



HIS WHEELS INTERNATIONAL Hand-Pedaled Trikes

NEWSLETTER

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

September 2019, Volume 14, Issue 3

Introductions to our Tanzanian Partners

In our last newsletter I told you about Joel Songela, from Dodoma, Tanzania, who is looking into the possibility of building His Wheels trikes. This endeavor would happen through a vocational technical school, part of a community development center.

In 2008, I met and began developing a friendship with Joel Songela, a Wheaton grad student, along with his wife, Faraja, and their three young children Yadah, Bright Hope, and Adoni.

Then in 2010, Faraja returned to do her master's degree, having also received a Billy Graham scholarship. Over the years, we've prayed and dreamed together of ministry opportunities.



In 2017 God led the Songela's to move from Arusha, to Dodoma, TZ as church planters where both now pastor Capital All Nations Assembly (CANA)—Assembly of God Church. The church was the first part of their ministry plan. On July 15, 2019, Joel wrote, "God is good!! Faraja and I and Ibrahim my partner and his wife just made a 30% down payment for a 10-acre piece of property," the future home of their community development center.



We pray, Lord Jesus, that all the people who come to this property will hear about the love of Christ. May all the work done on this property glorify the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Songela's in Wheaton

Before and after Joel's PhD graduation ceremonies on May 4, 2019 at Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, Oklahoma, Joel and Faraja routed their international flight through Chicago, so they could visit Wheaton.

During Joel's quick, 30-hour visit, we met with Kevin, our engineer and Nancy, our Physical Therapist to discuss different aspects of building the trike.

(Celebration picture at CANA in Dodoma, TZ)



Another part of our time together was helping to answer the question I most often receive from my international ministry colleagues. “How can we provide the proper tax receipt Americans need?” An important part of partnering together includes networking and educating on helpful resources available like the financial services Faith and Learning International (FLI), offers, which allows them to receive donations and issue US donation receipts.

It’s always tricky to get everything done in the 1-2 days someone like Joel has in town. But we serve a God of miracles and thanks to the Lord and Vicky’s flexibility, we were able to fit a FLI introductory meeting in. As most of you know HWI board voted about two years ago to run our finances through FLI. Doing so was the best way to make sure HWI was following the always changing not-for-profit laws, leaving the financials to those more qualified.

Also, since there was a team of four engineering students at Wheaton College doing a project on how to increase the gear ratio for our trike, I contacted Dr. Hsu, the engineering professor. Dr. Hsu extended an invitation for Joel to talk with the engineering students, and to tour Wheaton’s engineering lab. Students were able to learn from a Wheaton Alum, how their project was having a global impact. Dr. Hsu’s voiced an interest in possibly working with Joel in such a project.

Then on May 1, Faraja came for thirty hours on her way to Joel’s graduation and stayed with me. There were lots of things to do—visiting Wheaton, shopping, and dreaming together.

When Faraja returned on May 16th I hosted an open house, where eight people stopped by including a professor, colleagues, and old and new friends.

On May 24, 2018, when Joel arrived in Chicago. Kate Swihart, a friend of HWI, who’s family hosted Joel overnight, volunteered to drive her van to the airport. I couldn’t have transported the five extra pieces of luggage—four of which contained two HWI trikes without Kate’s help. Also, thanks Broken Arrow Assemblies of God Church, OK, for paying the trike baggage fees.

University Consortium Projects

In the Spring, 2019 semester, students from Messiah College and Wheaton College did projects revolving around the His Wheels trike. Whether in person or via Zoom, it is always exciting to share the story of how the trike came about and then to see the student’s creativity unleashed for the project they are working on.

Over the 2018-2019 school year in addition to the time Joel met with Wheaton students, he has also been part of a final student project with Spring Arbor University’s business students through Zoom. On another occasion Joel, Derek (a representative of the Collaboratory through which overseas projects are channeled) and I had an introductory meeting so Joel could share his vision and begin planting seeds for possible future partnership opportunities.

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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