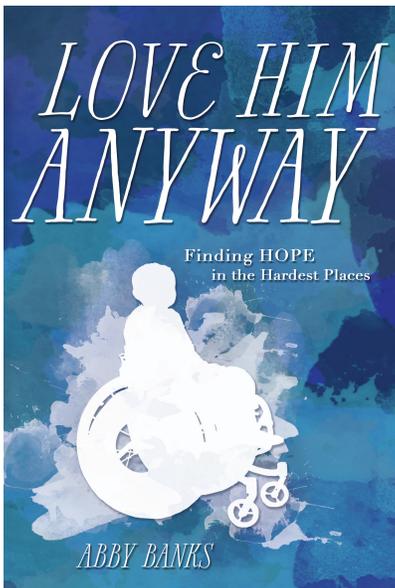




news release

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CHILD EMBRACES LIFE WITH PARALYSIS INSPIRES MOM'S NEW BOOK



RELEASE DATE: February 21, 2017
TRADE Paperback
PAGES: 224
PRICE: \$14.99
ISBN: 9781620205723

For immediate release: When Abby Banks put her seven-month-old son, Wyatt, to bed, everything seemed normal. But when he awoke the next morning, it was obvious that something was seriously wrong. After several days in the hospital, Wyatt was diagnosed with an autoimmune disease that had attacked his spinal cord, leaving him paralyzed. There is no cure. With no warning, Banks suddenly found herself and her family on a journey that they had never anticipated.

In *Love Him Anyway*, Banks chronicles her story of hope and strength--a reminder that God is still good, even when the circumstances are not. In this memoir published by Ambassador International, Banks recounts the family's struggle to come to grips with Wyatt's devastating diagnosis and the physical, emotional, and spiritual struggles that ensued. Since the diagnosis, Wyatt has been in and out of therapy to help him learn how to be independent, despite his paralysis.

As a one-year-old, Wyatt was the youngest person his Maryland doctors had ever seen use a wheelchair on their own. The Banks' story was also picked up by several news sites, including Huffington Post and the Daily Mail, after a video of Wyatt moving himself in his chair was shared on their Facebook page, "Wyatt's Fight Against TM."

Today, Banks is a mother to a vibrant and ornery four-year-old, who is still wheelchair-bound, but he doesn't let that stop him from living life to the fullest.

Eric Legrand, former Rutgers University football player and spinal cord activist says, "I highly recommend *Love Him Anyway* to anyone who is dealing with any sort of obstacle in life. Wyatt has had to deal with adversity at a very young age but chooses to be happy and to live life to the fullest. His story is a triumph of the human spirit and a reminder that life is worth celebrating, even in the hard moments."

Love Him Anyway is available on February 21, 2017, for \$14.99 in paperback at all major retailers and online.

About the Author: Abby Banks is a mom turned author and special needs advocate. A Speech and Communications summa cum laude graduate from Clemson University, she has a passion for finding God in the hard places. She and her husband, Jason, reside in Greenwood, South Carolina, with their three children, who inspire her daily: Jay, Austin, and Wyatt.

To connect with the author or request a review copy of *Love Him Anyway*, please contact Ambassador International at media@emeraldhouse.com.

ABOUT THE PUBLISHER: Ambassador International was founded in 1980 in Belfast, Northern Ireland and expanded to Greenville, South Carolina in 1995. Ambassador International's books and materials have been distributed in dozens of countries and are sold worldwide. For more information visit www.ambassador-international.com. You can also follow @AmbassadorIntl on Twitter or check out Facebook.com/AmbassadorIntl.

Endorsements:

“*Love Him Anyway* is a powerful story with a message of beauty and courage that everyone needs to hear! Abby writes about a very raw and difficult experience in a way that is vulnerable, humbled, and uplifting. It is a gift to be able to peer into the transformative hope of this family’s journey, and see how God’s grace and goodness shines through even the most heartbreaking times.”

—Courtney Westlake

author of *A Different Beautiful*

“*Love Him Anyway* is an incredible story of love, hope, loss, and the strength of a family and more importantly a Mamma on a mission. Abby truly is an inspiration to all, and her writing is real and powerful and truly reminds you that life happens and although things might not go the way we planned, we can’t stop living, loving, and trusting in God’s plan. I am truly inspired by Wyatt and his amazing Mamma!”

—Victoria Arlen,

ESPN On Air Personality, Paralympic Gold Medalist, and Transverse Myelitis Survivor

“I highly recommend *Love Him Anyway* to anyone who is dealing with any sort of obstacle in life. Wyatt has had to deal with adversity at a very young age but chooses to be happy and live life to the fullest. His story is a triumph of the human spirit and a reminder that life is worth celebrating even in the hard moments.”

—Eric LeGrand,

Former Rutgers University Football Player and Spinal Cord Injury Activist

“Rejoice in the Lord always. Easy to do when your Christian life is going well. But it is an entirely different undertaking when you wake up one morning and life as you knew it the night before no longer exists. Such is the case in this poignant, thoughtfully written story of a tenacious little boy’s strength and courage, the love of his mother, and the beautiful tapestry woven in community during trying times. Heartbreaking yet full of hope and resiliency, *Love Him Anyway* reminds us all that no suffering is wasted and God uses our most difficult times for His greatest glory.”

—Heather Gray Blalock,

author of *Faith, Hope, Love & Deployment*

“*Love Him Anyway* presents a story of love and triumph through the eyes of a mother who has lived an experience that no one can imagine, until it happens to them. Transverse Myelitis struck her youngest son, Wyatt, at the age of 7 months and their lives changed. While terrifying and grim at first glance, Abby Banks is able to tell a story of truth, hope, opportunities, and possibilities of what their family has experienced in this journey and what they look forward to in years to come. With faith and strength and acknowledgment of God as their Higher Power, Abby has created a ‘how to’ story of Wyatt’s story. It is without reservation that OPAF recommends *Love Him Anyway* and with pride that the Banks crew has become part of our family.”

—Robin Burton,

Executive Director Orthotic & Prosthetic Activities Foundation (OPAF) & The First Clinics

“Imagine you are at work or just playing and your arms, legs, and torso start to tingle. You think you’re tired and just need to rest. Little do you know that your body is betraying you at that moment and is attacking your spinal cord; in a matter of hours you will be paralyzed. It happened to me, and it happened to Wyatt. *Love Him Anyway* is a powerful story of hardship, determination, and conquest. Have your tissues ready! Let Wyatt’s story spur you to spread awareness and support funding for transverse myelitis research.”

—Mike L. Jezdimir,

Chairman Mike L. Jezdimir Foundation and Transverse Myelitis Survivor

“The story of *Love Him Anyway* grips the heart in such a personal way because Abby faces one of every mother’s fears—watching her child suffer with no way to stop it. But as difficult the experience, and as much as she would want to run away from God, Abby’s story is about running toward the God of all hope. Abby encourages the reader to move from a place of brokenness to a place of celebration.”

—Sarah Bragg

author of *Body. Beauty. Boys. The Truth About Girls and How We See Ourselves* and host *Surviving Sarah* podcast

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author bio

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ABBY BANKS

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Connect with the Author

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