



HIS WHEELS INTERNATIONAL

Bikes & Hand-Pedaled Trikes

NEWSLETTER

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

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Trike Meeting



On February 18, 2015, United Cerebral Palsy Wheel For Humanity Division (UCPWFH) facilitated a trike meeting in Hollywood, California. Alice went in person, Kevin, our design engineer attended via tele-conference, and we shipped a trike for attendees to see and ride.

The purpose of the meeting was to share the results of a 10-month, 127 page trike study of seven different trike designs that USAID funded. UCPWFH conducted and oversaw the study in Indonesia that occurred in 2013-2014.

It was the first time such a trike specific meeting has occurred. The group of ten individuals covered the trike spectrum, including not-for-profit organizations, mobility companies, and university faculty members where trike work is being done.

Gathering together provided the opportunity to meet each other for the first time. We were also able to network, brainstorm, and discuss design issues familiar to us all. Each of us shared about our organization. We saw several different trikes through video, pictures and a few that were onsite.

Afterward the meeting the HWI trike was donated to UCPWFH. It will probably go to one of their Latin American Partners.

New Opportunities

Here are some of the exciting opportunities that sprung from the trike meeting.

- The facilitators encouraged HWI to host a trike forum on our website. We had already structured one into our website but it had not been activated yet. Matt, a Product Design Engineer with a wide variety of mobility design and manufacturing technology experience, offered to moderate the forum. Thanks to all the hard work of our webmaster Gabi, you can now visit or participate in the forum here: <http://www.hiswheels.org/forums/>.
- On April 22nd Alice had a phone conversation with Professor Norman Reese from LeTourneau University (LETU) located in Longview, Texas. He told how three students were finishing up their senior capstone engineering trike design project. He asked if Kevin and I could meet with them.
- On April 23rd Kevin and I met via Skype video conferencing with Norman and two of his students. We fielded trike design related questions. When possible we showed them parts of our trike and explained how we addressed the issues. Norman ended the student time by saying, "I wish we had known about HWI when we began this project back in the fall."
- After meeting with the students Norman gave us a visual tour of LETU's engineering department pointing out the mission related mobility work they are doing. LETU has a strong emphasis on wheelchair work. They have a partnership with Hope Haven in Guatemala. It is encouraging to add LETU to our University Trike Consortium networking.
- During the trike meeting Kevin was able to talk with Ron Rice from Wheelchairs for Nigeria about some trike design issues. Ron extended an invitation for HWI to meet with Ayuba, his Nigerian partner on May 9th in Michigan. The meeting between Kevin and Ayuba was both an encouragement and a learning experience.

HWI 10 Years Later—Coming Full Circle

Back in 2004, with the personal goal to give away 100 bikes in her lifetime, Alice bought 5 hand-pedaled wheelchairs (trikes) through a Nigerian Missionary. The organization, Wheelchairs for Nigeria had built them. Since then they have built and distributed over 10,000 trikes in Nigeria. Afterwards Alice received three pictures from Nigeria of those disabled by polio: Ayuba walking with blocks of wood as hand shoes in a suit and tie, a boy pedaling a trike, and Ayuba distributing the five trikes Alice bought.

During a meeting in July of 2005 when an African government official saw the trike pictures, he said, “We need trikes throughout Africa.” Alice’s next dream was to take a welding class. She thought, “If I can weld, I can build a trike.” God knew Alice’s plan wouldn’t work. He had a better plan! In August 2005 Alice met Kevin. When Kevin saw the trike pictures he said, “I’m an engineer. Can I design the trike?”

On May 9th Kevin met Ayuba for the first time. Ayuba tried the HWI trike. Kevin found it fascinating to see how someone with his upper body strength maneuvered the trike. The men spent a couple hours discussing ways HWI could partner with Wheelchairs for Nigeria, assisting with trike design related issues. Then the HWI trike Kevin took to Michigan was boxed and taken to Nigeria only days later. There the team could see the HWI trike and discuss design ideas they’d like to incorporate into their trike design.

Alice was unable to attend the meeting. Therefore Ayuba and Alice greeted each other by phone. Ayuba opened by saying, “Thanks for your vision.” Alice replied, “Ayuba, it was you who inspired the trike division.” HWI has come full circle, in the past 10 years!”

Since 2005 HWI has distributed over 1,700 two-wheeled bicycles, and designed 22 different hand-pedaled trike prototypes, along with a trike manufacturing process. Over 100 HWI trikes have been assembled, fabricated or manufactured on six continents.

One question remains! What will the next 10 years hold for HWI? We pray that above all else God will be glorified in all we do.

Senior Engineering Capstone Project



During the 2014-2015 school year Loren, David, and Alex, three senior mechanical engineering students from Olivet Nazarene University were given the task of developing some cargo options for the HWI trike. After learning that the USAID study had identified cargo design options as a weakness, we were able to inform our Olivet team of this finding. It was encouraging to the team to know that their work was contributing both to HWI and the greater trike community.

On April 17 Kevin and Alice went to Olivet to see the design and hear the team’s presentation. The picture above shows them beginning their presentation by riding in. The cargo trailer can hold up to 500 pounds. When not hitched to the trike it has handles that allow it to be used like a wheelbarrow. The plans are available online <http://www.hiswheels.org/trike-blueprints/>

After the presentation we enjoyed a pizza lunch while debriefing. The students look forward to displaying a 3-D model of the trike and trailer on their desks at their future offices. They all have engineering positions awaiting them.

Thanks for your part in keeping His Wheels International rolling for the past 10 years. We look forward to your continued partnership with us.

*On Behalf of the HWI Team
Alice Teisan Founder & Director*

