



His Wheels International's Newsletter

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Police, Partnership & Prototype

My heart sank when I noticed a local police officer knocking at my door. "He's here to tell me I have too many bicycles in my backyard," was what I feared I would hear.

"Did you dial 911?" asked the officer. "No," I answered with a puzzled look on my face. "Were you just dialing a number on the phone?" the officer asked. Yes, I was dialing a number that started with 917. He informed me my phone stuck on 911. No doubt. The phone had lived its life. I was busted while doing HWI work.

I was attempting to call Kevin, our mechanical engineer, president of Fox River Design (FRD) and designer of our three-wheeled hand-pedaled tricycle prototypes. I needed a new phone since HWI's partnership with FRD will require lots of calls over the next several months as we are testing our second prototype and finishing the third.

Missionaries on the Move

"Sorry for being late." I apologized to Guy, a missionary from Senegal, who was waiting patiently to receive a bike. There were two bikes on my car rack as I rushed into my drive. "Good things come to those who wait," I told Guy as he left with one of those bikes off my car rack.



After outfitting his family of five with bikes Guy said, "What a

blessing. Now our whole family can ride on the Prairie Path together."

Over a nine day stretch in July HWI had the privilege of outfitting five missionary families. The missions represented by these families include Wycliffe, Latin America Mission, Christian Missions in Many Lands, and Arab World Ministries. They are home on furlough from Mexico, Brazil, Yemen, Cameroon and Turkey.

Since HWI's beginning we have provided 66 bicycles to 29 missionary families who represent 22 mission organizations and 28 countries.

"Every time we come home on furlough we [our family] pray for a few specific things. Our kids pray for friends or we pray for a 'want'. Bikes were a 'want' this furlough. I'm overwhelmed each time as to how God does it! We never know where, how or whom it will come from. We're so thankful to you for doing this for us. Know this is a heartfelt thanks from one mighty thankful missionary family," wrote a missionary serving in Cameroon.

A couple who serves in Brazil wrote: "While in the West Chicago area we received many blessings, but the items that most excite me are the two bicycles you gave us. Having back disc problems has limited my physical activity over the past seven years. But biking is something...we can do together and relax at the same time."

HWI's ministry is not about me but I have been blessed to be known as "The Bike Lady." I get to distribute HWI's bikes. What a privilege to know the bikes we provide to these families will assist them in accomplishing rest and relaxation while spending time together as a family. They need to be rejuvenated and ready to return and

face the challenges awaiting them for their next mission term.

"Health to your hands," a Turkish saying was the blessing a missionary serving in Turkey gave us after we outfitted their family with bikes.

"We'll come back to see you in three years." These were the touching words of an 11 year old HWI junior mechanic who has been home on furlough from Japan. As they left his mother said, "This is not just a bike ministry but a great children's ministry too. May God continue to bless your ministry as He already has."

"My birthday is coming up, and I'm going to get a pink bike," three year old Olivia, told her folks. She prayed for her pink bike months before and even after her birthday had gone by. During this time the family had left Spain to return to the States for a furlough. When I picked up the tarp covering bikes in my yard, Olivia jumped up and down. "Yeah, yeah, my pink bike," Olivia exclaimed.

These blessings affirm how we at HWI feel; "It is more blessed to give than to receive." (Acts 20:35)

What's the Next Step?

I remember my mentor of 25 years and Co-Founder of Pioneer Girls, Louise Troup, asking me this question after HWI's first formal meeting. "I plan to pray everyday for HWI and follow the Lord's leading," was my response.

One day this summer those words comforted me. I was upset and grappling in prayer with one of the battles that come with an organization growing out of infancy and into its toddler years. For the infant the issue seems huge. For the adult, however, it's one that brings a smile of delight. Acknowledging I'm an infant in the role of Executive

Director, it's comforting to be reminded of the words I spoke before HWI was an organization. Realizing I have been faithful in seeking the Lord's leading, now I am also reassured that He too has been and will be faithful. Join me in praying regularly for the Lord's will to be done in the work of HWI.

God's Amazing Provisions

Let me share some of HWI's predicaments and the ways God has faithfully provided.

We need a logo to represent HWI. Lord, what's next? Dave, President from Robis, Inc. offered to have one of his graphic designers do the final design, gratis.

Lord, I need help! What's next? Days later Tom knocked at my door. Tom had to retire early but seven years ago he went to bicycle mechanic school. He asked, "Could I just come over once a week and work on bikes?" Tom has been fixing bikes weekly for over a year. Thanks Tom.

We need to sort our inventory of spare parts and organize our office but we don't have the funds? One day I was out dumpster diving, which is a favorite pastime of mine. While out, I came across 35 almost new office size trash cans. They work great for storing parts. On another such excursion I found a one-drawer file cabinet. It was what I wanted, but didn't know it existed. Then, while telling a friend about my pastime of finding things for free he asked if we could use any industrial mechanical drawing five-drawer sets. We got three sets from his company for organizing our parts inventory.

It would be nice to build a three-wheeled hand-pedaled prototype. What's next? While at a party I

shared HWI's ideas with Kevin.

Within five minutes, Kevin said, "I'm a mechanical engineer. Can I design, build and pay for a prototype?"



This summer, Kevin taught a missionary along with a refugee how to weld and build a prototype.

We hope to begin programs in Africa and other countries where nationals can build these three-wheeled trikes for the disabled.

We need some bicycles and parts to fix our used bikes. When we first began, Greg, the owner of Spin Doctor Cyclewerks offered us items we needed at cost.

Greg doesn't sell used bike. If people want to donate their old bikes he lets them know about HWI and collects bikes for us.

Cook County Forest Preserve has 59 bicycles. How will we transport them? Dan, the owner of Advantage Trailers & Hitches offered to lend us a trailer to use anytime we need to transport bikes.

We will continue to pray, knowing The Lord will fight for HWI. Our job is praying and waiting. "Praise God in His Sanctuary. Praise Him for His mighty deeds. With our breath we will praise the Lord." (Ps. 150)

Bikes for Katrina

"We thank...the Lord for our three and one half-days...2,000

mile safe and uneventful trip... despite the 100 degree heat," wrote Jack and Roberta. This couple delivered the first load of bikes to New Orleans in August.

Another 74 bicycles were scheduled to be loaded on September 15th and delivered in New Orleans by a mission team from Naperville Presbyterian Church (NPC). However, Paul, the driver and head of the work trip took a bad fall and the trip was cancelled. Please join us in prayer for Paul's full recovery.

The 74 bikes are being stored in a nearby warehouse. We are still praying about how, when and who will deliver them.

Over 33 volunteers, mostly from NPC along with a few from the community and HWI donated over 200 hours to make this Katrina mission project possible.

The first load of bicycles was distributed in August, in the Hollygrove area of New Orleans, at Trinity Christian Community (TCC). Members of TCC passed out tickets during a community gathering. A drawing was held every few minutes as a way of distributing the many bikes.

As Jack later said, Kevin Brown (Executive Director of TCC) "was extremely appreciative and wanted us to relay the thanks extended by the community to all involved in the ministry. God bless all who were involved and may God touch the hearts of all who will receive the bikes in New Orleans."

Visit www.hiswheelsintl.org to read the most recent Daily Herald article that features the Katrina project.

*On Behalf of the HWI team,
Alice Teisan
Executive Director*

All donations are tax-exempt and can be sent to our address below.

His Wheels International, P.O. Box 423, Wheaton, IL 60189

www.hiswheelsintl.org email: info@hiswheelsintl.org phone: (630) 510-1005