

His Wheels International Newsletter Winter 2009, Vol. 4, Issue 4

A heartwarming thank you note sparked the idea to enlist a variety of people to tell HWI story.

<u>Founding Board Members Perspective</u> "HWI is my Bicyclists-Anonymous. Before I became involved with HWI, I was a bicycle-a-holic. I had given something good, bicycling, a higher priority than the great act of caring for my family. Instead of bicycling being an occasional time to exercise, it became an obsession, which left me unable to meet my family's needs.

...As I work with HWI, my passion for bicycling is replaced with a passion for God's kingdom. Seeing what God has done in a few short years with a spark of vision and faithfulness has been an incredible experience for me.

As in cycling, we stay in the "draft" of the one in front of us. The Holy Spirit is leading HWI. We have found riding in His draft, staying as close to Him as possible, is enough work to be productive and rewarding, yet easy enough to keep going day after day." **Jeff Messer**



"I met Alice 21 years ago (1988) when I joined with Wandering Wheels...to bicycle in what I called Israel and all the other riders called the Holy Land. Alice wasn't one of the students - she was an R.N. and, though only a few years older than the students, an adult and a very powerful bike rider.

The latter went away-Chronic Fatigue Syndrome weakened her to the point that when I next saw her (now in

Chicago) she could barely get out of her chair to open the door for me. So when she called, saying that she couldn't work a regular job anymore but wanted to serve the Lord as her strength allowed, and would I help her, the answer was easy for me. 'A 501 C-3,' I asked. 'I don't even know what that is,' said Alice. 'That's why I need you!' And, I thought, I'll add a touch of leavening to the spiritual levels since I'm a very secular Jew.

It's been a joy to work with Alice and my fellow board members, Not least of all because they've taught me more than I've taught them. By that I mean, quite simply, that they aren't in any way the stereotypical evangelicals whose general public image is one of utter intransigence on all issues. Far from it-humble, prayerful and loving is how I would describe Alice and my fellow board members." **Harvey Lyon**

<u>Missionary Needs</u> Thanks for the blessing of wheels. Our son, Joel is ...able to explore the area by bicycle...Our son, Bryce, attending Wheaton College (WC)...was particularly delighted to see how the world becomes so much larger when you ride a bicycle. Cycling is an activity we enjoy as a family...and has allowed us to become refreshed.

We serve as missionaries in a remote town in
Niger, Africa. We work intimately with the local church
supporting a youth center that reaches out to Muslim teenagers and school aged children. We
help facilitate evangelism to the unreached Manga and respond to hunger and poverty through
managing a grain bank and providing emergency food relief.

Steve builds hand-dug wells to respond to the need for reliable sources of clean water. Nancy responds to health needs of individuals and gives basic teaching on hygiene and health. Nancy teaches Fulani Christians to read their language and also hosts a Bible study...for women. Joel continues his high school studies...through distance learning. As we leave Bryce behind at WC we are encouraged to see how God has provided for him and us. Nancy & Steve Brown, Niger

"Arriving in Wheaton for our missionary Home Assignment was a real joy. Beautiful homes surrounded by trees, quiet neighborhoods nicely kept up, lots of Evangelical folk to visit with...what more could we need? Well, there was something more we needed, and HWI had already thought of that! We needed some wheels...for exercise and to enjoy the great trails and outdoors of the area.... By the end of our visit to HWI we had bicycles for the family!!...On subsequent visits ...sharing a time of prayer with them was spectacular, as we prayed for those near and overseas who would benefit from their labor of love. Amazingly, they work in a limited space, but their ministry is unlimited in Christ. I thank God for His Wheels...Keep up the great hands on ministry, for Christ and His people everywhere. Charlie Whoeler, Chili."

Refugee Resettlement HWI continues to bless dozens of newly arrived refugee families from countries like Bhutan, Burma, and Iraq with the precious gift of bicycles. Refugee families are resettled in DuPage County after fleeing war and persecution. For many refugee families, these bicycles are their only means of transportation to work and English classes. The gift of a bicycle is a gift that keeps on giving as families are blessed every day with the access to fully functioning bikes! The staff of World Relief (WR) DuPage is grateful for the partnership with HWI as they truly live out Christ's command to love their neighbors as themselves. **Jenna Liao**

<u>Ministering with HWI</u> "You won't find me anywhere near a bicycle. You won't hear me gush over gears, ratios, spokes, wheels or tires. In fact, the mere mention of these things will make my eyes glaze over and my mind wander. A field trip to Alice's backyard will not cause me any visions of God's heavenly light, but I am sure it's only because the mass of bicycles gets in the way of my field of vision. For indeed God is at work in that simple backyard. Amid the people who are collecting bikes, repairing them, sorting parts, junking the unsalvageable, there is a

determination to do God's work. I don't begin to understand the mechanics of it...I simply stand by and watch the fruit of their labor.

Alice's vision to use wheels to further God's kingdom may seem odd to some, but the people who have benefited from HWI see the Carpenter's hands smudged with grease. His hands straighten rims, adjust seats, polish metal and eventually mobilize the missionary or the refugee.

I just finished planning a trip to the ocean this summer, knowing that as I gaze out upon the neverending waves, the power of the tide, and the vastness of the horizon, I will glimpse a wee bit of God's power. But you don't have to travel that far to do this. A simple backyard in Wheaton can take you there as well. From this haven, God is providing mobility for people worldwide, and through that mobility, He is lifting up the meek and the humble and He is providing fruit for the busy hands that are making this possible.

"But blessed are those who trust in the Lord and have made the Lord their hope and confidence. They are like trees planted along a riverbank, with roots that reach deep into the water. Such trees are not bothered by the heat or worried by long months of drought. Their leaves stay green and they never stop producing fruit" (Jer 17:7-8 NLT). Carol Egan

<u>Dad's Heart</u> "It is the greatest blessing when God takes your child unto Himself and uses her for His own glory. I see... Alice and her dedicated bike-team lovingly serving Christ. They are concerned for missions, for people and for saving souls. They give their time and talents unselfishly; I see a creative ministry, a righteous model, which speaks to all of Christ. A life-long bike lover, nurse and devoted follower of Christ, Alice is Holy Spirit empowered to use all her talents in overseeing HWI. In God's plan, He has called others to labor with her in this unique, green, not for profit, bike-giving ministry. I'm so happy and fulfilled to see HWI providing reliable transportation to hundreds of people. I pray God's protection over this Christ-Centered ministry. May He richly bless all who serve and support HWI." **Joe Teisan**



I echo my father's thanks to all our volunteers, board members, prayer supporters and financial donors who have made HWI a reality. Wishing you and your family a Christ Filled Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

On Behalf of the HWI team,

Alice Teisan Founder/Executive Director