



January 2014

In December I was honored to give the Commencement Speech at Resurrection University, my alma mater (In 1984 it was named West Suburban School of Nursing). Enclosed are some speech excerpts along with some His Wheels International (HWI) sprinklings.

The stethoscope has two ends. At any time we can find ourselves at one end or the other, expecting the unexpected. One day, I was a healthcare professional. A person with power, with a stethoscope in my ears exploring the intimacies of a patient's heart! The next day, I was on the bell end of the scope. Anxious and wondering what's happening to me?

On July 23, 1992, at the age of thirty, four days before heading out on a ten-day, 1,000-mile bicycle trip from Illinois to Delaware, life as I knew it was about to change forever.

By then I had already bicycled 10,000 miles on four continents and from coast to coast across the United States twice. My goal was to bike on all seven continents and through all 50 states.

On that warm July day, I suddenly became violently ill. I figured I had the 24 hour flu. I never imagined that one day my health would deteriorate so drastically that I'd have to struggle to care for my daily needs. But the healthy avid cyclist was practically an invalid.

By April 1993, after 10 months I had seen nineteen different health care specialists. Then the diagnosis came: "You have Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (also known as CFS).

CFS is like being chained to an invisible 1,000 pound ball while appearing perfectly healthy. It has impacted every body system, with no diagnostic indicators. Many health care professionals debated whether it was a real problem or whether the problem was "all in my head." I thought, *If I had cancer, the doctors would follow a protocol. But this—a label without a definition!*

When sickness struck I still needed a purpose for living. So I made prayer my new occupation. I began by pouring out my heart to God—telling him my frustrations, fears, anger and hurt.

It was in the schoolroom of suffering where each day, I awoke with a choice to either allow my suffering to make me bitter or to hand my suffering over to God through prayer. "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

Over the next decade I faced three serious relapses. Once able to work full-time as a nurse, now I could only manage intermittent clerical work. Everything became a struggle.

Then in 2003 the vision for my next bicycle journey came through a couple visiting from Tanzania. They shared how a bike would allow a health care worker or others to travel from one location to another, faster than by foot, which can take several hours.

Afterward I felt led to give \$1,200 to buy ten bikes for Tanzania. God provided the funds to cover the costs and a new bicycle dream—to give away 100 bicycles in my lifetime.

What is your impossible dream? What risk will it demand of you?

Soon afterwards I saw a picture of a Nigerian made hand pedaled trike for people with lower extremity disabilities that resulted from birth defects, or polio, or for those injured by landmines. A trike provides health, hope and dignified mobility by allowing the people to get up and out of the dirt, where they once used flip flops to crawl along while dragging their legs behind. In 2004 I made my next bike purchase, buying five bikes and five trikes for use in Nigeria.

Then in 2005 my bicycle dream grew into HWI a not-for-profit organization. Our goal was to provide bikes and trikes internationally as a tool for expanding God's Kingdom.

But two months after we began I had this seemingly impossible dream! To take a welding class so I could build our own hand-pedaled trikes. A month later, I met Kevin! Within minutes Kevin said, "I'm a Mechanical Engineer. Can I design, build, and pay for the trike prototyping?"

My original bicycling dream would have to die before I would find my life's purpose within HWI. While applying my experience and education into creating a culture of innovation 22 different trike prototypes and a trike manufacturing process have been designed. Nearly 100 HWI trikes have been assembled, fabricated, or manufactured on five continents

2013 Year in Review

In July 2013 after providing 1,700 bikes to people affiliated with 90 countries we ended the two-wheeled bicycle division of our ministry. During a volunteer thank you lunch we reminisced about the fun times we had repairing the bikes during our bi-weekly bike repair days over the last eight years.

We passed nearly \$5,000 worth of accumulated inventory on to Working Bikes Cooperative in Chicago whom we have been partnering with for a few years. Also, over Thanksgiving volunteers delivered two extra sets of our bicycle tools to Spring Arbor University (SAU). From there they will go to one of the international locations where we are partnering with SAU.

After ending the bike division we turned our undivided attention to our hand-pedaled trike division. We began by redesigning our website. All our trike plans are now available for free download at our site.

Another trike goal was building a University Trike Consortium with the goal of providing students with the opportunity to see how their interests, talents, and education can have a Kingdom impact as they provide improvements and apply new transferable technology to the trike.

In January 2013 we had connections with three schools. We weren't sure how or where we'd find new contacts but God knew. Contacts have come through radio listeners, friend connections, and through information we sent out. Now as we look back over the year we are amazed at how God has orchestrated our visits with seven colleges and universities in the USA and India.

Messiah College: In January 2013 students from Messiah College fabricated a HWI trike at a SIM Rehabilitation Center in Burkina Faso, Africa.

Vanuatu: In February 2013 we sent the front end of a trike (60 % of the trike complexity) to Vanuatu. A team of missionary engineers are working with the Vanuatu Disability Society helping to come up with some alternative modes of transportation.

Niger: In February a trike began the long journey to Niger, West Africa. After leaving Illinois it went to the container in Florida and arrived at its final destination this fall. We are still awaiting a report.

Olivet Nazarene University (ONU): This fall four senior engineering students embarked on a neuro-engineering project with our trike. The goal was to see ways that students could get involved with HWI in doing “missioneering,” as Dr. Johnson called it.

By late Spring 2014 these ONU students plan to have the trike designed in such a way that a quadriplegic could move the trike through a neuro-engineering process whereby EEG waves will interpret what the person is thinking and then allow a power source to navigate the trike.

Spring Arbor University (SAU): Throughout 2013 we had several interactions with students, faculty and the SAU community, and **Immanuel Coe Technical School** in Hyderabad, **India**

We began 2013 excited because students at SAU had exceeded their goal of raising \$2,500 in 3 months and raised \$4,750. The money helped students at Immanuel Coe (part of the Dalits people group) learn welding skills as they manufactured 19 HWI trikes.

These same SAU business students went on to explore ways to make the trike building process in India self-sustainable. In April at a Regional Enactus Business Club Competition where at least 70 other schools participated, SAU presented their ideas before a set of judges, and were awarded first runners up in their division.

Then in June I stopped for lunch to meet with Carla Koontz, SAU’s Global Initiative Director and my Cross Country bike leader from 1977 on one of my trips to see my family in Detroit. What I assumed would be an ordinary lunch turned out to be another God encounter. It began as Carla introduced me to three of her colleagues who were also at the restaurant. The conversation was long enough for God to plant some new seeds. Since June we have had two follow up meetings at SAU which have included faculty from SAU and **Immanuel University’s Masters of Business School in Hyderabad, India**. The trike has opened our minds to brainstorming ways we could do some internet instructional learning courses drawing on the strengths of some course curriculum that is already being presented at SAU. We have also begun discussing ways to help the end-user find hope through mobility while also providing educational opportunities for them to begin to learn new life skills. Please pray as we continue our discussions towards this end.

Anderson University (AU), Wheaton College (WC), & Taylor University (TU) Last fall we also visited engineering department professors, students and other at AU, WC, and TU. Our meetings have encouraged everyone involved while providing stimulating conversation, which got our creative juices flowing as we dream of ways to engage our passions for expanding Christ’s Kingdom. We continue to dialogue with these contacts as we wait to see what the next steps may be.

Wandering Wheels (WW): Since WW is within blocks of TU we included three WW’s friends in our meetings at Taylor University.

One of those friends was John Pugsley (age 13) who God has gifted with some amazing engineering talent. John and his sister Anne (age 15) spend time hanging out and helping out at Wandering Wheels under Janech's leadership. After our meeting at TU we left a trike for TU and WW to share. John and Janech pooled their talents and put together a trike kit assembly process video without words for His Wheels. After they finished the video Anne followed the video to assemble the trike. When she finished the assembling process she said, "That wasn't hard at all."

The amazing things about the Pugsley family is that when I wore a regalia of a different sort back in the 70's on my cross country bike trips it included a red and white train conductor's style polka dotted cap. When Scott Pugsley (John & Anne's dad) learned about HWI's trike he asked, "Did Alice used to wear a polka dotted hat?" Scott and I rode cross country together in 1978. Then years later Scott met his wife, Bev, on a Coast to Coast trip too.

You may not be able to identify Carla (My 1977 Cross Country Leader and friend from SAU) and I in this picture from 1977 but if you knew me then you wouldn't need to see my face to know who wore that hat with just as much pride then as I wore the commencement regalia in December 2013.

What fun to be passing HWI on to the next generation in so many ways. We wait expectantly for how God will mold and orchestrate our impossible dreams into God sized Kingdom realities in 2014. Thanks for being part of our His Wheels International dream team.

Blessings,
Alice Teisan, *Founder and Executive Director*



Alice's Polka Dotted Hat Regalia from her youth



Alice Giving the Commencement Speech 2013



Fabricating a HWI Trike in Burkina Faso



Working Bikes Loading \$5,000 worth of bike inventory

P.O. Box 423 • Wheaton, IL 60187 • (630) 510-1005 • info@hiswheels.org • www.hiswheels.org