



HIS WHEELS INTERNATIONAL Hand-Pedaled Trikes

NEWSLETTER

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

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The Next Phase of Ministry

In our November 2017, newsletter I said that we were entering our next phase of ministry. Before I share the four parts with you, let me pause and say thank you. Thank you for believing in HWI, for praying for the ongoing ministry of HWI and for supporting us through your participation of your gifts, talents and finances. It is truly amazing that in May 2018, we will begin our 14th year of ministry.

Below is a brief explanation of three of them, while concentrating on one of them in this newsletter and then expounding on the others throughout the year.

1. Ongoing work of promoting the design, fabrication, and manufacturing of hand-pedaled trikes for people with disabilities in developing countries, which we will do through our University Trike Consortium.
2. Continuing to use the trike as a platform for promoting disability awareness, educating about disabilities, and mentoring those who have been challenged to address the needs of the disabled throughout the world.
3. We are in the process of developing a children's book series around disabilities.

A Divine Shopping Excursion

In January, while shopping, I introduced myself to Edwinah (Eh Dwee na) and Wainaina (Wa-ne-ne), a couple who had recently arrived in the USA from Kenya, along with their two sons. Wainaina is doing a PhD in educational studies at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School (TEDS), which he began in the fall of 2017.

During our initial hour-long conversation, I described HWI to Wainaina and he shared about African Rural Trainers (<http://africaruraltrainers.org/>), as Edwinah ferociously shopped. By the time we ended, he offered to help us with the 4th part of our next phase—building a comprehensive business plan model, which we can implement for a trike building program in another country.

Ten days later, the three of us met to pray and brainstorm. As I shared ideas, Wainaina organized my thought into two concise categories, identifying the skills and resources HWI and the overseas trike building team would need in order to build a viable partnership.

Between January and the end of February, Wainaina shared the building plan with a prospective government official in Kenya. He also orchestrated another brainstorming meeting, which happened at TEDS with Dr. Donald Guthrie, The Jeanette L. Hsieh Chair of Educational Leadership, on February 22, 2018, the first of ongoing discussions. I also meet with Caleb Chan, Dean, Gainey School of Business at Spring Arbor University. After sharing the two categories with him, we were able to brainstorm about ways to break up the list into student sizes projects, for the future, as we formulate our comprehensive building plan.

The Trike at TEDS

Below are some excerpts from *LIVING IN THE SHADOW OF BROKENNESS* a paper referencing HWI's trike, which Wainaina wrote and then presented, for a class called the Art, Beauty and Creativity in Learning.

"I don't just see a well-designed piece of machinery but I see a means to give those who cannot walk the gift of mobility. I also see a connection between the possibility that this new-found-mobility

opens the door for the previously immobile or not-so-mobile disabled person to see themselves in a new way. There is also the possibility of society seeing the disabled in a new way, a way of dignity and respect. In my mother tongue (Kikuyu), the word 'kionje' which translates to 'crippled' also carries with it the connotation of 'one who *cannot be able* and/or *cannot do* those things that tend towards a normal life'. The trike would stand against such a definition and say 'No, I am here and I will help the 'kionje' be and do all that God wants them to be, and I will enable them to do all that God wants them to do'.

Alice Teisan and HWI's trike have been used by the Lord to make me begin to see more clearly and think more carefully about issues related to brokenness. . . . After listening to Alice's story and gaining an understanding of the mission of His Wheels International, I stepped back and asked myself if all her work mattered. After all, I did not 'know' any disabled person except for one lifelong friend who was visually impaired" Wainaina continues, "I stepped back and did a careful survey of the people I knew who were actually disabled in one way or another. I was astonished by what I 'saw' when looking carefully. There were many I knew! However, the truth was, maybe I just did not care to engage in 'their world' or 'their brokenness.'

The question that changed my thoughtless negligence was this: 'Are the disabled beautiful?' . . . It was not just brokenness in body that was an issue, but that it was brokenness throughout creation that was the critical issue." He asked himself, "'Wainaina, in your brokenness, are you beautiful to God?' Nobody wants to look into a mirror and see ugliness staring back at them. Especially not the mirror of God's Word"!

Wainaina said since meeting Alice "it has been a disturbing past few weeks as I reflected on this subject of disability and brokenness. I am likely closer aligned to God and his thoughts about disability and brokenness. I see brokenness a bit more clearly in the biblical text and recognize different forms of disability in the world today. I hear the unspoken cry of the disabled more audibly and feel something (grief?) in my heart for this broken creation. That feeling invites me to seek answers to questions I have about hopeful flourishing in a broken world. For example: Is disability simply physical and cognitive or is it also emotional, spiritual and communal? How do we sensitize the local church about the need to push back the effects of living in a broken world? What can be done to help God's people 'see' their own and others brokenness? How does the redemption narrative inform our efforts to help the disabled live in hopeful flourishing?"

As I was finishing our newsletter today, Wainaina sent me his first short story ever written, which beautifully combines the issues of brokenness and beauty. After reading the story I'm humbled by how God has used His Wheels International for his kingdom purposes. Indeed HWI still has work to do. *Thank you for being part of our ministry team.*

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

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- 2. Make a check payable to Faith & Learning International with His Wheels in the memo line and mail to: **Faith & Learning International P.O. Box 480, Wheaton, IL 60187***



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