



# HIS WHEELS INTERNATIONAL Hand-Pedaled Trikes

NEWSLETTER

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

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## Can I help you?

In July, while racial tensions were high around the county, I was visiting my mother who lives in the inner city of Detroit. One of mom's newer neighbors was out on his front porch, bike upside down, back wheel still on, but the tube was hanging out.

"Could you use some help?" I asked. I got "the look" from this young strapping 6 ft. 7 in. basketball player/now coach. I said, "if I were you, I'd be wondering who is this older lady coming up and offering to help me with my bike?" We both laughed! And he said, "Yup, right on!"

After introducing myself and stating my bicycle credentials, I was welcomed to help. I assessed the situation—a department store bicycle with a missing rear gear in a cog cluster and a flat tire. After removing the back wheel for him, I said, "Take the wheel to a bike store and they will have the right tool to remove the cog. Get a new cog and a new tire and I will fix the rest."

Pleased with the finished work he said, "This runs better than when I bought it!" Bicycle mechanics was the bridge to further conversation. "Are you a reader?" I asked. "No, but my wife is." When she got home from work, they stopped by to meet my mom, and I gave her a copy of *Riding on Faith* and *Pray 10K*, the two books I've written.

Later she gave me a present: faith-based buttons from her online company. The conversation continued as we discussed our faith. She shared her struggle with understanding God's word. My dad was one who loved giving away Christian books and children's books to anyone and especially his neighbors. In Dad's stash I found the devotional, "My Utmost for His Highest" and a Matthew Henry Commentary, both classic works, which I gave the wife, continuing Dad's legacy. We continued discussing faith and racial issues over the remaining days I was in Detroit. One comment that stuck with me was, "We feel prejudice against white people when they come into our neighborhood." I appreciated their honesty and vulnerability, which led to a further conversation given that my parents bought their house in 1962. Bicycle transportation opened the door to life transformation and racial reconciliation while as neighbors we listened to each other's stories with genuine care and concern.

## Running Around the Fence

In this time of COVID-19, when ministry looks different than the plans I wrote up in January, I've had to grapple with the question, "What constitutes mission work?"

While looking out my living room window I saw a little three- year-old boy running onto my property, on a mission. I watched as he attempted to pull the children’s tricycle ornament out of my garden. When I opened the door, he ran away.

As I shared this heart-breaking story with Jan, a friend and His Wheels volunteer, I admitted that if I didn’t have a tricycle at the age of 3, I would have done the same thing. The next day Jan called and said, “I just so happened to find a tricycle at the Flea Market and I couldn’t resist buying it.”

I knew he lived in the apartment complex that is separated by the fence on my property, but I didn’t know which unit. So, I prayed that he would come back and try again. The next time he returned with his seven-year-old brother, I watched. When they left, I followed from a safe distance behind to figure out where they lived.

I then knocked on the door. After introducing myself to the mother, a refugee from East Africa, I explained what had happened, and told her I had a tricycle for him. The tricycle was the bridge to meeting my neighbor. It was also an answer to my prayer for the opportunity to develop a friendship with a refugee family.

Now almost two months later, we have had socially distanced tea together in my garage, I’ve assisted the oldest son and her in reading, and they have helped me rake leaves for making a pile so the three boys could play in it. The mother admitted, “My one-year-old son and I have not been out of the house in six months.”

## Story/Coloring Book

*Três the Trikes Treks*, is a story/coloring book series that tells the His Wheels trike story while providing disability awareness and education. The first book, *Travels to a A-Land-Far-Away*, is nearing completion. We hope to have it finished by early 2021.

While seeking input from a friend I affectionately call Dr. R, she finished the book in a state of deep contemplation and said, “This is very interesting! The last part really hit me.”

Then, bikes and kids, we laughed as one:

God planned this for us right from the start!  
Thank you, Lord,  
from the bottom of our hearts!

Now you’ve seen what we can do—  
So how about you? Will you help too?

Because dear reader, whoever you are:  
Far-Away-Land is really not far—

Dr. R’s life has been thrown into upheaval because of a disability she deals with. She said, “I was made for a time like this.” Research was her professional emphasis, but her disability had left her unable to work or to figure out how to find her purpose and “help too!”

While we continued talking Dr. R began sharing about a scientific theory, she has been working on for twenty-five years. I listened with interest as she shared the losses she has experienced from her disability, weaving her scientific idea into the conversation. I could only understand a few words and concepts about her theory, but I responded, “Are you aware of how you don’t run out of words when you talk about this idea? You become so animated. What are the next steps for you to move your project from concept to fruition?”

Being a networker, I introduced her to a couple scientists I know. One of them bought the latest Virology textbooks so Dr. R can take her project to the next level. The scientist also said, “I would love for you to teach me what you’ve learned.” I’m excited to hear other stories that will come as a result of *Tres the Trikes Treks*. I can’t wait to share a copy with all of you.

***Thank you for your part in this amazing adventure of His Wheels International.  
With Grateful Hearts this Thanksgiving on behalf of the entire HWI team,  
Alice Teisan Founder & Executive Director***

***Financial Contribution Information:*** Visit our website at [www.hiswheels.org](http://www.hiswheels.org) and click on the yellow donate button in the upper right-hand corner to give online. Or 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**



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