“Joni and Friends recognizes the unending weariness and isolating nature of caring for a loved one with disabilities. They also understand the tremendous comfort that comes from carrying one another’s burdens,” says Loren, here with his two-year-old son, Benjamin. Read their touching story inside!
Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

PSALM 90:12

With my disability, I need serious help. I lean on Ken to do many things, but he’s in his 70s now, and I do not want to wear him out. So, I’ve asked a few girlfriends to pitch in and assist with extra routines. One friend can only help sporadically, and another, only on Friday nights. Another girl can help Monday evenings, and a third, on every other Wednesday. Now, I love the fact that they are willing and available, but with a patchwork schedule like that, it could be a calendar nightmare.

But I don’t get anxious. As I age and things get crazier, my go-to Bible verse is Psalm 90:12: Teach me to number my days, oh Lord, that I may apply my heart to your wisdom. I hear God say, “Joni, take one day at a time, remain gracious, write everything down, and my Spirit will make it work.” And you know what? He does. Whether you’re a quadriplegic or on your feet, life works better doing things one day – and one detail – at a time.

My planner is constantly open on my bedroom dresser. It’s a tangible reminder to place in God’s hands the uncertain days ahead and to trust him with his plan for my life. When my girlfriends write their names on Mondays, Wednesdays, or whenever, I know they are part of God’s plan… serving not only me but serving the Lord Jesus. And as Colossians 3:24 says, rich will their reward be in heaven!

Today, if you need help organizing your days – better yet, if you need help numbering them and seeking God’s wisdom on ways you can serve – I invite you to use the same planner I do! Sure, I could default to the calendar on my smartphone, but I’m the type who likes to see a week or month at-a-glance. And my 2023 Joni Planner is full of favorite Scriptures, inspirational quotes, my artwork, and brand-new devotionals. Are things getting busier in your world? Today I’m asking God to teach you and me both to number our days and apply his wisdom to each gift of 24 hours!
"When you have a special needs child, their demands are so great that you’re consumed. It’s really tough, especially if there are behavioral issues,” explains Anna. She and her husband, Rajesh, are parents to 12-year-old Joshua, who has Asperger syndrome. “You just keep going and going and going… and the only people who understand are other special needs parents.”

At Joni and Friends, we understand the day-to-day struggles threatening to consume families living with disabilities. Parents and caregivers are desperate for a break from the unique and never-ending responsibilities facing them each day. It’s no wonder that a recent Joni and Friends study found that respite is their number one need!

That’s why we created Respite at Home, giving parents a few hours away from the relentlessness of disability while their children enjoy crafts, music, games, and exciting Bible activities with trained staff, volunteers, and college interns.

“Respite at Home is so pivotal for families to grow in their faith in humanity because it shows us that we won’t always be marginalized,” says Anna. “Respite is God saying, ‘I see you there. You are not alone. I have not forgotten you. I am sending someone to love you.’”

“Joshua has been very lonely. Having Tara and Taylor, our two Respite at Home interns, is an answer to prayer. Joshua looks forward to seeing them each week, and he’s becoming more confident,” Anna says.

“Joshua feels understood, and we feel like we matter – like somebody wants to understand us. I have a new outlook because of Respite at Home. It’s the greatest gift!” says Anna. “I love the interaction between the interns and Joshua. They’ve become like family to us.”

The respite opportunities Joni and Friends provides bless families living with disabilities while also training volunteers and whole churches in disability ministry. “Providing Respite at Home has changed my perspective of families with disabilities,” explains one of our volunteers.

“Parents of disabled children silently carry heavy burdens. Sometimes, they just need rest. They need someone to remind them to take up the yoke of Jesus Christ, embrace him, and let him carry their burdens. Respite at Home does this.” Thank you for sharing the love of Jesus with families living with disabilities through our many respite programs and events!

"Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

MATTHEW 11:29

While Rajesh and Anna enjoy uninterrupted time together as a couple, Joshua has a blast with our Respite at Home interns. “Tara and Taylor are the highlight of our week!” says Anna.

Scan here to see Respite at Home in action!
As the Senior Vice President of International Ministries and the Christian Institute on Disability at Joni and Friends, Reverend Steve Bundy understands families’ need for respite. As the father of Caleb, a young man with complex disabilities, Steve describes respite as a lifeline necessary for special needs families to survive.

Caleb is 23 years old and has muscular dystrophy, intellectual disabilities, and severe autism. “His complexities are such that he cannot be left alone due to his intense self-injurious behaviors. Caleb requires 24-hour care,” says Steve.

Steve and his wife, Melissa, face multiple struggles in providing care for Caleb. “It’s a real challenge finding and training caregivers. The desperation we – and all special needs families – feel when we don’t have people we can trust to lean upon for help leads to exhaustion upon exhaustion,” explains Steve. “The cycle of always giving to your loved one without being replenished leaves us running out of what little reserve we have physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Respite is such a critical ministry because it allows parents and siblings the opportunity to rejuvenate and refresh so they can continue serving their special needs family member.”

“A child with disabilities can become the crisis point in a family, and like any crisis, disability can become an all-consuming focus and the center of the family,” says Steve. “That’s why Joni and Friends programs like Halftime Respite and Respite at Home are so important. They provide families with a biblical balance, keeping Christ as the center of the family and keeping the focus on the sovereignty of God. This balance cannot be found by the special needs family alone… it takes the family of God.”

“Without the body of Christ coming alongside special needs families with respite and supplemental care, these families will wither and die on the vine,” shares Steve. “Joni and Friends offers a reservoir of respite care – the living water of Jesus and a refreshing drink to families who are quite honestly parched. Respite allows families to love their children and love them well because they themselves have been refreshed.”

Thank you for your faithful prayers and generous support of families struggling with disabilities. God is using the love poured out through Joni and Friends respite events to keep marriages and families together, all for his glory!

Steve, Melissa, Caleb, and Caleb’s brother, Jaron, have all been refreshed through respite!
**Joni’s New Life Art Print**

Joni’s beautiful painting, *New Life*, captures the symbolic beauty of the new life we have in Christ. Using ink and watercolor, Joni portrays a Monarch butterfly’s struggle to break free of its chrysalis, representing the hardships we as believers face as we become more like Christ. This print will serve as a lovely addition to your home or office and it makes a great gift, too!

11” x 14”

$24

---

**Joni’s 2023 Planner is here!**

Joni says, “I’m thrilled to showcase my painting *New Life* on the cover of this year’s Planner! Nothing in creation displays more beautifully the hope of resurrection than a butterfly. You’ll recognize that theme in all the quotes and verses I’ve selected!”

Joni’s beautiful 2023 Planner 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.

**Product Details:**
- Size: 7” x 9”
- Includes 2” x 8” plastic bookmark
- NIV Scripture text
- 12-month agenda planner
- Updated content for monthly and weekly sections
- Chronological Bible Reading Plan
- Gold spiral binding
- Weekly layout begins on Sunday of each week
- Interior 2 pocket pages
- Lay-flat design

$16
From Missouri

David and Heather enjoy every aspect of Joni and Friends with their children Sullivan, Abigail, and León. While each one of their children has a disability, Sullivan articulates the struggle facing children with special needs when he says, “Sometimes I just feel left out.”

As parents, David and Heather feel left out, too. “It’s hard to make friends with other couples and families when their children are doing things yours can’t. Even at church, people just don’t understand. It’s hard when your children aren’t accepted for who they are. Most of the time, we feel like we’re all alone. It’s heartbreaking.”

But through Joni and Friends, this entire family feels celebrated and accepted. “I’ve been able to make some great friends at Joni and Friends!” says Sullivan.

From New England

“The moment Kobe was diagnosed with autism, I felt so lost and unloved. I was processing his diagnosis and going through a divorce. I felt that I wasn’t capable of handling any of it. But God was never not in control, and he put people in my life to build me up,” says Jacqui. She found many of those people at Family Retreat.

At first the thought of going to Family Retreat seemed scary due to Kobe’s behaviors. What if he runs away, has a tantrum, or flops on the floor and refuses to get up? Jacqui learned quickly that Family Retreat is a safe place of belonging. When Jacqui gave Kobe his dinner, he slapped the dish out of her hand. Salad went flying, and the dish clanged on the floor.

Tears filled Jacqui’s eyes as she wondered how quickly she could pack the car… but then something wonderful happened. In the blink of an eye, four volunteers rushed to her side with smiles on their faces, cleaning up the mess and whisking Kobe away to find a cereal of his choice. Jacqui’s panic turned to peace. “I felt so close to Jesus. I was new in my walk with the Lord, but I felt his unconditional, clear love in the dirty, swampy, murkiness of my life. It was beautiful.”

Kobe and his mom experienced the unconditional love of Jesus at Family Retreat!

From Pennsylvania

“Our 2-year-old son, Benjamin, has complex cerebral palsy with a trach and a feeding tube,” explain Loren and Heidi. “At Family Retreat he was paired with a volunteer who observed us with him first – how to hold him, how to help calm his spastic muscles – and then she jumped right in giving him outstanding care all week as he participated in all the activities. She truly served with her hands and her heart.”

“Joni and Friends has helped each one in our family see past the devastation of our son’s disability to recognize the beauty that remains and to embrace God’s redemption of our story in his perfect way. When we looked out during dinners to see a group of people in wheelchairs, with prosthetic limbs, with feeding pumps and many other disabilities, we thought, ‘We are home!’”

Benjamin loved Family Retreat with his sisters Elyse (far left) and Mya (in the pink t-shirt) and their volunteer buddies Natalie, Kate, and Anna!

From Tennessee

Born in Guatemala without the use of his legs, Wilmer was abandoned by both of his parents. His grandparents have done their best to care for him, yet at twelve years old, he never had a wheelchair.

But when Joni and Friends Tennessee brought Wheels for the World to Guatemala, Wilmer received his first wheelchair, and he and his grandparents received the love of God, a new lease on life, and a new appreciation for God’s people.

Wilmer’s gift of mobility is life-changing, providing freedom for his grandparents to take him to church and go out in their community.

Wilmer and his grandparents heard the Gospel and received Bibles and Joni’s autobiography. Wheels for the World was a balm to their souls.
My vision has changed because of faithfulness through the trials friends who time by everyone around us. I had an instant bond with transformation families find at Retreat, Praise God, Mia also expresses the joy and true transformation found at Retreat, says Mia. “At Family Retreat, we all felt loved and accepted for the first time by everyone around us. I had an instant bond with other single moms who were walking a similar path as me, and we were inseparable all week. I made life-long friends who got my world.”

“My vision has changed because of Family Retreat. I no longer try to keep Miyante’s disability hidden. Now we go out into our community and share the love of God wherever we go. God used Joni and Friends to show me the special calling he placed on my life as Miyante’s mom, and the privilege I have in displaying his love and faithfulness through the trials of suffering.”

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

IN HONOR/ Given By

ADAM MILLER  
Casey Mullinix

AMANDA LEWIS  
Merry Lewis

ANN TIPPINS  
Nathan & Danielle Tippins

AUSTIN SMITH  
Ronald Vikunye

AVA CAVALLUZZI  
Kathleen Cavalluzzi

BECKY ELLIS  
George Dobhan

BEN & PATTY  
CUNNINGHAM

Lansford Foundation

CALEB BUNDY  
Glen & Esther Pearson

CALEB CHOW  
Esther Chow

CAROLYN MATHENY  
Scott & Linda Coleman

CECE MCCALL-MCCOO  
Frank McCall Jr.  Jasion McCall  Stacey Mims

CHERI HARNEY  
Rebecca Mohler

CHESTER GORE  
Elizabeth Gore

CLAIRE MCCAY  
Gabe & Angie McCay

COLETTE JOY BOWER  
Nancy Myers  Terry Myers

DAN & CHERYL PRICE  
Samuel Davis

DANIEL STRATMAN  
Kevin Meek

DARIA SITARCZYK  
Waldemar Winkler

DARLEEN (MUMSY)  
ARMSTRONG

Rachel Armstrong

DAVID DENCHING  
Michael Scheid

DESMOND MCCALL  
Coastline McCall-Mc Coco

DORIS (DEE DEE)  
RASMUSSEN

Thomas Rasmussen  Kim Rasmussen

EVA SHARON LUNCHIES  
David & Arleen Dyrd

GEORGE FREEBORN  
Ingrid Freeborn

GREG MOORE  
Margie Stiremore

HARRY TITUS  
Deborah Wachsmuth

JENNY SOUTHWORTH  
Angie Marcy

JEREMIAH NELSON  
Dianne Rosenose

JOHN BROOKS  
William Brooks

JONATHAN DUNCAN  
Kathryn Eiff

JOSH HAMES  
Gary & Connie Hames

JOSIANNE STONE  
Deborah Forte

JOYCE CALLECOD  
Gary & Marcella Sawall

JUSTIN HOWARD  
Katie Howard

KAREN NAESE  
Danae Schwatk

KYLE POLHEMUS  
Felix Lutana

LAURA SCHIPPER  
Amy Schipper

LAURE HERLINGER  
Emily Rivera

MAE SEIBERT  
Cheryl Bensol

MASON HUTCHESON  
Reva Hash

MEGAN  
Mark & Betty Hutchins

NORIE SYKES  
Louis Morris

OLLIVE EHOFF  
Milton Ehoff

RACHEL WALTERS  
Mark & Virginia Albert

RANDOLPH LEBLANC  
Charlotte LeBlanc

RICHARD PFISTER  
Cilla Pfister

RILEY ABATE  
Robert & Maria Emanuel

ROSALTA SERRALTA  
Lee Melven

OLIVIA Reger  
Tiaa Reger

PATTY TERRY  
Rebecca Duval

SHAWN KOONCE  
Vivian Shadde

SUSAN Wilson  
Julia Martin

VAIO & ANGELO PONE  
Rahel Myer

YOLANDA BERN  
Anthony Berg

YOUNG PEOPLE’S THEATER PRODUCTION  
Mike & Amy Souleurette

ZACHARY PETTERSON  
Tara Rosenbloom

IN MEMORY/ Given By

ABBY HULL  
Alice Essex

ABIGAIL GARCIA  
Jose Garcia

ADAM WALDIE  
Peggy Brown

Virginia Smith

ALYSSA SEMINARA  
Marjorie Martin

ALYSSA TURNER  
Rahman Kaufman

ANDREW SEAGO  
Patrick Harmon

ANDY HESTER  
David Hester

ARTHUR SNYDER  
Pauline Snyder

ASHLEY BENNETT  
Dena Dillabattista

AVA MINTER  
Rachel Smith

BETH SQUIRES  
Jeff & Mildred Seversekie

BETTY OEHLER  
Sharlene Dunlap

BETTY PRESTON  
Ann Shackleford

BEVERLY BRUNT  
Callie DeDore

BILL & IRENE MEREDITH  
William Reynolds

BILL COWAN  
Mary Cowan

BOB BAYNES  
Joanne Sano

BOBBI LARSON  
Layne Timmerman

Continued on next page
JOYCE BRYAN  
Averitte Family  
Betrott Family  
O’Sheen Family  
JUSTIN  
Kevin Hung  
KATHY MCWHERTER  
David Vasquez  
KATIE NELMS  
Judith Shannah  
KAY CHAFFIN  
Noelle Chaffin  
KELLY EICK  
Gayle Heinrich  
KENNA HAHN  
Dana Gunnell  
KOSTAS BEGAKIS  
George Begakis  
LEENA MATHEWS  
Sam Mitchum  
LEONARD SYPES  
Teressa Johnson  
LEVI  
Kevin Hung  
LINDA CLARK  
James Morrissey  
Jennifer Evans  
LLOYD ELLIS  
Thomas & Carol Ellis  
LOUIS VASQUEZ III  
Campolito  
LUCA MCDUFF  
David Davis  
JOE PEWITT  
Anu Wu  
JERRY BERTUCCIO  
Kari Bertuccio  
JESSE CHARLES  
Anne & Artie Horsham  
Anil Yoder  
RACHEL BROUGH  
Kelly Morehart  
MARTIN LLEWELLYN  
Eva Begakis  
MARY DEICHELLER  
Marsha Deicreller  
MARY ELLIOTT  
David Vasquez  
MARY HARNER  
Norma Sloboe  
MARY REICHARDT  
Donna Sloboe  
JESSE CHARLES  
Anne & Artie Horsham  
Arif Yoder  
KEVIN HUNG  
LEONA MCDUFF

 aspects of this publication, in writing from Joni and Friends, a not-for-profit organization accelerating Christian ministry in the disabi
START YOUR NEW YEAR WITH

Joni’s New Life Planner & Art Print!

2023 Joni Planner
Product Details:
• Size: 7” x 9”
• Includes 2” x 8” plastic bookmark
• NIV Scripture text
• 12-month agenda planner
• Updated content for monthly and weekly sections
• Chronological Bible Reading Plan
• Gold spiral binding
• Weekly layout begins on Sunday of each week
• Interior 2 pocket pages
• Lay-flat design

$16

New Life Art Print

Joni’s beautiful painting, New Life, captures the symbolic beauty of the new life we have in Christ. Using ink and watercolor, Joni portrays a Monarch butterfly’s struggle to break free of its chrysalis, representing the hardships we as believers face as we become more like Christ.

This print will serve as a lovely addition to your home or office and it makes a great gift, too!

11” x 14”

$24

100% of all proceeds go directly to support disability ministry!

TO ORDER:
• Mail order form
• Call toll-free: 800.736.4177
• Online: joniandfriends.org/store
• Phone: Text ORDER to 818.707.5664