

FWM CAUSE KIT



**FREE
WHEELCHAIR
MISSION**



THE FREE WHEELCHAIR MISSION STORY

In 1977, Don and Laurie Schoendorfer were vacationing in Morocco when they saw a woman who couldn't walk, struggling to drag herself across a bustling dirt road while others ignored her. This heartbreaking scene seared itself in Don's and Laurie's minds.

Then, they decided to do something about it.

Don began to develop an inexpensive and durable wheelchair, armed with a Ph.D. in engineering from MIT and years of experience in the biomedical field. Out of his passion to serve the poor, he eventually left his successful career and founded Free Wheelchair Mission in 2001, when he brought some prototype wheelchairs on a mission trip to India. As he lifted a child into the first chair, Don realized that this was God's plan for him. Free Wheelchair Mission would grow to distribute over 980,000 wheelchairs to 93 countries to date and is on a "mission to 1 million" to distribute one million wheelchairs by mid-2017.

In March of 2008, Don was one of the first civilians ever to be awarded the **"Above and Beyond Award"** by the Congressional Medal of Honor Society for his work among people with disabilities in developing nations.

Free Wheelchair Mission is a humanitarian, faith-based, nonprofit organization that provides wheelchairs at no cost to people with disabilities living in developing nations. In collaboration with a network of like-minded partners, FWM has been providing wheelchairs to those in need around the world since 2001, providing dignity, independence and hope through the gift of mobility.

Our Mission is to provide the transforming gift of mobility to people with disabilities in developing nations as motivated by Jesus Christ.

VALUES

- We conduct our mission with integrity and humility.
- We honor God in all we do.
- We value individuals and relationships.
- We encourage creativity and innovation.



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

THE FWM CAUSE KIT

The **FWM Cause Kit** is intended to serve as a resource to supplement your church's children's/youth ministry, whether it's for VBS or your regular Sunday curriculum.

The **FWM Cause Kit** aims to teach the next generation about God's heart for the last, the least, and the lost while creating awareness of the very real needs that exist in the world around us. More importantly, this kit aims to show that **every child can make a tangible difference in the world** through prayer and giving.

Our hope is that children would be **transformed by the love of God** and grow in their hearts of compassion for those in need.

LOVE GOD, LOVE OUR NEIGHBORS

When Jesus walked among us, He had a special heart for the poor, the sick, and people with disabilities. As followers of Jesus, we are called to follow His example. Jesus tells us to love God and love our neighbors (Matt. 22:37-39).

To love our neighbors is an expression of our love for God.

“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’” Matthew 25:40 NIV



COMPASSIONATE KIDS

Oftentimes, children see situations and are moved with **compassion** but have limitations in regards to what they can actually accomplish. They need **obtainable** goals and something **tangible** toward which to strive.

Com•pas•sion (kuhm-pash-uhn)

noun. a feeling of deep sympathy and sorrow for another who is stricken by misfortune, accompanied by a strong desire to alleviate the suffering.

THE MOBILITY CHALLENGE

Here's an activity to give children an idea of what it might be like to live with disability:

- Have children sit “crisscross applesauce” on the ground.
- Then, challenge them to move three spaces forward and three spaces back using only their upper-body strength. No using their legs!
- Afterwards, ask the children, “How difficult would it be if that was how you had to move about each day?”
- Have children call out different places they need to go to every day, such as school or the store, and imagine going there this way.
- Remind them that there are millions of people around the world who live like this.
- Encourage the children to lead their parents in this activity at home and discuss as a family how they can provide the gift of mobility to someone in need.



RAISING FUNDS FOR WHEELCHAIRS

Raising money for Free Wheelchair Mission is a tangible, obtainable goal. **For less than \$80** one can truly make a difference and change a life forever, impacting not only individuals with disabilities, but their families, neighborhoods, and communities as well.

We suggest emphasizing the **number of people you can help get up and off the ground** rather than the amount of money raised or number of wheelchairs purchased.

IDEAS FOR FUNDRAISING

- Provide fun containers such as tea tins or recycled milk cartons for children to decorate and collect funds in. Show them images from the cultures of wheelchair recipient countries for inspiration.
- Encourage children to deposit pocket change into the donation boxes each day. Challenge them to give part of their allowance, candy money, etc.
- Allow children to brainstorm ways they can raise money. For example, have friends and relatives try the “Mobility Challenge,” then encourage them to donate towards a free wheelchair.
- Create teams and have them compete on who can raise the most funds. Have each team “adopt” one of the countries highlighted in the FWM Cause Kit. Reward the winning team with a special treat such as ice cream.
- At the end of your camp, competition, or campaign, announce the total number of “people lifted up and off the ground” through the gift of mobility provided by the children.
- After the children have raised money for free wheelchairs, have them share their experiences with the rest of the church and ask adults to match the amount they have raised.

These are just a few ideas to help get you started. What other ways can you encourage the children (and adults) of your church to get involved and give the “gift of mobility!”



IT'S A SMALL WORLD

Thanks to technology, the entire world is connected like never before. We can instantly hear breaking news as it happens in places near and far.

With this amazing ability comes a deep responsibility to our neighbors worldwide.

This is your world to discover. Its beauties. Its cultures. Its challenges. With a heart of compassion and a mindset that reaches beyond your own neighborhood, you can help change the world!

One way you can help is by raising money to give away free wheelchairs. In many parts of the world, where poverty is the norm, people with disabilities have no access to healthcare or services like we do in the United States. Without a wheelchair, they would have to be carried by their loved ones- or crawl on the ground, putting them at risk to danger and disease. Their families struggle to take care of them.

For most of these people, a wheelchair is a dream far beyond their wildest imagination.



It's estimated that there are 100 million people, living in developing countries, who cannot walk. That's more than the population of the states of California, Texas and Florida combined! This mind-boggling number can be overwhelming, so we will hone in on stories of individuals in several countries around the world.

Remember, wherever we are in the world, we are all part of one big story, written by God!

OUR WORLD - FACTS AND FIGURES

At this moment, there are more than 7.2 billion people on the planet...that is hard to imagine! But, what if we were to imagine the whole world as a village of 100 people?

IN THIS VILLAGE

- 22 People speak a Chinese dialect
- 20 earn less than a dollar a day
- 17 cannot read or write
- 60 people are always hungry
- 24 have TV in their home
- 18 spend a large part of each day simply getting clean & safe water

(If The World Were a Village - David J. Smith - Kids Can Press)

DID YOU KNOW?

- Over 700 million people around the world- that's 10% of the world's population- live on less than \$2 a day.
- The continent of Asia is home to two-thirds of all people who go hungry.
- 790 Million people on the planet- or 11% of the world's population- do not have access to clean water.
- Unsafe drinking water, along with a lack of proper sanitation and good hygiene, leads to the deaths of about 2,200 children under the age of 5 *each day*.
- Over 100 million people in developing countries are disabled and have no access to a wheelchair.

OUR WORLD – A CLOSER LOOK

The **FWM Cause Kit** brings a personal name, face, and story to these statistics by focusing on a handful of people from countries in several continents.

STORIES

Children will have the opportunity to meet someone from that country by hearing one of the compelling stories of a Free Wheelchair Mission recipient. These stories give a glimpse into the life of a person with a disability, offering insight into the transforming power of mobility.

By focusing on individual stories, children can come to recognize that the gift of a wheelchair is a demonstration of God's love for people with disabilities.

FUN FACTS

Discover how many people live in each country, what they might eat, and where they would most likely go to worship if they lived there. Learn what language they speak in each country and how to greet someone in that language.

OPTIONS

- Look at the culture and customs from each country. Homes, dress, city or rural, music, architecture, games children like to play, interesting places to visit, etc.
- Ask questions. If you were in that country today would you be: Shoveling snow or weeding a garden? Going to school or on vacation? Getting up or going to bed?
- Have parents make food from the country and allow children to sample. (Be sensitive to food allergies.)
- Help children enlarge their worldview and alter their perspective by helping them imagine the entire world as one village.

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS ...

VIETNAM

Vietnam is approximately **127,243 square miles**. It is about the size of the states of Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee combined.

Vietnam is bordered by China on the north, Laos and Cambodia on the West, the Gulf of Thailand and the China Sea on the south, and the Gulf of Tonkin on the East.

Now that we know where in the world Vietnam is, let's meet and greet its people.

- There are **90.7 million** people who call Vietnam their home.
- If you lived in Vietnam, you would eat a lot of **rice**, along with seafood and noodles.
- If you went to worship in Vietnam, you would most likely go to a **Buddhist Temple**.
- To talk to your friends in Vietnam, you would speak **Vietnamese**.
- To greet someone Vietnamese, you would say, "**Xing Chao**".
(*Pronounced Sin Chow*)



Just the facts:

Population
90.7 million

Language
Vietnamese

Religion
85% Buddhism. 8% Christian

Did you know:

Vietnamese children are often called names in rank of birth, such as Chi-hai, Chi-ba (daughter one, daughter two).

LET'S MEET SOMEONE WHO ACTUALLY LIVES IN ...

VIETNAM

Meet Linh. She was two months old when she was diagnosed with polio, and in a matter of days, she became totally paralyzed. Linh was in the hospital over the next few months, and slowly but surely, she was able to regain the use of her hands.

Growing up was difficult. Linh's father would carry her to and from school every day. Most days she would have to wait outside the school for a long time before her father could pick her up. People would point and laugh at her and call her names. The incessant teasing wore so much on Linh that once she completed junior high, she stopped attending school and stayed home for the next decade.

Her parents promised to get her a wheelchair but Linh knew deep down that this simply wasn't possible. No matter how much hope she held on to, wheelchairs were too expensive for her family to buy. Nevertheless, Linh prayed for ten years to somehow get a wheelchair.

The answer to her prayer finally came. "It was the happiest day of my life."

Linh was so excited that she couldn't sleep the night before the wheelchair distribution. She could hardly contain her joy when she received her new wheelchair. Linh told her father, "Now I can move by myself, so you walk home and I will meet you there!"

Linh had taken sewing classes at a trade school but had no way of putting her skills to use. "I knew we couldn't afford a wheelchair, let alone a sewing machine.

But my wheelchair gave me confidence—enough confidence to ask my parents to take out a loan so I could buy a used sewing machine and start to earn a living." Linh became a tailor, and her small operation soon outgrew the space in her home. Her family built an additional room to provide a workshop just for Linh's tailoring service.

Ever eager to continue learning, Linh has started playing the *Dan Tranh*, a musical instrument similar to a zither. Even though her business keeps her busy, she makes an effort to carve out time to play. "Words cannot express my joy," exclaims Linh.

A girl who once stayed home, rarely went out, and never smiled has blossomed into a young woman who owns her own business, supports her family, and can't help but laugh with joy when she reflects on the new life she has, thanks to her wheelchair.



WHERE IN THE WORLD IS ...

JAMAICA

Jamaica is an island in the Caribbean Sea. It is about 90 miles south of Cuba. Jamaica has an area of 4,243 square miles and a total coastline of 634 miles. **Comparatively, Jamaica is slightly smaller than the state of Connecticut.**

Now that we know where in the world Jamaica is, let's meet and greet its people.

- There are **2.9 million** people who call Jamaica their home.
- If you lived in Jamaica, you would eat curry goat, **fried dumplings** and salt fish (cod). The national dish of Jamaica consists of fried plantain, steamed cabbage, rice, and beans.
- If you went to worship in Jamaica, you would most likely go to a **Christian Church**.
- To talk to your friends in Jamaica you would speak **English**.
- To greet someone Jamaican, you would say, **"Hello."**



Just the facts:

Population
2.9 million

Language
English

Religion
85% Protestant
2% Roman Catholic
21% Claim no religion
12% Other

Did you know:

Jamaica was the first tropical country to enter the Winter Olympics.

JAMAICA

This is Dominic and he is from the Parish of Portland in Jamaica. He was once shy and quiet, but his personality started to shine once he gained some confidence.

A team recently distributed wheelchairs across the entire Island of Jamaica. Dominic was the very first recipient on this particular trip. His teacher had heard about free wheelchairs through our partner's television show. His teacher was moved and decided to bring him to our distribution site. The two-hour drive to get him there was worth it to her.

At first, Dominic was very still and quiet as he sat in his new wheelchair and had it adjusted for him. Since birth, he has had a heart condition that kept him from growing and moving properly, and his feet soon became infected. His teacher explained that he did need to see a doctor about it, but there were no extra funds to bring him to one. The team then decided to take it a step further and pay for Dominic's medical bill. The entire team piled into the bus and took an hour-long drive to bring Dominic and his teacher to the doctor.

After he received medical treatment, the team then drove him another hour down the road to his home. When they arrived, his principal, caregiver, friends - practically the entire town was present. They were surprised by the sight of Dominic in his new chair! His friends started to play and chase him as he wheeled his way around. He quickly figured out to maneuver his wheelchair as he sped forward, backward, sideways, and everywhere!

Dominic started to laugh, smile, high five, and even fist bump all his friends. The team asked if they could pray with him, and with a peaceful countenance, Dominic closed his eyes and prayed.

The team said goodbye as he and his community held a dinner for him.

Prayer, along with the gift of mobility, had won the day and transformed another life!



WHERE IN THE WORLD IS ...

GUATEMALA

Situated in Central America, Guatemala has an area of **42,043** square miles. It is slightly smaller than the state of Tennessee.

It is bounded on the east by Belize and the Caribbean Sea, on the southeast by Honduras and El Salvador, on the south by the Pacific Ocean, and on the west and north by Mexico.

Now that we know where in the world Guatemala is, let's meet and greet its people.

- There are **16 million** people who call Guatemala their home.
- If you lived in Guatemala, you would eat a lot of corn, chilis and beans. **Tamales** are a very popular food— they are filled with meats, fruits and nuts.
- If you went to church in Guatemala, you would most likely go to a **Catholic Mass**.
- To talk to your friends in Guatemala, you would speak **Spanish**.
- To greet someone Spanish you would say, **“Hola”**.

(Pronounced OLA—the H is silent.)



Just the facts:

Population

16 million

Language

Spanish

Religion

59% Roman Catholic

40% Protestant

1% Indigenous Mavan Religions

Did you know:

The first chocolate bar was created in Guatemala during the Mavan times.

GUATEMALA

Every morning at dawn, a rooster's crows are drowned out by the painful cries of a girl trying to get out of bed and walk. Elida suffers from muscular dystrophy- if she takes more than two or three steps, she falls to the ground in pain. Her struggles have made her extremely self-conscious. When speaking with others, Elida often hides her face and refuses to answer questions.

Her mother, Faustina, explained that a hurricane further complicated an already challenging situation. "We lost the house where we used to live when the hurricane hit. The river swept it away."

Elida had suffered the most. Her mother used to carry her to school, but she grew too big and heavy to be carried. School is too far for Elida to walk to, so she had resigned herself to staying in the house.

While the Guatemalan government provided the family with a new home after the hurricane, it was located deep in the countryside, where there is no public transportation. It would easily take at least one hour to walk to the nearest highway. Elida wanted desperately to walk, but when ever she tried, she would fall to the floor, leaving her in tears. "When her siblings see her like that," her mother said, "they draw near and play with her and she smiles, but it hurts my heart because, after a while, she tries again and falls."

Elida spent all her days on the ground, drawing in the mud with her fingers. Scraped knees and bruised elbows were

common side effects of her frequent falls and her need to crawl.

The day Elida received her new wheelchair, her mother rejoiced, knowing that "never again will my daughter be thrown to the floor."

Elida searched for words to express her joy and newfound gift of mobility. Her words were simple but deeply touching. "Thank you... I was tired of writing in the mud."



WHERE IN THE WORLD IS ...

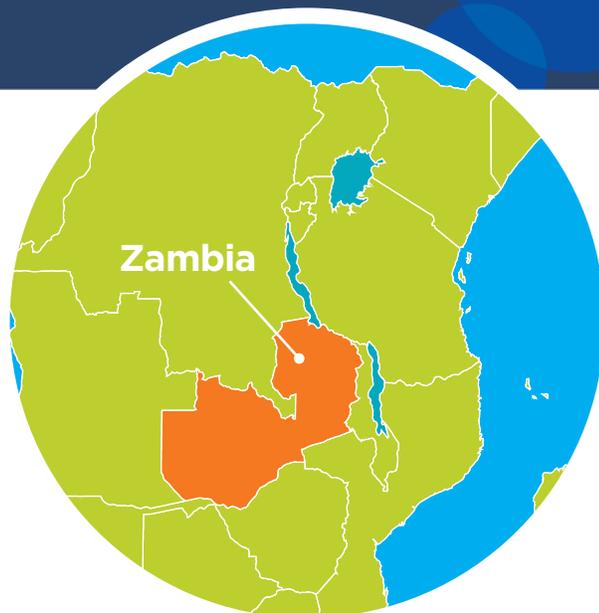
ZAMBIA

A landlocked country in south-central Africa, Zambia has an area of 290,586 square miles, slightly larger than the state of Texas. It is bound on the northeast by Tanzania, on the east by Malawi, on the southeast by Mozambique and Zimbabwe, on the south by Zimbabwe, Botswana, and Namibia, on the west by Angola, and on the north by the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Now that we know where in the world Zambia is, let's meet and greet its people.

- There are **15.7 million** people who call Zambia their home.
- If you lived in Zambia, you would eat a lot of **maize/corn**. A local favorite is “nshima”—a stiff porridge made from ground maize.
- If you went to church in Zambia, you would most likely go to a **Christian church**.
- To talk to your friends in Zambia you would speak **Bemba**.
- To greet someone Zambian you would say, “**Shani**”.

(Pronounced Shy-ani)



Just the facts:

Population
15.7 million

Language
Bemba

Religion
87% Christian
7% Indigenous religions
1% Muslim/Hindu

Did you know:

The world's largest species of mushrooms grow in Zambia. They grow to nearly a yard (3 ft.) in diameter.

ZAMBIA

Eugene was born with a disability. He is the last born in a family of three. He has two older sisters. Because of his disability, his father denied him after his birth. He is being raised by his uncle Michael after the death of his mother. Michael looks after 11 children – only four are his own children; the rest are orphans. They all live together in a place called Kapululwe.

Eugene is now 15 years old. For more than half of his childhood, Eugene was not able to walk. His dream to walk seemed impossible, but his strong faith saw him through as he taught himself to walk short distances. “He surprised us—we realized he could walk a bit when one day we found him on one of the small paths leading to the next village where his friends, who had come to our house earlier, were playing,” explains his uncle Michael.

Although he taught himself to walk, he cannot go more than 1,600 feet before collapsing. It then takes him at least two to three hours to regain his strength.

What Eugene needed was a wheelchair. And thankfully, he received one for free.

“I never thought of ever having a wheelchair for Eugene because I knew I could not afford it. Having such a gift means more than what someone can expect in their life. My nephew is now able to go wherever he wants without the help of anybody. This has been my wish,” Michael says. “The wheelchair will

give him the freedom he needs and he'll now be able to play with his friends from the next village.”

Eugene is intelligent and hardworking. He helps out with some household chores. Eugene is no longer left home quiet and alone – he now can accompany his uncle into the fields to harvest maize and help look after the other children in his family thanks to the gift of a wheelchair.

Eugene is excited that he will start school again. He is already dreaming big. “I want to be a Police Officer when I finish school,” says Eugene.



WHERE IN THE WORLD IS ...

UZBEKISTAN

Uzbekistan is located in central Asia bordering the Aral Sea, between Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan. It is **172,742** square miles and is slightly larger than the state of California.

Uzbekistan shares boundaries with Kazakhstan on the north, Kyrgystan and Tajikistan on the east, Afghanistan on the south, and Turkmenistan on the southwest.

Now that we know where in the world Uzbekistan is, let's meet and greet its people.

- There are **29.2 million** people who call Uzbekistan their home.
- If you lived in Uzbekistan, you would eat a great deal of bread and noodles. Their signature dish is called **palov** and is typically made with rice, pieces of meat, grated carrots and onions.
- If you went to worship in Uzbekistan, you would most likely go to an **Islamic Mosque**.
- To talk to your friends in Uzbekistan, you would speak **Uzbek**.
- To greet someone Uzbekistani you would say, **"Salom."**
(Pronounced Sa-lom "a" as in "cat")



Just the facts:

Population
29.2 million

Language
Uzbek

Religion
88% Muslim
9% Eastern Orthodox
3% Other

Did you know:

In Uzbekistan, handshakes are only acceptable if it is between two men.

UZBEKISTAN

How many friends do you have? For many people in this world, a friend is only a dream: someone special to share secrets with or laugh at the newest joke.

This is Dildora. She is 18 years old and lives in the capital city of Tashkent in Uzbekistan. When she was still a small child, Dildora was diagnosed with tetraparesis—a condition that includes partial or total loss of the use of one's four limbs and torso. This condition prevented Dildora from going to school and receiving an education. Her lack of education and inability to walk kept her at home and away from meeting any friends.

But Dildora did not give up. She is known to be very patient and quiet, yet persistent and confident. Fortunately, her arms worked fairly well, unlike most people with her condition. Because of this, she insisted on getting her education at home. She also taught herself embroidery and beading as a hobby.

When Dildora received her wheelchair there was no end to her joy. When asked how she liked the new gift, she replied, "I am the happiest girl in the world. I can now leave my room and go out to make new friends and play with them."



HOW TO DONATE

At the conclusion of the VBS or fundraising period, tally up the number of lives lifted off the ground (\$80 = 1 wheelchair) and **CELEBRATE!**

There are several ways to submit donations to Free Wheelchair Mission:

1. Online —visit our website at www.freewheelchairmission.org/donate
2. You can also set up an **ambassador's page** on the FWM website. This will allow your church the opportunity to track the progress of your fundraising efforts as well as provide a place to share stories and communicate this project with each other. (Note: the website is designed to walk you through the process, step by step.)
<https://www.freewheelchairmission.org/ambassadorcommunity>
3. Send a check to:

Free Wheelchair Mission
PO Box 52001
Attention: Dept. 921
Phoenix, AZ 85072-9615

For final transfer procedures of total donations raised for FWM, please contact our Church Development team at 949-273-8470.

