



HIS WHEELS INTERNATIONAL

Bikes & Hand-Pedaled Trikes

NEWSLETTER

Providing pedal-powered transportation for the able and disabled with dignity

July 2013, Volume 8 Issue 2

Finished the Two-Wheeled Bicycle Side of Our Ministry

On July 17, 2013 after 8 years of collecting, refurbishing and distributing 1,700 two-wheeled bicycles we are ending the bicycle division of our ministry. We will no longer accept used bicycle donations.

We are narrowing our focus so we can concentrate on our hand-pedaled three-wheelers we affectionately call trikes.

Here is a recap of our busy last day. Tom our veteran mechanic since 2005 worked hard to tune up the last of the bikes before our three trucks came for pickups.

World Relief picked up the last 6 adult bikes, which ends a partnership that began back in 2006. Since then we have provided over 600 bikes to refugees and immigrants in DuPage County.

Sunshine Gospel in Chicago whom we have partnered with for several years picked up 11 children's bikes.

We will donate the bike tools and parts inventory to another not-for-profit with a similar mission.



Tom (HWI's volunteer since 2005) & Alice

Refining our Focus

Beginning in August we will focus our undivided attention on HWI's hand-pedaled trike. After 8 years of prototyping 22 different trikes and having them assembled, fabricated and manufactured on five continents we recognize that this is what makes His Wheels International unique.

One of the first major projects we are doing in regards to refining our focus is working on a new website. The address is the same: www.hiswheels.org but we are remodeling the site.

The website will feature an open forum for people to discuss different trike topics. In addition we have just uploaded all our trike plan drawings, which anyone can access for free online. Our goal is to help in any way possible to see that the end user gets something that is ergonomically correct and can assist them with mobility.

We will continue doing ongoing trike research and development and share our findings through our online forum and as we consult with other organizations involved in trike work.

In July our engineer, Kevin, had the opportunity to meet with Mark, the Director of Operations at Hope Haven International Ministries in Antigua, Guatemala, while he was in Wheaton. Mark has years of experience in working to meet the mobility needs of the disabled. On more than one occasion he complimented us on our design.

Over the years we have become aware of magnitude of the need throughout the world for quality mobility for those with lower extremity disability. We have developed a trike and manufacturing process, but given our expertise and the size of our organization we need to develop a university trike consortium to help with the trike.

University Trike Consortium

Our goal is to get colleges and universities involved in many aspects of the trike process. With the world becoming global, many universities are involved in international study projects where they take students overseas on a regular basis to a place where the university has an ongoing relationship.

In January we partnered with a student engineering team from Messiah College in Pennsylvania who has had a relationship with a rehabilitation center in Burkina Faso since 1999. They took a trike and fabricated it and left it there.

We are setting up some introductory meetings this fall with universities in Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, and in India to see how vocational students through graduate students in a wide array of disciplines can get involved. The plan is to provide students with a product whereby they can apply the theory and coursework they are learning into helping us refine the trike manufacturing process, improve the product, and address the predicaments of how to make trike manufacturing self-sustainable in other parts of the world.

Over the years we have had individuals, semester long internships, and class projects with students from Messiah College, University of Illinois Chicago, Wheaton College, Roosevelt University and Spring Arbor University to date. The varied disciplines have included engineering, journalism, kinesiology, global initiative, Christian formation and ministry, business, and vocational-technical training,

This spring Messiah College used a trike as part of the following course curriculum: ENGR 381 Mechanical Design (3) *“Investigation of fundamental mechanical design concepts and methods. Application of engineering mechanics, materials, and manufacturing concepts in analysis are used to design mechanical elements and systems. Topics include combined stress, contact stress, stress concentration, fatigue, deflection, and theories of failure. Computer modeling. Design projects.”*

Other Partnerships

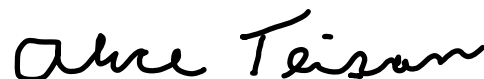
In June we got 5 trike kits to We Build Hope in Holland, Michigan. There a group of about 6-10 men meet every Wednesday in a tool and die shop and are building trikes. This group has an interest in helping people in Haiti and Honduras.

In June one of HWI's supporters, Carolyn, returned to Ethiopia to do missionary nursing work at Soddo Christian Hospital. She is following up with the team there who fabricated 15 HWI trikes. Since Carolyn speaks fluent Amharic, one of the main languages in Ethiopia she will be able to hear from the users what they like about the trike and what changes need to be made. We are very excited to get such honest feedback.

In early July a nearby disability group brought 8 people in need of trikes to Soddo Christian Hospital. However there were only 2 trikes left. The leader who brought the individuals was the one who assessed and prioritized the needs and then picked the 2 who received trikes. But now talks are taking place of how to proceed with getting more trikes to Soddo.

In October we will go to Spring Arbor University (SAU) for some meetings. During that time we hope to meet one of the visiting professors from Immanuel University in India, encourage the students who are part of the Enactus business club and brainstorm about other ways that we can pool our product development with SAU's academic and global resources in a way of providing a tool for expanding Christ's Kingdom.

Thanks for your prayers, your gifts, and your part on His Wheels International's growing team.



Alice Tesian on behalf of the HWI Team,
Founder & Executive Director