

# 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.

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

**Watch the FWM Story video at**

<https://www.freewheelchairmission.org/thestory>



# 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.**

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***“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 staggering 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 ...

# HONDURAS

Honduras is a mountainous, forested country in Central America. It has an **area of 43,433 square miles**, making it slightly smaller than the state of Arizona.

Honduras is bound by the countries of Guatemala to the northwest, El Salvador to the southwest, and Nicaragua on the south.

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

- There are **8.9 million** people who call Honduras their home.
- If you lived in Honduras, you would eat a lot of **beans, rice, and tortillas**.
- If you went to church in Honduras, you would most likely go to a **Catholic mass**.
- To talk to your friends in Honduras, you would speak **Spanish**.
- To greet someone Honduran, you would say, **"Hola"**.

*(Pronounced OLA—the H is silent.)*



### Just the facts:

**Population**  
8.9 million

**Language**  
Spanish

**Religion**  
97% Catholic  
3% Protestant

### Did you know:

One of the world's oldest clocks, built in the year 1100, can be found in Honduras.

## HONDURAS

Can you imagine a day without computers?

How would you do your homework?

Connect with friends from a distance?

How would your parents do their jobs?

Technology has become such an important part of daily life, and technical skills will be in demand for years to come, especially in developing nations.

In Cofradia, Honduras, José attends a technical school 15 minutes away from his home in *Gracias a Dios* ("Thanks to God") Village.

José loves technology, as many young people do, and is an excellent student, working towards a degree as a computer technician. His dream is to open a cyber-café after graduation to help support his family.

José needs a wheelchair to be mobile.

He was born with a condition called spina bifida, and when he was three months old, he underwent a procedure to release pressure caused by excess fluid in his brain.

His parents carried him everywhere until he grew too heavy for them to do so. Then, they used a stroller, which he quickly outgrew.

A neighbor later gave José an adult-sized wheelchair, but he often fell out of it due to the improper fit. José's father was saddened that he couldn't afford to buy an appropriate wheelchair for his son with his limited income.

Prayers were answered when a free wheelchair distribution ceremony was held in José's municipality. There, José received a wheelchair that fit him perfectly. With the proper support and stability that it offers,

His back stopped hurting, and he can now focus his time and energy on completing his studies and pursuing his dreams.



## WHERE IN THE WORLD IS ...

# CHINA

China is a country in Asia. **It has an area of 3,705,405 square miles**, making it slightly smaller than the United States.

China borders 14 countries: Mongolia, Russia, North Korea, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar, India, Bhutan, Nepal, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Kazakhstan.

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

- There are **1.3 billion** people who call China their home. China is the world's most populous country.
- If you lived in China, you would eat a lot of **rice, dumplings, noodles, and meat.**
- If you went to worship in China, you would most likely follow a **folk religion.**
- To talk to your friends in China, you would speak **Mandarin Chinese.**
- To greet someone Chinese, you would say, **"Ni hao."**  
(Pronounced "knee-how")



### Just the facts:

**Population**  
1.3 billion

**Language**  
Mandarin Chinese

**Religion**  
52% No religion  
21% Folk religion  
18% Buddhist  
5% Christian  
2% Muslim

### Did you know:

Half of all the bias in the world can be found in China.

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

## CHINA

Ma Hao is in fifth grade.

His school is over a half-mile away from his home, in a small town in rural China.

Since Ma Hao cannot walk— a lack of oxygen during his birth caused his legs to grow weak— his mother had been carrying him everywhere: to the bathroom, to places down the street, and all the way to and from school.

She had been Ma Hao's only way to get around for the first 13 years of his life.

What if your mother still had to carry you around everywhere?

Life would be more challenging for your entire family. Just like it was for Ma Hao and his family.

Imagine the excitement Ma Hao felt when they learned they'd receive a free wheelchair!

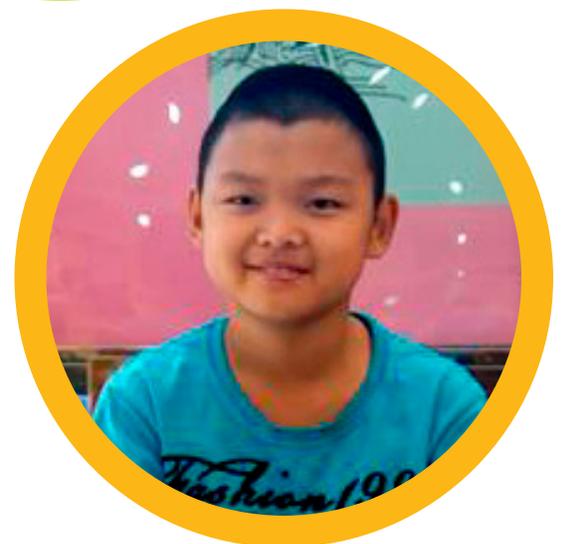
Volunteers arrived at their home to deliver and assemble a brand-new wheelchair.

The assembly process alone moved Ma Hao's heart as he saw the love, care, and kindness demonstrated towards him by the team— he was especially moved when one of them cut his finger and bled while working on the wheelchair.

Ma Hao later said, "They were so nice, doing this for me... With this wheelchair, I can be independent and my mother can relax from now on."

Within one week, Ma Hao was wheeling himself around like a pro, and now, when he goes to school, his mother can walk alongside him without having to carry him on her shoulders.

The gift of mobility hasn't just given freedom to Ma Hao; it has blessed his family as well.



## WHERE IN THE WORLD IS ...

# PERU

Peru is a mountainous, forested country in South America. It has an area of **496,224 square miles**, making it slightly larger than the states of Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi combined.

Peru is bound by the countries of Ecuador and Columbia in the north, Brazil in the east, Bolivia in the southeast, and Chile in the south.

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

- There are **27.9 million** people who call Peru their home.
- If you lived in Peru, you would eat a lot of potatoes. Its national dish is **ceviche**, a cold dish with fish marinated in lime juice, onion, salt, and hot chili peppers.
- If you went to church in Peru, you would most likely go to a **Catholic Mass**.
- To talk to your friends in Peru, you would speak **Spanish**.
- To greet someone Spanish you would say, **"Hola"**.

*(Pronounced OLA—the H is silent.)*



### Just the facts:

**Population**  
27.9 million

**Language**  
Spanish

**Religion**  
81% Roman Catholic  
12% Protestant  
7% Other or none

### Did you know:

Ancient Peruvians were the first people to grow potatoes for food.

## PERU

Nine-year-old Christian lives in Peru.

For most of his life, his mother had to carry him on her back, and she was exhausted. She was losing hope that she would be able to take care of him as he grew older.

She could manage when he was baby, but the stronger and more energetic he grew, the bigger the challenge it had become to continue carrying him around.

Christian's mother heard that a church in her area was going to be distributing wheelchairs in her small community, so she filled out an application, explaining that her son was a lively young boy who had a zeal for life, but was unable to move about on his own since birth.

The church let her know that they had a wheelchair specifically for her son.

Christian and his mom were the first two to arrive for the distribution ceremony. There, church workers worked hard to fit Christian into a brand-new wheelchair, adjusting it just for him.

Christian's face lit up when he sat in his wheelchair for the first time. He would finally be able to move around and explore the world on his own!

His mom watched as the church took the time to care for Christian and his needs. The church then prayed over Christian and his mom, expressing how God loves them and cares so deeply for them.

The church shared that this wheelchair was a representation of God's love and care.

They didn't have to pay for it, because it was already paid for. They just had to receive it, just like God's love.

By meeting this family's physical needs, the church was showing the love of Christ to this family.



## WHERE IN THE WORLD IS ...

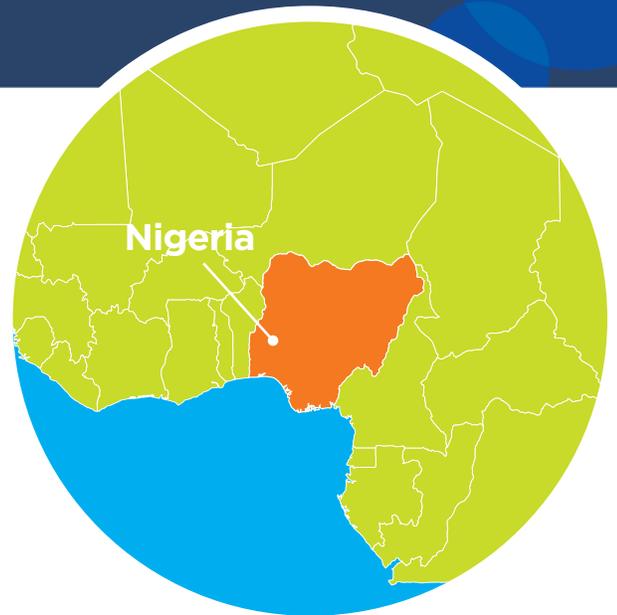
# NIGERIA

Nigeria is in West Africa. The land includes rain forests and savannas. It covers an **area of 356,669 square miles**, making it slightly larger than the states of Arizona, New Mexico, and Colorado vcombined.

The country is bound by the Republic of Benin in the west, Chad and Cameroon in the east, and Niger in the nonrth.

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

- There are **131.5 million** people who call Nigeria their home.
- If you lived in Nigeria, you would eat a lot of starchy foods made from **maize/corn, yams, cassava, and plantains.**
- If you went to worship in Nigeria, you would most likely go to an **Islamic mosque.**
- To talk to your friends in Nigeria you would speak **English.**
- To greet someone Nigerian, you would say, **"Hello."**



### Just the facts:

**Population**  
131.5 million

**Language**  
English

**Religion**  
50% Muslim  
40% Christian  
10% Folk reliasion

### Did you know:

There are at least 250 different lanuaaes spoken in Nieraia.

## NIGERIA

Aishat, a 7-year-old girl in Nigeria, contracted polio at an early age.

Her father abandoned the family, overwhelmed by the thought of raising a child with a disability, leaving Aishat's mother to care for their daughter by herself.

This wasn't easy, as people with disabilities weren't always treated well in their community.

To add to an already sad and difficult situation, Aishat's mother died while struggling to take care of her daughter and provide for her.

Aishat's grandmother then stepped in to take care of the little girl. Her grandmother saw Aishat's potential and hoped that her beautiful granddaughter would receive the education that she herself never received.

Her grandmother sold her only possession—a canopy that she rented out, in order to send Aishat to school.

She had to carry Aishat to and from the dusty campus, and once they got there, Aishat had to crawl on the ground to move about.

It was difficult for her to make any friends. Other children had the wrong idea about people with disabilities.

Aishat's grandmother heard on the radio that there would be free medical treatment, possibly including free wheelchairs, at an event organized by the local government.

She had applied for help several times before and was promised a wheelchair since Aishat was three years old, but they never received one.

Would this time be different?

Yes!

Little Aishat finally received a free wheelchair from a church in Nigeria.

Overjoyed, her grandmother shouted, "This is a life-changing donation! Now my girl will stop crawling on the ground!"



## WHERE IN THE WORLD IS ...

### HAITI

Haiti is on the western half of the island of Hispaniola in the Caribbean. The other half is the Dominican Republic.

The land is mountainous, covering an area of **10,714 square miles**. This makes Haiti roughly the same size as the state of Massachusetts.

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

- There are **10.5 million** people who call Haiti their home.
- If you lived in Haiti, you would eat a great deal of rice, corn, millet, yams, and beans. One Haitian dish is rice **djon-djon**, made of rice and black mushrooms.
- If you went to church in Haiti, you would most likely go to a **Catholic mass**.
- To talk to your friends in Haiti, you would speak **French**.
- To greet someone Haitian, you would say, **"Bon jour."**  
*(Pronounced "bon jure" - rhymes with "sure")*



### Just the facts:

**Population**  
10.5 million

**Language**  
French

**Religion**  
55% Roman Catholic  
28% Protestant  
15% Other/non  
2% Voodoo

### Did you know:

The name Haiti comes from a native word meaning "land of the mountains."

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

## HAITI

Michel is an orphan.

He is 18 years old and lives in Cap-Haitien, a city on the island nation of Haiti.

Michel used to live with his aunt, but not anymore. He no longer has a place to live.

And, Michel cannot walk.

At the age of 12, Michel got hurt while playing soccer. He got cut, and the bleeding wouldn't stop because of a condition he has.

He spent over a month in the hospital and has not been able to walk ever since.

Michel had a wheelchair for a while, but it didn't fit him properly, and that caused him more pain and health problems.

One day, he happened to come across a wheelchair distribution ceremony held by a charity that distributes goods to the poor in Haiti.

This organization makes sure that every new wheelchair they give away is properly adjusted for person receiving it. They gave a brand-new wheelchair to Michel and adjusted it to make it fit him properly.

Michel was extremely grateful to receive this new wheelchair.

Was it a coincidence that he happened to be passing by when they were giving away new wheelchairs?

Or did God arrange for this to happen?

God can do amazing things that are beyond our imaginations. This is one reason we should pray for people like Michel.

God also works through people like you and me. Without people donating money to make these wheelchairs, people working to assemble the wheelchairs, and people arranging to give the wheelchairs away, people like Michel might not be able to receive the help that they need.

Why don't you pray and ask God how He might work through you?



# HOW TO DONATE

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

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

1. Online —visit our website at [www.freewheelchairmission.org/donate](http://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.



# ORDERING RESOURCES

Additional resources are available, free of charge, to support your VBS or campaign.

## VIDEOS

View or download the following videos online:

- **The Free Wheelchair Mission Story**- How did this ministry get started? The story of God's calling on the life of FWM founder, Dr. Don Schoendorfer: <https://vimeo.com/200248520>
- **Lotus Blossom's Story**- Lotus Blossom is the name of one of the very first recipients of a free wheelchair from FWM. But getting a chair wasn't the end of her inspirational story: <https://vimeo.com/79510188>

## PRINTED MATERIAL

Order online at [http://www.freewheelchairmission.org/FWMcause\\_kit\\_order](http://www.freewheelchairmission.org/FWMcause_kit_order) or by contacting Church Relations Officer, Jackie Tsujimoto at 949.273.8470 x202. Email: [jtujimoto@freewheelchairmission.org](mailto:jtujimoto@freewheelchairmission.org)



front back

- **Story cards**- 3" x 4" individual story cards to hand out to your congregation.



- **Transforming Lives through the Gift of Mobility.** Hardcover, 44 pages, 9.25" x 6.25".



- **Tabletop poster**- 11.5" x 13.5" freestanding cardboard poster for your tabletop display.