



# HIS WHEELS INTERNATIONAL Hand-Pedaled Trikes

NEWSLETTER

Promote the design, fabrication, and manufacturing of hand-pedaled trikes

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## MIT D Lab takes HWI Trike to Yogyakarta, Indonesia

In January, Matt, an instructor at MIT's D-Lab, took a team of students along with our trike and another trike to do testing and get feedback from people with disabilities in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

After the MIT team performed the trike testing, Marwan, a teenager with an advanced stage of muscular dystrophy, received the trike.



Matt wrote, "He may not honestly live long enough to wear this one out, but in the meantime he loves it. He's a heavy user. He demolished the trike (another make) that he presently has. Marwan appreciates that the HWI trike is easier to propel than his broken down trike. Accept Marwan's thanks for mobility." Hopefully the Wheels for Humanity branch of United Cerebral Palsy in Jakarta will be able to keep track of the ongoing wear Marwan puts on the trike and we hope this leads to some constructive feedback for us.

## Father-Son Trike Building Team

Alice met Jimmy, a nine year old, and his dad, Bob, and mom, Becky, at church last fall. Soon after learning about the trike Bob said, "If you ever need any help we'd love to get involved."

A few weeks later after reading Alice's memoir, *Riding on Faith*, Becky said, "You'll never believe this but I do HWI's taxes! It was so much fun learning about all you have done through HWI."

I invited them to check out our trikes. Jimmy was mesmerized by the trikes and had a blast riding them.

With a goal to build up our last eight remaining trikes from our 2011 production run, we enlisted the dynamic father-son team to help Kevin. So far, they have devoted three Saturday's and Jimmy has done the initial "quality control" test or "victory lap" on five of the trikes.



We hope to get at least two of the eight trikes on a container being packed in Indianapolis by Basic Utility Vehicle headed to Tanzania in June.

## Trike Consortium Endeavors

Since November, 2015, HWI has facilitated a monthly trike consortium meeting via video conference that has been hosted by Messiah College. We have been working on formulating some best practices for hand-pedaled three-wheeled mobility that we affectionately call trikes.

Our meetings have consisted of those from the health professions, engineering and business professors and faculty from Letourneau University, Messiah College, MIT, and Spring Arbor University. We have also been joined by staff from Wandering Wheels, and HWI. Most recently, Maxim, an engineer from the Netherlands who has a virtual hand-cycling community of over 400 members throughout Eastern Europe, joined us.

At our February meeting, Nancy, HWI's consulting physical therapist, discussed ergonomic issues as we reviewed pictures that the MIT team sent us from Indonesia. Nancy has offered to lend her expertise critiquing proper ergonomics and skin integrity issue for other companies and institutions doing trike related prototyping.

Following the February meeting, Messiah College had an interest in having their most recent trike that they took to Burkina Faso in January evaluated. They invited Nancy and Alice to critique the trike during an engineering class. Present were 12 students involved in the trike project.

Afterwards John, the faculty member who has been working with the Burkina Faso trike project since 1999 said, "I have a page of changes we need to consider after our meeting today."

## Upcoming Events

April 19<sup>th</sup> Alice will speak at the Wheaton Lion's Club monthly meeting

April 22<sup>nd</sup> Alice and Kevin will visit Olivet Nazarene University for the Senior Engineering Students Capstone Project presentation. Three students have spent the school year working on issues related to gearing and crank arm options.

May: Alice will represent HWI as an International Judge for a three-month Pakistan Accessible Cycle Design Challenge occurring between March and May. NOWPDP, an organization serving the disabled in Pakistan, conducted the challenge. There will be twelve on an international panel that will virtually judge the designs. You can learn more about the challenge by clicking on the link: <http://www.nowpdp.org/the-rickshaw-project/acdc/>

You can view the video charge Alice delivered as NOWPDP advertised the challenge in January. David, a talented College of DuPage filming student put together the NOWPDP charge and also made a new HWI promotional video. Both videos are posted at the link below. <http://www.hiswheels.org/category/video/>

June: Lord willing and all the logistics coming together, the container through Basic Utility Vehicle will be sent to Tanzania.

*Thanks for your part in helping HWI to enter our eleventh year of ministry.*

***On Behalf of the His Wheels Team,***

*Alice Teisan*



P.O. Box 423 \* Wheaton, IL 60187 \* (630) 510-1005 \* [info@hiswheels.org](mailto:info@hiswheels.org) \* [hiswheels.org](http://hiswheels.org)

Blog: [www.hiswheels.org/blog/](http://www.hiswheels.org/blog/) \* Twitter: @HisWheels \* Facebook: HisWheelsInternational