

SHARING *Hope* THROUGH HARDSHIP

May **Match**
Ministry Multiplied



Jacob's life has been forever changed through your love! And you can change the lives of other children with disabilities through our Matching Gift Opportunity today!

May Match

Ministry Multiplied

This month, your gift to Joni and Friends will send twice the ministry and two times the blessings to people living with disability!



Seven-year-old Jacob wiggled with excitement in his mother's arms as we measured him for his very first wheelchair!

Our *Wheels for the World* team met Jacob and his parents, Julius and Katrina, during our outreach in Manila, Philippines. Doctors declared Jacob dead at birth, but his mother believed in miracles, and she begged God to give her baby life. “There was no breath in him at all,” explains Katrina. “I cried out to the Lord, and ten minutes after he was born, Jacob took his first breath.” No wonder Julius and Katrina call Jacob their “Miracle Boy!”

Jacob is now alive and well, bringing great joy to his parents and all who meet him. Still, the traumatic events surrounding his birth have left him severely disabled. He has athetoid cerebral palsy and his symptoms include abrupt, involuntary movements, tremors, and unsteadiness. His parents wanted Jacob to go to school, but once they brought him, he would just lie on the floor in the classroom. Jacob was in desperate need of a wheelchair.

Your love and ministry partnership gave Jacob a brand-new pediatric wheelchair. And not just any pediatric wheelchair: the new, highly specialized Cub wheelchair, which made its Joni and Friends debut during our *Wheels for the World* distribution in the Philippines.

In countries like the Philippines, families often don't have the luxury of utilizing accessible vans, so traditional pediatric wheelchairs are extremely difficult to transport. That's why the

Cub wheelchair was designed to come apart easily so it can be loaded and transported with minimal effort. And in Manila, where motorized tricycles are a common mode of transportation, the Cub chair is definitely seen as a God-send!

“Not only is the Cub chair incredibly versatile and easy to tailor to the individual needs of its recipient,” explains David, our *Wheels for the World* team member. “But it folds up and breaks down quickly and efficiently so it can be positioned on the back of a tricycle, carried up and down stairs, and fit through doorways without problems. It only took Julius a few minutes to learn how to adjust Jacob's new Cub chair.” Both Julius and Katrina beamed with joy as they saw their sweet Miracle Boy placed in his new seat of dignity and mobility.

Julius and Katrina had been waiting for seven years for a wheelchair for Jacob. And today, because of your love wrapped in the Gospel, Jacob received a chair that perfectly fits his needs! No longer will he have to lay on the floor at school. “Now Jacob can fully participate in school,” says our *Wheels for the World* occupational therapist, Jillian. “The table on his Cub chair makes it possible for Jacob to draw, play with toys, and learn to write. His new Cub chair allows Jacob to be as independent as possible. And this wheelchair will grow with Jacob!”



Our *Wheels for the World*™ therapists and mechanics make sure that Jacob—and every wheelchair recipient—is comfortably and expertly fitted into their new wheelchair.



Julius, Katrina, and Jacob have witnessed the powerful love of Jesus through you! Thank you for sending hope and help to children and families struggling with disability through our Matching Gift Opportunity today! (Turn the page for more details about our May Match!)

Yes, Jesus *Loves Them*

Jacob wasn't the only child blessed with a brand-new wheelchair during our *Wheels for the World* outreach in the Philippines. Prence was also lovingly fit into a wheelchair that was designed to meet her individual needs.

Although she is seventeen years old, Prence remains the size of a toddler. She is very thin and doesn't appear to have much muscle on her bones at all. Her parents don't know her diagnosis, but our therapists believe she may have cerebral palsy and scoliosis, among other disabilities.

"I have never seen someone whose body was contorted in every which way like hers," confesses

Evalerie, one of our *Wheels for the World* team members. "My heart just broke when I met Prence, and I wondered if we could help her... Would she even be able to sit in a wheelchair?"

As tender as our therapists were during Prence's wheelchair fitting, she whimpered and started to cry as our team gently massaged her stiff joints enough to fit her properly in her own pediatric Cub chair. "I started to sing to Prence and softly stroked her face," says Evalerie.

Jesus loves you this I know, for the Bible tells me so. Little ones to him belong; they are weak but he is strong...



Prence quickly became comfortable in her new Cub wheelchair, which was custom-fit just for her!

And as Prence listened to this age-old lullaby about Jesus, her whimpers stopped.

God knows Prence by name, and he loves her deeply—just as he loves all of the other children we served at that *Wheels for the World* outreach. Thank you for sharing the love of Jesus with Prence that day, and for sending her a brand-new pediatric wheelchair. That innovative Cub chair has changed Prence's life. Meeting her individual needs, it's helped her see the world in a whole new way, and it's allowed the world to see her as a dearly loved child of God.

Today, through our May Match Opportunity, you can send even more families the Gospel and

tangible help that shares this wonderful truth: "Our God still performs miracles!" He did it for Prence, and he can do it for the thousands of other disabled children and adults crying out to him in need. Let Jesus use your act of faithfulness to bring the love of Christ to families struggling under the strain of disability and poverty all over the world. Through the kingdom work of Joni and Friends and our May Match Opportunity, every gift given will be matched dollar for dollar so that \$50 becomes \$100, and \$100 becomes \$200! Your gift will be doubled, and your ministry reach will be multiplied exponentially!



Your love and generosity have given Prence and her parents new hope for the future!

A Cub Chair for *Chloe*

Chloe is eleven years old and has cerebral palsy. She arrived at our wheelchair distribution site in an old wheelchair that she received when she was five. It was worn down and way too small for Chloe's long legs and growing stature. As outgrown and uncomfortable as her old wheelchair was, Chloe's parents simply could not afford to buy her a new one. They had hopes of sending Chloe to school but didn't think that was possible in her broken-down wheelchair.

Praise God for putting his power on display among the people in Chloe's life! We were able to fit Chloe in her very own Cub chair, giving her and her family countless reasons to smile! Her new pediatric Cub wheelchair adapts to Chloe's needs today and it will grow with her in the future!

Ministry is being multiplied in the Philippines and all over the world, and it can happen for thousands of other families, too, through your generosity and faithfulness today!

The need is greater than ever. Other children like Chloe and their families need a miracle, and right when we need it most, some dear friends who love families struggling with disability have offered to match every dollar you give to Joni and Friends this month. By God's power and his bountiful provision through this May Match Opportunity, you can raise a total of one million dollars and send practical help and Gospel hope worldwide. *Thank you for intervening on behalf of medically fragile and disabled children all around the world!*

Chloe's mother is able to take her Cub wheelchair apart and fold it up easily so it can be transported on a motorized tricycle.

Chloe and her mother know that Jesus still does miracles today! Your love and faithfulness sent them this wheelchair wrapped in the Gospel!



“You are the God who performs miracles; you display your power among the peoples.”

PSALM 77:14

Children with Disabilities Need Jesus *And They Need You!*



Now is the time, more than ever before, to reach out to the world's neediest population—children and families suffering under the strain of disability and poverty—and send them lasting hope. In the midst of their unimaginable hardships, they need to know that God still performs miracles. So often he does so through the prayers and generosity of faithful friends *like you!*

You and I know what their most important need is... the only real hope that will carry children and adults living with disability into eternity... they need Jesus! That's why the Gospel is at the heart of everything we do. *And this is what you're giving to and supporting every time you donate to Joni and Friends.*

Today, as you defend the rights of the poor and needy through your prayers and gifts, every dollar given will be matched, up to \$500,000 during our May Match Opportunity! That means with your faithful support, we can raise \$1,000,000 for the eternal work of

the kingdom and multiply ministry beyond our wildest dreams—displaying God's power amongst the nations!

You have my joyful promise that your gift today will introduce thousands of struggling families to Jesus through *all* the ministry programs at Joni and Friends with this Matching Gift Opportunity. Because we cannot reach more people living with disabilities alone. We need *you* to step out in faith and stand in the gap with us today!

Let disabled children and adults know that they have not been forgotten and that the Lord still does miracles today! *And God bless you for being our prayer warriors, our faithful givers, and our ministry partners in times such as these.*

For those who desperately need Jesus,