

WHEELS FOR THE WORLD

In many developing nations, having a disability translates into a life of isolation as many are virtually trapped inside their homes, without the resources to be mobile. Joni and Friends International Disability Center *Wheels for the World* wheelchair distributions tells the biblical truth about disabilities while offering practical help by providing wheelchairs and subsequently, mobility for the disabled.

With the cost of a wheelchair often exceeding a full year's wages, a wheelchair is simply not within reach for most people with a disability. The gift of a wheelchair, delivered with the Word of God, literally transforms the life of the person with a disability, as well as the lives of their families. *Wheels for the World* brings hope and the message of salvation through Christ to individuals and families – hope that radiates out to impact entire neighborhoods and villages.

In 2009 there were 18 *Wheels for the World* Outreaches in 14 different countries. Over 7,000 wheelchairs were donated, changing the lives of those disabled recipients and their families. To date, Joni and Friends has delivered over 57,000 wheelchairs to 105 countries.

Joni and Friends believes a person with a disability is a treasure and a gift from God. The love of Jesus Christ, delivered through the *Wheels for the World* program, is making a difference across the globe. *Wheels for the World* is not about dropping off wheelchairs. It's about changing the hearts and minds of people. Not only does Joni and Friends fit each wheelchair to the individual's size, shape and disability, but they ensure the wheelchairs are in good condition to last in whatever rugged terrain might be encountered. This personal care and attention – showing those with disabilities that they are loved – is what opens their hearts to the acceptance of God's love as the Joni and Friends volunteers share the Gospel message with the wheelchair recipients.



These wheelchair outreaches are transforming societies, village by village. Babies are being rescued; children, teenagers and adults are given a new life through the gift of a wheelchair and a Bible in their native language. The wheelchair offers mobility, but the saving message of the Gospel has an impact that is eternal.

Joni and Friends adopts each country on a permanent basis, which is fundamental to the lasting presence and impact of the outreach. Committed to the long term physical and spiritual lives of the wheelchair recipients and their families, Joni and Friends cultivates strategic in-country partnerships with local churches, mission organizations and Joni and Friends international partners.

Churches in the U.S. are also impacted as they provide Short Term Missionaries whose lives are changed forever by the experience of delivering wheelchairs and sharing God's love with the recipients. In addition, Joni and Friends serves prison inmates through *Wheels for the World*, partnering with 18 state and federal prisons whose inmates help to restore and refurbish used wheelchairs for new recipients. These inmates' lives are also restored as they realize what an important gift they are helping to provide, being used by God to accomplish something so meaningful and significant for someone else in need.