


SHARING *Hope* THROUGH HARDSHIP



Read Fiona's
transformational
story inside!

More than Matched!
Your Impact, Multiplied in God's Hands!

from the heart

Bring Jesus what you have... and watch what He will do!

In our world today, 1.3 billion people deal with disabilities. Many live in poverty and suffer from discrimination... and most do not know Jesus. But I'm not overwhelmed by that stark reality—our great God constantly proves to me that He can do big things through our little offerings! Just look what happens in Matthew 14:13–21.

The day was waning, and the weary disciples faced 5,000 famished men, not counting women and children. “This is a remote place,” the disciples say to Jesus, “and it’s already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food.”

To their surprise, and probably alarm, Jesus says, “They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.” I can hear them thinking, *What?! We’ve only got a few loaves of dry bread and two fish.* To them, it was case-closed—just consider the numbers. The hillside was a mass of ravenously hungry people. But then? I can imagine a sparkle in our Savior’s eye as He says,

“Bring them here to me.”

To their credit, the disciples do as Jesus says, placing the dry crusts and meager pair of fish before the Lord. But can’t you just see them shaking their heads... it’s impossible. It can’t be done. The need is too overwhelming.

“How far can these possibly go?”

Of course, you know what happens next: Jesus has the people sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and two fish, He looks up to heaven, gives thanks to His Father, and breaks the loaves.

Then we see Jesus’s power shatter all limits and boundaries of our human calculations. Because as He distributes the meal, the baskets keep filling up. The Lord passes food to His servers, the disciples. And soon, men, women, and children are reclining, relaxed and satisfied... with baskets full of leftovers!

Don’t you wish you’d been there, watching this miraculous feast bursting with the bounty of God? But Jesus gives us the same astounding opportunity that He offered His disciples. Because the God who cares enough about people’s needs to miraculously multiply a handful of food... is still at work today.



As followers of Jesus, we have only to obey the Lord’s simple order: “Bring them here to me,” meaning *“bring me what you have, and have faith in what I can do!”* Because He stands ready to multiply your gift, bringing needy people not only bread but the Bread of Life—Himself!

So Friend, let’s bring our gifts to Jesus with joy and expectation! This month, thanks to faithful friends of the ministry, your gift will be matched dollar for dollar. And—better yet—in the hands of our bountiful Savior,

it will be multiplied to deliver the Gospel and critical support to people with disabilities worldwide, all for His glory!

With all my heart, *thank you!*

Joni Eareckson Tada
Founder, Joni and Friends

The Multiplying Power of Grace

“God will multiply everything you’ve done for us!”

KEVIN

Anna never believed that her 22-year-old son, Kevin, would be able to walk on his own. A single mother in Guatemala who spent years fighting alone to protect and provide for her children, Anna’s eyes tear up as she describes how life has changed, for Kevin and her whole family.

Kevin and his twin brother, Manuel, both live with cerebral palsy. Manuel uses a wheelchair and, until recently, when he took his first independent steps, Kevin needed a walker. But Kevin’s new mobility is just one facet of the transformation you have made possible for Anna and her children through *Joni’s House® Guatemala*.

Looking back, Anna describes the traumatic isolation and poverty she endured as she raised her children, having been abandoned by her husband and cut off from her extended family. “I had to leave my children alone to work,” says Anna, “leaving early in the morning and returning at night so they would have food on their plates. There was no one to help me.”

When the twins reached school age, Anna tried to secure an education for them. But Manuel was not accepted at school because of his disabilities. And even when Kevin attended, he suffered abuse and harassment from both teachers and students.

“It’s why I dropped out of school altogether,” Kevin explains. “I hadn’t set foot in a school since I was eight years old...”

But when Anna learned about *Joni’s House Crossroads School*, God began a work of grace beyond all she had asked or imagined. Welcomed with the love of Jesus, Anna shared about her family’s critical needs—for shelter, basic resources, medical care, and, most of all, community.

While Kevin blossomed in the classroom, increased strength through physical therapy, and soaked in the truth of the Gospel, he also saw his family thrive like never before. “I’ve been so blessed by this school,” says Kevin. “It’s also been supportive to my family.”

For Anna, who struggled with depression, biblical counseling and loving fellowship slowly lifted her despair. Still, Anna couldn’t afford a safe or accessible home, having no choice but to care for her family in a makeshift house made of rusted metal and scraps, with an outdoor kitchen and no bathroom.



But then your generosity built Anna’s family a new home, complete with an accessible bathroom, ramp, wood-burning stove, furnishings, light fixtures, outlets, and kitchen utensils. And the power of Christ’s presence shined through every detail!

Anna has also seen changes in Manuel, who has become more settled, knowing that their new house is truly their home—and that the *Joni’s House* community is his new loving extended family.

“I thank you for supporting my children,” says Anna, overwhelmed with gratitude.

While Anna, Manuel, our *Joni’s House* team, and the local church are celebrating Kevin taking his first steps, his deep new faith in Jesus stands out above every other milestone. Not only has Kevin professed that Jesus is his Lord and Savior—he also got baptized and now

shares the Gospel at *Joni and Friends* wheelchair outreaches and everywhere he goes!

Kevin has a message for you:

“Thank you for being with us. Thank you for providing what we need. Even though I can’t repay you, there is a God Who will. He will multiply everything you’ve done for us!”

Do you see how your generosity opened the door for Kevin and his family to receive the Gospel? And now your kingdom work is multiplied in the hands of Jesus who stirs Kevin’s heart to share the Good News with others in need. Glory be to God, and thank you for your ministry partnership!



You Brought Alice's Family to Christ

Alice's suffering broke her mother's heart. Alicia remembers sobbing in a hospital room wishing she could take away her baby's pain, crying out to God for help.

Born with Down syndrome, severe heart problems, and other serious medical complications, Alice has always lived at the teetering edge. From blood clots in her brain to bouts of pneumonia, Alicia and her husband have fought constant threats to their daughter's survival, which have made everything from eating to breathing a struggle.

For years, Alice's parents tried to meet their daughter's complex needs at home, unable to afford the therapies she needed, let alone education. So, when Alicia learned about *Joni's House Peru*, which provides both care and education for children with disabilities, she reached out right away.

From her first phone call with our *Joni's House* team, Alicia felt something different: peace, understanding, and a level of human care she had not experienced before. And when she brought Alice in person, Alicia watched in awe as her daughter formed an immediate connection with the speech therapist and didn't need mom to accompany her through the session.

At *Joni's House*, for the first time, Alice's parents could entrust their daughter to others with hope instead of fear. Then, they watched a stunning change unfold... When Alice first joined us, she did not speak and had great difficulty socializing. But with consistent support, she has made steady progress. And today, Alice speaks, sings, and loves playing with her friends.

Now, thanks to your support, we are praising God because through her family's experience of the Gospel in action at *Joni's House*, Alice's mother came to embrace Jesus as her Savior. And as she leans into God's Word and grows in faith, she also tells others about the love of Jesus that has transformed her grief into joy and provided hope that will multiply into eternity!



Fiona's Joy in Jesus

Nampa knows what it costs to feed her family as a single mother. It's not just money, hard-earned by selling plants, but long hours of isolation for her daughter, Fiona. Though she can't walk or speak, Fiona has always encouraged Nampa with bright smiles and a heart full of love.

Still, Nampa ached for Fiona to experience life beyond the floor of their house. But without a wheelchair, Fiona spent much of her time forced to watch the world pass her by. Then, through you, Jesus began a new work in their lives when they found *Joni's House Uganda*.

Welcoming Fiona and Nampa into Christ-filled community, you made it possible for Fiona to get the wheelchair she needed—the first of many steps toward new freedom and inclusion.

Friend, because of your faithfulness, Fiona's wheelchair was only the beginning of God's provision in her life. You also offered her weekly physical therapy

sessions and made her home accessible with the construction of a new ramp!

Beyond these improvements to Fiona's daily life, she and her family also joined our *International Family Retreat*. Here, for the first time, Fiona saw many people with disabilities—and that each one is invited to be part of God's family!

Best of all, thanks to you, Fiona's family heard the Gospel, which made Fiona light up with joy! And now, with Fiona's wheelchair, they can participate in church every week, experiencing true belonging in Jesus. As Nampa said, "I praise God and thank you for your kindness. It has given a sense of belonging and inclusion for Fiona."

Today, Fiona's family is glorifying God because of you! Thank you for changing the course of Fiona's life and magnifying the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus!

Your Gift, More Than Matched!

Remember, your generosity goes even further in May! Not only will your gift today be matched dollar for dollar—it will be multiplied in the hands of Jesus, speeding critical help and Gospel hope to people with disabilities worldwide.

How far will your gift go? Think of Jesus stunning the crowd as He served an abundant feast to thousands from a meager five loaves and two fish. The same Jesus is at work today, inviting us to take Him up on His challenge:

“Bring Me what you have and watch what I will do!”

Visit joniandfriends.org and take advantage of this matching gift opportunity today!



Fiona and her whole family now have hope in Jesus like never before because of you!

“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.”

EPHESIANS 3:20–21