely, and with this wheelchair he can do that!"

The sign he is holding proudly declares, "Finally, it's my turn to have a new life with a wheelchair!"



From North Carolina ▶

Yaneiri is 11 years old and has cerebral palsy. She also suffers from frequent seizures. Before coming to our *Wheels for the World* outreach in the Dominican Republic, Yaneiri was without a wheelchair. Her father needed to carry her anywhere she went.

Caring for Yaneiri is draining and demanding; she can never be left alone. And carrying her growing body was becoming a burden too heavy to bear.

But all that changed the day Yaneiri received her new wheelchair! Now she can go to school and to church, and her father no longer has to carry her everywhere they go. Their whole family experienced true life transformation that day, but their family wasn't the only one blessed by the *Wheels for the World* event lead by our Joni and Friends North Carolina team. Over 400 people heard the Gospel during that outreach, and 138 people accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior! *Thank you for showing the world the far-reaching love of Jesus!*



Yaneiri and her father were transformed by the love of Jesus!

There are lots of exciting events happening in your area, too!

In addition to *Family Retreats* and *Wheels for the World* outreaches, our field teams are offering Respite Events, Support Groups, Church Trainings and all sorts of Family Fun gatherings.

Visit joniandfriends.org/events today and find out how you can get involved!

It's Here!



JONI'S 2022 PLANNER

The distinctive style of Joni's art is matched by her inspirational Planner devotionals...
Be blessed. Be inspired!

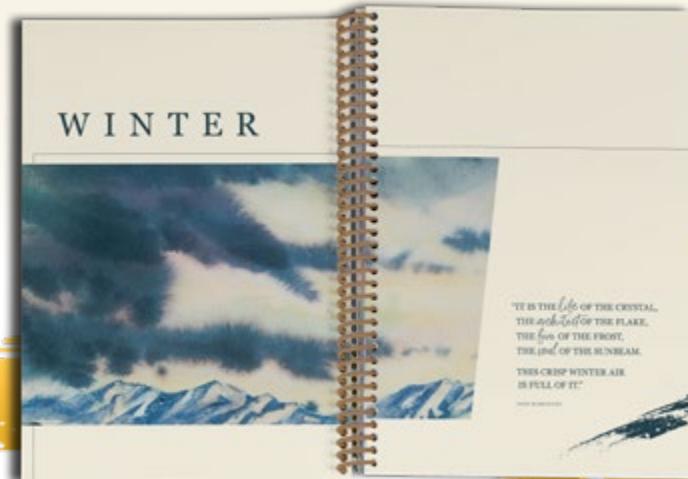
Available exclusively from Joni and Friends.



You will love these new monthly devotionals by Joni!



Stay God-focused as you plan out your days, weeks and year.



Be blessed by the Bible verses, inspiring messages and quotes from Joni all throughout the Planner.

Product Details:

- Size: 7" W x 9" H
- 12-month agenda planner
- Gold foil accents on cover
- Gold spiral binding
- Weekly layout begins on Sunday of each week

Additional details and ordering info on back cover



Honor a Loved One, Transform a Life

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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It's Here!

JONI'S 2022 PLANNER

Joni's beautiful 2022 Planner, designed from her *High Meadow* painting, provides generous space for jotting down your plans for the year. This 12-month agenda Planner will allow you to stay 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
- Gold spiral binding
- Weekly layout begins on Sunday of each week
- Two interior pocket pages
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