



HIS WHEELS INTERNATIONAL Bikes & Hand-Pedaled Trikes

NEWSLETTER

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

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Student Projects

For the second year, HWI is partnering with Olivet Nazarene University's (ONU) senior engineering capstone project. This year we have three mechanical engineering students who will spend the academic year designing cargo solutions to allow the trike's users to carry a variety of objects on the vehicle. Their team has come up with the following project ideas: an underneath cargo space, a passenger seat, a trailer hitch and a trailer.

During our first meet and greet with these three students via Skype, it was exciting to hear why each student chose the HWI project. Loren chose it after going to Swaziland three consecutive summers while at ONU to do engineer related mission projects. She saw and worked with those who would benefit from the trike. David also has been to Swaziland and served on an HIV/AIDS task force. He is excited to work on a project where he can see how his passion for missions, his interest in cycling and his professional career can all intersect. Alex "hopes to use his knowledge of engineering and enthusiasm for cycling to contribute to the cycling experience, and is excited to have this opportunity to also serve God's kingdom." By involving students in the research and development process we are facilitating a way for them to discover how their talents, interests, and career choices can have Kingdom, social and global implications.

During the first week of December Loren, David, and Alex will travel to Wheaton from ONU (about 90 minutes away) to meet with our HWI team. We will take the students to our showroom, discuss their progress so far, answer questions, and show them Kevin's workshop.

Trike Building Contacts

Over the last several months HWI has shared our in Country manufacturing process with an organization working in India. Also Carolyn, a missionary in Ethiopia shared our trike building process with a Christian not-

for-profit in Addis Ababa that teaches orphans vocational and technical skills. By selling the products, the orphans are given tools, skills, and income to work towards independence.

In addition a missionary working with the disabled in Rwanda heard about our trike. She will meet with us in December while in the Chicagoland area.

Sharing our Mission

In early 2014 we were contacted by Free Wheelchair Mission (FCM) located in California. Since about 2000 FCM has distributed over 800,000 wheelchairs to people in 91 countries, providing hope through the gift of mobility. They are now beginning to explore adding a hand-pedaled trike to their product line. After reviewing our free online downloadable trike plans FCM contacted us via email. The next step was a couple phone conferences followed by an in person meeting at our most recent HWI space.

Such a meeting fulfills our mission to mobilize God's work worldwide by motivating through mobility. Our trike tool kit, including manufacturing process, blueprints, drawings, advice, and at times a sample trike help organizations like FCM to implement our research as they move forward on their trike design. By sharing our nine years of trike developing knowledge we are advocating and providing a voice for the disabled.

Our hope is that those who utilize our documentation will continue to place an emphasis on providing an ergonomically correct design that will help the end user without creating more health problems.

Meeting with FCM in our new Public Storage space also confirmed that we at HWI had accomplished our goals: a space that held our inventory, decreased our overhead and allowed us to showcase our ministry.

Messiah College Visit

From October 25-30th Alice visited Messiah College, where the engineering department has partnered with HWI since 2010. There she spoke for the Collaboratory Chapel where over 100 students, staff,

and alumni attended. Messiah's Collaborative is a comprehensive service-learning program. It provides practical applications in Engineering education and many other disciplines as well.

One component of the Collaboratory is a disability sector, which has included partnering with a SIM rehabilitation center's trike project in Burkina Faso. Since 1999 students and staff have made regularly scheduled visits to Burkina Faso and have assisted in making improvements on SIM's trike.

Alice shared HWI's vision interweaving her personal story of health challenges, hardships, and prayer.

While at Messiah Alice had the opportunity to meet with students for lunch, during a student leadership meeting, and while observing different aspects of the Collaboratory in action. She also had the opportunity to meet with professors and staff. Two frequent questions that Alice fielded affirmed that the chapel talk addressed pertinent issues.

One question was "How do you pray an hour?" Prayer is Alice's passion and she emphasizes how HWI was founded on prayer and continues forward by prayer. One student leader wrote back a few weeks later, "Thanks so much for your challenge to have our student leadership team spend time in prayer together rather than talk about prayer. We've done that for our last two meetings... It has been an excellent way to keep our focus on him and center us for the meetingI am continuing to investigate prayer and grow in my walk with God." What an honor to know that HWI is fulfilling our mission of mobilizing God's work worldwide and beginning with the challenge of prayer among college students. Prayer is the most powerful tool for life and ministry!

The other question was, "How do you begin an organization?" This is a relevant questions given over 50% of Millennials, (of whom college age students fall within) want to start their own organizations. Alice emphasized that unless an organization is built on prayer and God's principals it isn't worth doing. Also, even if one is the founder of an organization there are still people who hold us accountable, including God!

Another exciting opportunity was meeting with Dr. Vader, a fellow visionary, and the professor who began the Collaboratory. While talking together it was

apparent that God had given us similar passions. Ideas were popping like popcorn. The discussion was an encouragement and affirmation for what God was doing in and through the Collaboratory and HWI. We left with some concrete ideas of ways we can partner together as co-laborers in Christ's Kingdom work. Dr. Vader later wrote "Thank you for all the encouragement you shared with me and everyone in the Collaboratory during your visit and for the wonderful follow up to the visit. Your prayer team idea struck me as particularly timely"

While networking with the trike team Alice learned of a simple solution students found for a common wheel problem faced by many trike organizations. As a result HWI was able to act as a catalyst for another similar organization facing the same problems, which we knew about through our consulting opportunities.

Reunions

Alice planned to tag on about five days of vacation to the trip to Messiah College. Thanks to good health, big dreams, and lifelong friends the trip ended up also including an eight state six day gallivant.

The first stop after leaving Messiah College was a mini weekend reunion with Nelson and Skeet, a brother and sister who Alice rode cross-country with in 1977 and 1978. What fun it was to reminisce and to realize without those trips back then there wouldn't be a His Wheels International today.

Since Alice's health was still doing well, the friend she was staying with took a six day driving trip up the east coast. First stop was Rhode Island, a state neither of them had ever seen. Then to New Hampshire to meet up with the Nyatsambos, the Zimbabwean couple Alice lived with while doing short-term missions in 1983. The Lord used the long discussions about culture and missions back then to instill in Alice a dream to one day participate in missions by providing a tool for the nationals to use as they minister to their own people.

The final stops were Connecticut and New Jersey to spent time with long-time friends and HWI supporters.

*Thanks for your friendship and support.
Merry Christmas on behalf of the entire HWI team
Alice Teisan*

