



# HIS WHEELS INTERNATIONAL Hand-Pedaled Trikes

NEWSLETTER

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

**July 2020, Volume 15, Issue 2**

## **COVID – 19 Cancellation**

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, we were preparing to send a trike to STARS Uganda in July, via College Church, Wheaton's short-term mission team. This delivery was extra special because Nancy, a physical therapist who has been an integral part of our HWI trike team, was leading the trip. She was delivering it to Sylvia Kalyebara, the Founder of STARS Uganda, and a friend of His Wheels and Nancy.

I met Sylvia Kalyebara, a Social Worker, over a decade ago when she arrived in the USA, to join her husband, Nick, who was studying at Wheaton College. As Sylvia and I were forming a friendship, from the moment she learned about HWI and our trike, she began asking herself, "Where are all those with disabilities in Uganda?"

Knowing Sylvia had a growing interest in learning more about serving those with disabilities, I introduced her to College Church's STARS program, and to Nancy. When Sylvia returned to Uganda, she began STARS Uganda, a Christian non-governmental organization, for walking alongside people affected by disabilities. I continue to encourage and advise Sylvia, through prayer, emails, etc. Nancy has also encouraged Sylvia in countless ways, including visiting her in Uganda.

Kasimu, a seven-year-old Ugandan, was to receive the trike. He recently said to his mother, who was limiting his crawling around to play, "Mom . . . I am not lame; just let me play with my friend. Do you expect me to play on your back all day?" When I heard this story, I thought about how much independence, freedom and mobility the trike will bring him. It would get him off his mom's back, that's for sure!

Sylvia and I discussed our concern about not just giving the trike away, but figuring out a creative way of remuneration, since Mom has two children with disabilities and does not have the means to pay for the trike. Sylvia came up with the plan that Mom would serve one week, for the next three STARS school semesters, doing laundry for the school. It was a brilliant idea because it would allow Mom to give back, giving her the dignity of providing for her son's transportation needs and allow her to meet others serving at the school.

When Mom learned of COVID-19 prohibiting travel, she began praying for a miracle. We look forward to seeing how God brings about the miracle.

## **Praying for a Miracle**

Vadim, one of HWI's board members is working with Jon, the founder of Ideas Workshop in Kampala Uganda, to get our trike plans into a compatible format for Jon's computer CAD program. Ideas Workshop is "a ministry that discipless young people and trains them in hands on training in a context of metal and wood work, a fabrication business. . . . we pride ourselves in giving your dreams life." Their slogan is, "you dream it, we make it..."

The goal is for Ideas Workshop to produce our first HWI trike in Uganda. The trike will go to STARS Uganda. From there, our dreams include having more trike kits made for getting some to our friends and partners in Congo, Kenya, and in other parts of East Africa. Our hope is that Ideas Workshop will also be able to train workers in Congo under Mboligihe's ministry, whom I referenced in our last newsletter.

Jon had also hoped to see the trike HWI was planning to send to STARS Uganda so they could see it as they prepare building one.

Please continue to pray with us as Jon is taking the steps for the first His Wheels conceptualized trike in Uganda. Under the best of circumstances, it usually takes 2-3 years before an idea of building trikes becomes a reality.

## **Pray with Us**

In April, I received an update from Joel Songela, who took two trikes back to Dodoma, Tanzania last May. You may recall that David, an engineer teaching at Arusha Technical School, drove eight hours to help Joel assemble the two trikes. Afterwards David called me, sharing how impressed he was with the HWI trike.

Then life happened, and Joel didn't hear from David for over seven months. The lack of communication was discouraging to Joel's team and to HWI too. In April, David called Joel. Joel said David is "consulting the administration at Arusha Technical School about the possibility of involving them in the building of HWI trikes. Don't give up on me." Please pray with Joel, David, and us at His Wheels as the Lord allows us to be a part of pioneering and navigating new trike opportunities.

## **The Wheels Keep Turning**

Over the years HWI has had three foot-pedaled recumbent trikes donated to us. One became "the company car" for a few years. A recumbent trike is the suggested form of rehabilitation exercise for someone with Myalgic Encephalitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (ME/CFS), which I've struggled with for the last 29 years. The recumbent trike was helpful as I transitioned back to my bicycle.

Having a recumbent trike from His Wheels to ride was a dream from my college days fulfilled. A year ago, I began to realize it was time to pass the recumbent trike on. I then began praying for the Lord to bring the next person for this Hase recumbent trike.

One night in June, my COVID-19 crisis hit. Mine came through food - realizing I can't eat another one of my home prepared meals. I knew I could order take out or buy premade food but that wasn't going to resolve my issue. What I needed was the love shown through receiving a home cooked meal (leftovers were all I really needed), knowing that if we weren't in the midst of a pandemic, I would have enjoyed a meal with a friend by now.

K, a friend who gladly extended “social distancing” hospitality, brought me some pulled-pork leftovers, veggies and dessert. When she arrived, we stood outside, and talked for some time. As K shared how her health issues have kept her from being able to exercise for over a decade, I thought, “Maybe the recumbent trike would allow K to exercise.” I asked, “Have you ever tried a recumbent trike?” She said, “I’ve often thought I needed to look into trying one.”

I said, “I have just the recumbent trike in my garage, for you to try.” In my heart, I knew then God was answering my prayer. After K test rode the trike she said, “Today is the first time in 11 years that I’ve been able to get my heartrate up. It felt wonderful.”

When K asked, “How much do you want for the recumbent?” I said, “Just make a donation to HWI. My job was vetting who got the trike. You and your husband can prayerfully decide the donation amount.” She also said, “Thanks! It really feels wonderful to know someone who prays about who might need a bike... kind of nice that it turned out to be me.”

For about a month prior to this recumbent story, I had known we needed a new computer after two nightmarish computer sagas in the last year; but I kept limping along, concerned about the unexpected added expense. The morning I picked to finally ordered the new computer, by faith, trusting God would see us through the added expenses, was no coincidence. Only hours later, K emailed me the amount she and her husband had decided to donate. It covered the entire cost of the computer. Not only that, but K’s husband then helped me set up the computer.

The vision for HWI began with hospitality and His Wheels International continues being “greased” albeit now through “creative social distancing hospitality.”

*Thank you for your part in this amazing adventure of His Wheels International.*

*On Behalf of the entire HWI team,  
Alice Teisan Founder & Executive Director*

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