

Joy, Hope, & Jesus' Love

YOU send all three!

Andy, who was born without arms, overflows with joy at *International Family Retreat* in El Salvador!

Read Andy's story inside
on pages 4-5



from^{the} heart



I'm the kind of person who *loves* goals – when goals are met, it tells me we are making great progress! Four years ago, I asked you to join me in reaching an exciting goal for *Wheels for the World* called **Hope Overflowing 100,000 by 2020**. Before that, you delivered over 100,000 wheelchairs and Bibles worldwide, changing countless lives by the power of the Gospel. And now? Our goal is to deliver another 100,000 wheelchairs and Bibles by 2020. And praise God, we're on track to meet that goal by next year!

Back in 2014, five-year-old Ebenezer, who lives in Ghana, West Africa, was the recipient of the 100,000th wheelchair. That special moment marked a milestone for what God would do through *you* to bring “hope overflowing” to thousands *more* disabled children and adults who desperately need Jesus. *Next year, we're trusting God that we can deliver over 200,000 wheelchairs in total because of your faithfulness—praise God for the kingdom work He is doing through you!* (Perhaps the happy recipient of that 200,000th wheelchair will be a child just like little Samuel from Cuba, pictured here with my husband Ken).

Disabled children like Ebenezer and Samuel need to experience firsthand the compassion and goodness of our Jesus. Their families need to see that the God of the Bible is good to them, and that He is worthy of their trust. Through your faithful prayers and financial support, *you* are proving, with each wheelchair and Bible given, that yes, *God is good and deserves our trust, no matter how difficult life is!*

The Lord is using you to alleviate the suffering of children with disabilities worldwide. He works through you to demonstrate His compassion on those who have been *forgotten*. He needs *our* hands, as well as *your* help and prayers to show Psalm 145:9 at work. So, on behalf of the people we serve together, let's meet our goal for 2020... let's continue this Kingdom work for future generations to come!

“The Lord is good to all;
He has compassion on all
He has made.”

Psalm 145:9

Donate Your Birthday!

“This year marks a big milestone for me. I am turning 70—I can hardly believe it! With every year, I work harder to reach more people with disabilities for Jesus. So, this year, **I'm looking for 70 friends, or better yet 700 friends, to donate \$70 dollars each to Joni and Friends to serve more people living with disabilities worldwide!**” - Joni

Want to join the celebration?

joniandfriends.org/birthday

Send the love of Jesus around the world!



Declare the Gospel & show Jesus' Love!

HOPE
OVERFLOWING
ROMANS 15:13
100,000 by 2020



Five-year-old Ebenezer was the recipient of Joni and Friends' 100,000th wheelchair at a *Wheels for the World* outreach in Ghana in 2014.

The need for wheelchairs worldwide remains great. But right now, in developing nations all around the world, the lives of disabled children and adults are being transformed because of you. Thank you for sending wheelchairs and the Gospel through our *Wheels for the World* program.

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 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. Join us in this bold, God-inspired, vision! Thank you for standing strong and remaining faithful with your generosity and prayers!

Four Ways You Can Get Involved



Donate



Volunteer



Fundraise



Advocate

joniandfriends.org/100kby2020

Thank You for *Loving the 'Least of These!'*

International Family Retreat



Meet Andy, who was born with no arms, and recently came with his parents to *International Family Retreat!* Because of your financial generosity and steadfast prayers for families living with disability, Andy and his family experienced the joy, hope, and love of Jesus at *International Family Retreat!* Their lives will never be the same and you've renewed their faith! Thank you for answering the call and loving the 'least of these!'

“And the King will say, ‘I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the *least of these* my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to Me!’”

Matthew 25:40

The responsibilities of caring for a child with a disability never end. Often, these moms and dads feel there is simply no relief in sight... they are at an utter loss as to where to find someone they can relate to, someone outside their own family.

Families dealing with a disability desperately need a place where they can let down their guard and breathe in God's renewing presence. And it's exactly what happened to the Flores family, Wilfredo, Angela, and their son, Andy, at *International Family Retreat* in El Salvador!

Eight-year-old Andy was born without arms. Parents Wilfredo and Angela initially were heartbroken for their son because the ultrasounds did not show any disability. As Andy grew, he started occupational, physical, and psychological therapy to live as normal of a life as possible.

The Flores family were invited to come to *International Family Retreat* for the first time, not knowing what to expect or if their family would be accepted. Angela told us, “*International Family Retreat* is incredible. Our family never imagined we could come to a place like this and forget all the daily struggles and pain that come with disability and instead find families just like us who understand disability. *Family Retreat* is necessary for families like us!”

Families like the Flores need you! They need your prayers and God-given generosity for scholarships to attend *International Family Retreat* so that Jesus can reach into their hearts and change their lives!

“We love our son and we know he's a gift from God. But at *International Family Retreat*, we learned to value Andy more along with other children and their families who are impacted by disability. This *Retreat* helped us grow spiritually,” Wilfredo and Angela said.

Many families who come to *International Family Retreat* are at their breaking point – financially, emotionally, and spiritually. *Family Retreat* is a life saver for them! Wilfredo and Angela added, “We want to thank everyone for the life-changing, spiritual, and emotional encouragement that they've given our family!”



Andy learns about the love of Jesus during activity time. His volunteer Short-Term-Missionary (STM), David, lends his hands (Andy was born without arms), as they both create lasting memories together!



At *International Family Retreat*, anything is possible! Thank you for strengthening families through your steadfast prayer and support. You've given kids like Andy much to smile about!

Mother and Daughter

Celebrate Your Faithfulness!



Every time you step out of your comfort zone to serve people dealing with disability, God uses your faithfulness to transform lives! It happened recently when God used your prayers and gifts in El Salvador at our *Wheels for the World* outreach!

When Blanca was born nine years ago, Selena's husband left the family. She was left all alone to care for her daughter. Selena was scared and filled with fear. *Who will help me take care of my disabled daughter? How will I provide for her needs?* Born with a Chiari malformation in her brain (spina bifida), Blanca is also blind and attends a physical therapy school, but she desperately needed a wheelchair of her own...

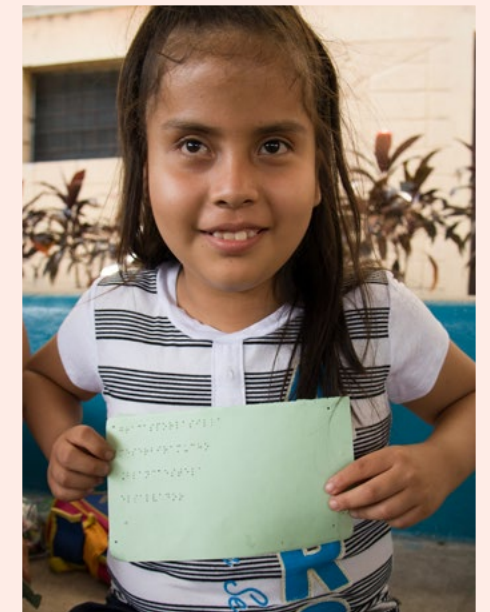
That's when your faithfulness came in! That afternoon, Selena watched as our team of volunteer physical therapists and mechanics tenderly and perfectly fit Blanca into her very own wheelchair. A Bible was given to Selena and Blanca in their language and the Gospel was shared by a local pastor. "Thank you for this wheelchair that you've given my daughter. It will be a huge help to us!" Selena shared.



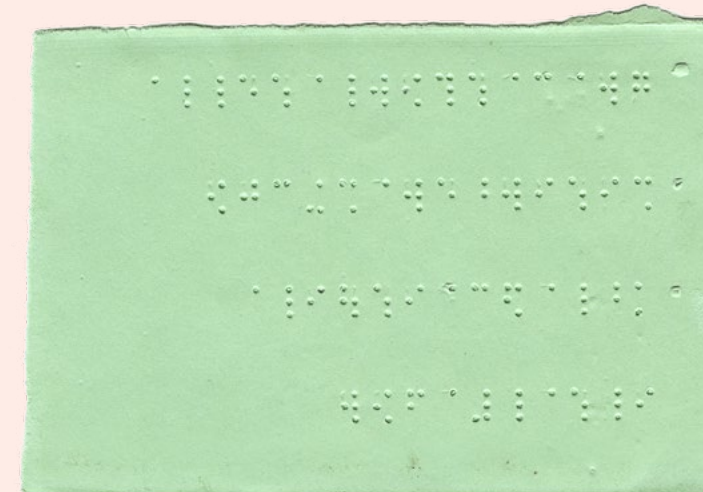
Because of you, Blanca received the greatest gifts at our *Wheels for the World* outreach! A wheelchair, Bible, and the Gospel shared by a local pastor. God is using you to transform lives for His Kingdom ministry work!

9-year-old Blanca from El Salvador is blind and has a Chiari malformation in her brain (spina bifida). This young girl needed a miracle. Blanca desperately needed a wheelchair that her single mother could never afford for her...

A Blind Girl's Personal Message in Braille to You!



Overflowing with gratitude for your faithful prayers and gifts, Blanca writes a personal message in Braille for you!



"Thank you for the wheelchair.

It will be very helpful for me.

Blanca Estela

El Salvador"

"We should help others...and build them up in the Lord."

Romans 15:2

LEAVE YOUR LEGACY

Through the Joni and Friends Planned Giving Program

Have you thought about putting Joni and Friends in your Will or Living Trust?

Founded in 2014, the *Joni and Friends Foundation* was created for the sole purpose of accepting and managing complex assets for Joni and Friends. The *Joni and Friends Foundation* provides a secure and easy structure for us to receive gifts such as privately held stock, real estate, and other assets. This means that today, you can now make a gift of retirement funds, insurance policies, or privately held stock.

You can learn more about these programs by ordering your FREE Giving Through Your Will Planning Kit. This kit will provide valuable answers to help you decide how you can leave a legacy gift to Joni and Friends. You can order your FREE kit today by:

- calling **Degna Horton** our Planned Giving Officer, at **818.575.1762**
- visit joniandfriends.org/plannedgiving and request your FREE kit.



Change a Life Every Month as a *Faithful Friend!*

Your prayers and monthly gifts send practical help and the hope and love of Jesus to children, adults, and their families dealing with disability worldwide!

Join our *Faithful Friends* monthly giving program and change lives for eternity!

2 Easy Ways to Join:

Visit joniandfriends.org/monthly-giving

Call **818.707.5664**



Thank You, Donors!

Thank you...

- for giving generously and sending wheelchairs to children with disabilities worldwide!
- for sharing the Gospel through word and deed that brings hope and eternal life with Jesus!
- for faithfully being the hands and feet of Jesus, and offering your time and prayers to reach people who might never have heard that they are fearfully and wonderfully made!

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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Devotional by Joni & a Journal to Write Down Your Daily Reflections

Beside Bethesda: 31 Days Toward Deeper Healing

By Joni Eareckson Tada

“This 31-day devotional covers the many questions I had about healing when I was first injured,” says Joni. “During those long ago days, I would imagine myself in John 5:2-9, sitting by the Pool of Bethesda with the other disabled people, waiting to be healed. Over the years, I discovered a much deeper healing than walking or using my hands. I found I could enjoy more freedom through ‘inside’ healing than anything I could experience on my feet.”

In this devotional, Joni writes about contentment, unanswered prayer, transformation through suffering and hoping in God. As Joni shares her own experiences along with profound biblical insights, you will discover the deep inside healing God has for you.

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“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him...” Romans 15:13

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