

SHARING *Hope* THROUGH HARDSHIP



Spreading God's Word!

Thank you for sending the Good News of Jesus to people struggling with disability worldwide!

from the heart

“This is what the Sovereign Lord, the Holy One of Israel, says: ‘In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength...’”

ISAIAH 30:15

Years ago, when Ken and I went camping in the Sierra Mountains, we got up early one morning to go fishing. I sat on the edge of the lake and enjoyed watching my husband through the dawning mist as he lapped the water with his oars, looking for just the right fishing spot. With hazy, gray mountains in the distance, the idyllic, peaceful scene set my heart and imagination aglow.

We’ve all had those moments, haven’t we? A timeless flash of beauty, a breathtaking scene that you’d give anything to keep forever...

That time I sat by the edge of the water, watching Ken fish from his boat... It inspired me to paint the scene as best I could when I got home—to reflect both my love for my husband and for the Lord Jesus. After all, it is Jesus in Whom all things were created—from good, faithful men like Ken Tada to pristine lakes in the High Sierras!

As I painted, I turned to Isaiah 30:15, a verse that summons serenity: “This is what the Sovereign Lord says: ‘Only

in returning to me and resting in me will you be saved. In quietness and confidence is your strength.’”

Rest, quiet, confidence, and strength? This verse filled me with inspiration and reminded me of *those* moments—the precious beats when your soul stops, opens up, and brightens at the glimpse of eternal glory tucked into a mountain vista, a stirring symphony, or a loved one’s gentle smile.

So, as I sat at my art easel at home, I knew I had to capture the peace-filled moment by the lake. To begin, I soaked a piece of watercolor paper overnight, which would help give a dreamy, misty look. Then, using watery, thin paint, I splattered droplets onto the damp paper, and it did exactly what I had hoped!

After the paint dried, I inked in the man fishing from his boat. But when I wheeled back to take it all in, he looked a little lonely to me. So... I put a companion, a dog in his boat. Bingo! That man isn’t lonely anymore. And perhaps he knows his wife is right there on the shore, enjoying the peaceful view!



All in all, I think the entire scene, which I titled “Fishing on the Lake,” helps re-create that misty mountain morning with Ken far offshore in the mist. In our fast-paced world, look for God-sent moments of peace... rest, quiet, confidence, and strength. And, of course, love! And Friend, please take a moment today, wherever you are, to slow down, open your soul, and drink in the peace and love of Jesus!

Joni Eareckson Tada

P.S. My “Fishing on the Lake” watercolor is now available as an inspiring art print... and as a gorgeous silk scarf! I love wearing mine as a reminder that God’s transcendent peace is with me wherever I go—and I hope you will, too!



Miracles

at Joni's House® Guatemala!



The day Memita was born, doctors told her mother, Debbie, to prepare for her baby girl's funeral. She was lifeless and breathless—stillborn. Miraculously, doctors revived Memita, but the effects of her traumatic birth left their mark.

Debbie remembers a doctor advising her to take her daughter home to “enjoy her for six months.” Memita wasn't expected to survive her first year. But God had different plans for Memita, who has cerebral palsy and microcephaly. For fifteen years now, Memita has enjoyed a life full of love.

When Debbie's husband passed away, she faced a new level of difficulty, doing all she could to care for Memita and her older sister, Marjorie. With limited resources, Debbie has poured out her love, energy, and prayers to help her girls thrive. But finding resources to support Memita and provide for her future felt impossible.

“I always asked God for a school for Memita,” Debbie says.

Because their public school system is not equipped to welcome students with disabilities, Debbie felt unsafe sending Memita to school.

And with little-to-no support, Debbie fended for her family alone, battling a despairing cycle of disability and poverty. Their story is shared by many disabled people in Guatemala.

Guatemala always ranks at the bottom in world statistics as far as literacy and nutrition, with a large percentage of people living in poverty. And one of the reasons for that is that many people cannot obtain an education. Disabled people don't have the tools to break the cycle of poverty that has been in their families for generations.

Friend, through your prayers and support, Joni and Friends is filling a strategic gap, providing holistic care to disabled people in Guatemala. Thank you for making it possible for Joni's House to meet these urgent needs in the name of Jesus!

Joni's House offers what children with disabilities in Guatemala rarely receive: education, medical care, physical therapy, and healthy nutrition. We address every need... physical, social, economic, and, of course, spiritual.

Joni's House Crossroads School... an Answer to Prayer!

For years Debbie taught Memita at home and prayed for a school where her daughter could grow and thrive—for teachers who would be kind and patient, and a place where Memita could experience dignity, community, and hope. Then Debbie learned about our *Joni's House* Crossroads School, which she calls “a prayer fulfilled!”

Through *Joni's House* programs, Memita receives physical therapy, nutrition support, medical help, and Christ-centered education. Most of all, she is treated with love. “They taught her to dress herself,” Debbie says. “They teach her very well... They have helped her with food. And they help with the doctors, too.”

Little by little, Memita has gained confidence and skills that have amazed her mom. “I

didn't know that Memita could do many of the things she does,” Debbie says. “I thought she wouldn't be able to write or read... but now I see that she can!”

In every aspect of our *Joni's House* school, Jesus Christ remains the center. **Each day begins with God's Word!** “I like that they do devotions there, that they can talk about God at all times,” Debbie says. And for Memita, her classmates became more than peers.

“My classmates are family,” Memita says. “You can really feel God's presence, and it is beautiful.”

Today, Memita loves to share the joy of Christ, especially through leading worship! And when she marked her 15th birthday, which doctors never imagined she would reach, her community from church and *Joni's House* held a festive celebration to commemorate her miracle milestone.



And now, Debbie has a message for you... “I want to say thank you! Thank you for making us moms believe that there is hope for our children. Thank you, *Joni's House*, for giving love to our children. Thank you for giving them hope, joy, and an education. You give them love, and you teach them about God. **Thank you very much for everything you do for us, and may God multiply all that you do.**”



“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

MATTHEW 28:19–20

You Delivered *Gospel Hope* to Javier in Guatemala

Hunger pangs were the least of Javier's suffering—nothing compared to the aching grief and loneliness pressing in, hour after hour, day after day. When Javier's mother died more than ten years ago, he lost his primary caregiver and his closest relationship.

Living with severe disabilities, including spina bifida, Javier spent most of his time alone in bed. Even after someone came to transfer him to his wheelchair, stairs separated Javier's room from other areas of his community housing, leaving him stuck for days at a time, until a family member came to check on him.

"When my mother died, I was unwell for ten years," Javier says. "When she was gone, there was no one to support me."

Today, Javier wakes up with light in his eyes because he knows he is not alone. Through your prayers and support, each weekday, a member of our *Joni's House Guatemala* team makes the trek to Javier's neighborhood on the outskirts of town to bring him to our *Joni's House Crossroads School*.

For Javier, *Joni's House* is more than a place to get an education. For him, it's home—a safe place to grow physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Because Javier and other students don't get enough food at home, their school day begins with a nourishing breakfast. In addition to basics like math and reading, students study



the Word of God and even worship through music education. *Joni's House* goes beyond education by providing physical therapy and nursing care on site.

"My favorite subject is learning to read," says Javier. "And physical therapy has helped me develop more strength." Best of all, as Javier adds, "God is in my heart. I feel closer to God than ever before. He speaks to me and I now talk about God to other people. He helps me to speak to people and help people."

While *Joni's House* became a haven for Javier, his home remained inaccessible, and breaks in the school year threatened to leave him hungry and neglected. But God used your love and generous support to provide for Javier.

Not only does *Joni's House* provide groceries and meals for Javier; our team has renovated his home, building a safe ramp from his room to the rest of the house. Additional modifications have made the kitchen and restroom accessible to Javier like never before! Through these changes, Javier has experienced a brand-new taste of independence. Javier's life has been completely transformed, physically and spiritually!

Javier now serves with our *Joni and Friends* team in Guatemala, declaring the Good News

of salvation in Jesus to others struggling with disability. Like Joni, Javier uses his story to point others to the Gospel, testifying that God's transforming power is always at work, not in spite of our suffering, but through it!

Thank you for delivering the Gospel to Javier, in word and deed, so that he can trust in the presence of Jesus, now and for eternity! Your generosity to *Joni and Friends* puts the Great Commission into action!

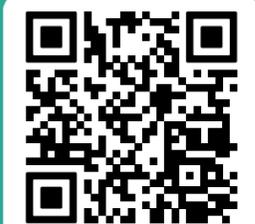


"...bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame...
so that my house will be full."

LUKE 14:21, 23

**Bless your loved ones &
share the love of Jesus!**

Your gift given **in honor** or **in memory** of a loved one brings the hope of the Gospel to people living with disabilities worldwide! View your loved one's name on our online Tribute Wall at joniandfriends.org/tribute or by using this QR code!



God is at work through *Family Retreat*... and through you!

From Central California ▼

Recently, Darrell and Donell celebrated 49 years of marriage. Together, they've raised five children: four daughters and their youngest son, DJ, who has Down syndrome, autism, and several other medical conditions.

DJ was born under critical circumstances. He lives with complex medical needs and had two open-heart surgeries in his first five years of life. Darrell and Donell's journey with DJ confirmed their need to surrender not just their son, but also their expectations, plans, and ministry.

Darrell and Donell have found deep encouragement as a couple at our *Joni and Friends Marriage Getaway*. And their whole family has experienced belonging, respite, and joy at *Family Retreat*!

"These were families like ours, walking the same

road, carrying the same burdens," says Darrell. "With them, we didn't have to explain everything." This sentiment is one we hear often—the hope and encouragement that comes from finding a community that not only understands life with disability but lives it.

"Christ isn't just preached at *Family Retreat*," says Darrell. "He's lived out every day. You see His hands, His feet, His compassion in the volunteers, staff, and other families. This isn't just a program—it's a glimpse of God's kingdom. It's a slice of heaven on earth. This is what the church looks like when it embraces every part of the body."

Thank you for your prayers and support, which strengthen marriages and offer life-giving encouragement and joy to families navigating the challenges of disability.



From the California Bay Area ▼

Meet the Parker family, a beautiful picture of courage and faith. Feeling called by God to adoption, Natalie became a single mother of four children, Aiden (12), Kylie (10), Jaden (7), and Hannah (3). Three of her children live with significant disabilities, including pediatric acute-onset neuropsychiatric syndrome, autism, ADHD, and developmental delays.

Like so many families living with disability, the Parkers longed for a place where they could experience the love of Jesus without judgment and feel seen and celebrated! And when they came to *Family Retreat*, that's exactly what they found. Natalie describes the experience as life-giving.

Her youngest son, Jaden, already dreams of becoming a buddy at *Family Retreat* one day. At

home, Jaden likes to practice being a buddy to his siblings! Even after retreat week is over, the love and encouragement found within the *Joni and Friends* community continue.

Natalie and her children are the reason we do what we do. And through the faithful support of friends like you, families suffering under the strain of disability experience rest, encouragement, and the love of Jesus in tangible ways.

Your generosity provides trained volunteers, accessible facilities, adaptive equipment, and meaningful programs that bring hope and healing to families navigating the challenges of disability. Thank you for your generosity, your prayers, and your faithfulness.



Honoring Joni and Glorifying Jesus!

Join us in celebrating with Joni as she has been honored by the National Religious Broadcasters Association with one of the 2026 Special Service and Media Awards! These awards recognize and honor exemplary ministries, organizations, programs, and producers across the world's leading association of Christian communicators.

Thank you for celebrating with Joni and joining her in delivering the Good News of Jesus to people in need!



Joni with her "Sharing Hope" radio team.

FISHING *on the* LAKE SCARF

This elegant silk scarf features watercolor artwork by Joni Eareckson Tada, inspired by a misty morning with her husband Ken fishing on a lake in the Sierra Mountains. The idyllic scene reminded Joni of God's words in Isaiah 30: "Only in returning to me and resting in me will you be saved. In quietness and confidence is your strength."

Dimensions: 24" x 24"

Material: 100% Silk

\$35



Frame not included.

FISHING *on the* LAKE ART PRINT

Joni hopes this print will lead you toward God-sent moments of peace...

"All we need to do is open our eyes to see His creation, and our hearts to embrace His presence." – Joni

Dimensions: 16" x 20"

\$24

*100% of proceeds directly advances
ministry to children and families living with disability.*

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• Online: joniandfriends.org/shop • Phone: Text **ORDER** to 818.707.5664