

## INTERNATIONAL DISABILITY CENTER

Since 1979, Joni and Friends International Disability Center has been dedicated to extending the love and message of Christ to people who are affected by disability, their family members or friends. The ministry's objective is to meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of people and families affected by disability in a practical way.

Across the country and around the world, Joni and Friends is responding to the Luke 14 mandate to draw people affected by disability into His kingdom. Joni and Friends is about advancing disability ministry... by serving individuals and families, and by equipping churches and communities as well. Joni and Friends ministry teams are committed to accelerating Christian outreach among families affected by disability in every corner of the globe.

The job of caretaking is 24/7, with no relief. The pressures facing special-needs families can be devastating. Medical and economic challenges press down hard. Isolation and exhaustion bring discouragement and hopelessness. Families affected by disability desperately need God's grace and power in the midst of their own weakness, and Joni and Friends is pointing the way to Christ.

With more than three decades of ministry in this field, Joni and Friends knows that people with disabilities are one of the least evangelized groups in the world. Joni and Friends presents the clear and concise Gospel of Christ to each person served, introduces them to a local pastor, and encourages them to become a part of a church family.

**Joni and Friends Vision Statement:** To accelerate Christian ministry in the disability community.

**Joni and Friends Mission Statement:** To communicate the Gospel and equip Christ honoring Churches worldwide to evangelize and disciple people affected by disabilities.

### **The Four Things We Do:**

1. Evangelize people affected by disabilities and their families
2. Train, disciple, and mentor people affected by disabilities
3. Multiply disability effective churches
4. Promote a biblical worldview on disability through education and policy

## **Joni and Friends Statement of Faith**

Joni and Friends has a very vital set of beliefs that is the foundation of their ministries, inspired by the Word of God. Below is the Statement of Faith that guides Joni and Friends in its service:

- We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative Word of God.
- We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return in power and glory.
- We believe that God is love and the depth of his love was demonstrated by the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and in response we are called to compassionately love our neighbor.
- We believe that for the salvation of lost and sinful man, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential.
- We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life.
- We believe our salvation and our eternal life is a gift of God's grace through faith alone in Jesus Christ and we are called to be a living testimony to others of that free and available grace.
- We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto the resurrection of life and they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation.
- We believe that the ministry of evangelism and discipleship is a responsibility of all followers of Jesus Christ.
- We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ.
- We believe that human life is sacred from conception to its natural end. We believe that since all life is sacred, every human being has value and deserves dignity. As such, we must have concern for the physical and spiritual needs of our fellow men.
- We believe God's plan for human sexuality is to be expressed only within the context of marriage, that God created man and woman as unique biological persons made to complement each other in marriage if God wills. God instituted monogamous marriage between male and female as the foundation of the family and the basic structure of human society. For this reason, we believe that marriage is exclusively the union of one genetic male and one genetic female.