



July, 2012

We at His Wheels want to thank you for your prayers, encouragement, and financial contributions. You have helped us make it to our eighth birthday. It is amazing to think of all the mile markers we have passed along the way.

Here is a picture of the latest trike recipient at Soddo Christian Hospital in Ethiopia. I can't imagine the way a trike will change his life.



"I see Jesus in you," the crippled man said," to an hospital staff member. "At this point, I sat down on the sidewalk next to him [outside of the OB ward].. With tears streaming down my cheeks, I put my hands on his face and looked deep into his smiling eyes, and said, "OK, yes, Jesus is in me but this very moment I'm looking into the face of Jesus." He smiled and accepted the compliment but then said, "But you *were* Jesus."

But what led up to these words is quite another story.

It is a daily occurrence to walk on the streets of Ethiopia and encounter crippled beggars.... Many are born with club feet that were never repaired, others suffer from the dreaded Mossy Foot and still others have serious birth defects, unrepaired accidental injuries or osteomyelitis due to malnutrition and filth...

On this day, Demeketch (my housekeeper) and I were returning from a shopping trip into town. It had rained the night before and the streets were still wet and muddy from the rain. We were on the home stretch and ...took the shortcut to the hospital dealing with the mud....There we saw him, crawling up ahead of us on the muddy road... on hands and knees... Slowly, slowly, like a tortoise with a final destination in mind... just hunched over and slowly crawling, crawling, moving ahead inch by painful inch... His skinny legs trailed behind him... His clothes...osmosed into a smudged brown, the color of Wolaitta dirt. His knees were wrapped in multiple layers of torn scraps of cloth... anything to soften the cruel reality of packed dirt on knobby swollen knees. In contrast, his palms rested on new women's gold plastic sandals. As he crawled ahead he used the sandals to keep his hands out of the mud....

I took a few more steps and that's when the Holy Spirit really tugged at my heart. I stopped, turned to Demeketch and said, "Translate for me."

He looked up at me from the ground with his infectious smile. "Friend, I said, "Have you ever been to Soddo Christian Hospital?"... He said, "I am on my way there right now. I have heard of this doctor and have come from the countryside to see him." He continued, "My mother prayed to God that she would have a child. When I was born this is what she got." "God has given me this life and my mother praised God for me."... All the time... his brown eyes were crinkled in a smile....

This man had prayed when leaving his village that Jesus would help him get to see Dr. Anderson. He had virtually nothing but his transportation to the hospital. The rest of the visit he committed to Jesus." Dr. Anderson could not help through surgery but he authorized getting him a HWI trike. In addition they helped him get "a taxi that would carry the heavy new [trike] back to the village." The hospital staff went on to say, "I never learned his name...I'll just call him 'Jesus.'"

In preparation to help more individuals like this young man we are in the throes of manufacturing 30 of our compact trikes. So far we have the wheels and the flat metal parts. Before we can authorize the tubing and wooden parts, we will need \$6,000. We anticipate the whole process will cost \$12,000. Our prayer is that we can proceed soon and have all the parts in by the end of July since we have eight trike kits slated to be loaded onto a container headed to Togo, West Africa, in August.

During the last week of June, John, the disability resource staff member of Messiah College's Engineering Department collaborative, came to learn about our trike. We are excited to see how our programs can partner together. Messiah has had a trike program in Burkina Faso since 2002. In addition John is a mechanical engineer. For years we have prayed for an engineer who Kevin could consult with about our trike project. John has the engineering background and the working knowledge of what is available to work with in Burkina Faso.

In addition we have just begun talks about our trike program with an engineer who is working with the Vanuatu Society for Disabled People (VSDP). Many from Australia go to the Island of Vanuatu for mission trips as we in the United States go to the Dominican Republic. Also another ministry that visited earlier in the year has asked if they can use different aspects of our frame as they develop a trike for those in Haiti and Honduras.

During this first week of July, we are saddened to have to say good-bye to Grant Burns, our bicycle coordinator. Grant has accepted a full-time position as a resident director at Northwest College in Minnesota. He has left his mark on each person on our team as he has set up our mechanic work stations and improved the flow of our bike program. Our bike program will continue on with our faithful volunteer mechanics. If you know of anyone who has worked in a shop as a bike mechanic and has a few hours to spare, we would be interested in talking with them.

Thanks for your part,

Alice Teisan
Founder and Executive Director