



HIS WHEELS INTERNATIONAL

Bikes & Hand-Pedaled Trikes

NEWSLETTER

Providing pedal-powered transportation for the able and disabled with dignity

April 2013, Volume 8 Issue 1

What do Africa, India & Vanuatu have in common?

In **September** we sent a trike to **Hyderabad, India**. Then in October we sent one to **Burundi, Africa**. Both trikes went through Spring Arbor University (SAU) Connections. For more information see our September 2012 newsletter on the media section of our website.

In **January 2013**, we sent an unassembled trike kit via Messiah College's Collaboration in Pennsylvania to a Rehabilitation site in **Burkina Faso, Africa**. While there for a January course, a couple of engineering students, along with some nationals, welded the trike together. John, Messiah's engineering trip faculty advisor, said, "It was done on a questionably 'flat' concrete floor, with a square, tape measure, and the front fork trike template. We built it with good results."



After John returned to the USA, he told me the trike got built because of an unexpected postponement of one of the Muslim holy days, which requires the moon to be in a specific location. We are praising the Sovereign God of the sun, moon, and stars who made a way for the trike to get built before the team returned home.

Building the trike was part of a year-long process that began last spring when John came to His Wheels headquarters. Our goal then was to learn from each

other about the hand-pedaled trike work we were both doing and to see if we could partner together.

Messiah College began helping a rehabilitation center in Burkina Faso with their trike project back in 1999. And our trike development began in 2005.

When John was with His Wheels, under our engineer, Kevin's leadership, they built one of our trikes. Now after John replicated the process with students and nationals in Burkina Faso, he has provided us with valuable feedback.

Also as a result of Messiah's partnership, we sent a completed trike to the College in late January. The engineering department is using our trike this spring as part of their course curriculum to do a computerized analysis. We look forward to how this data will enhance our trike research and development. Without Messiah's help the cost of such an analysis process would have been prohibitive for His Wheels.

Also in January another trike went with one of our volunteers to Florida. There it will be packed onto a container **heading for Niger, Africa**. Our contact for that trike is a missionary family we met in the early years of His Wheels, when they received bikes from us while in the area for a year-long home assignment.

Then in February we sent the front end of a trike to **Vanuatu**, which cost \$511 after a small business owner of a Mail+ store, gave us a discount on shipping, because she liked what we were doing.

We learned about Vanuatu last summer after Dawn, the Director of Disability Ministries at College Church, returned from her trip there. While there she met Frank, an Australian missionary engineer, who was working on a rough terrain wheelchair type vehicle for the Vanuatu Disability Society. Dawn mentioned our trike to him.

Since the front end holds 60% of the complexity, Frank shouldn't have any trouble putting our trike together.

Dawn has been instrumental in the trike manufacturing project we did with her son Jeremy in North Africa from 2006-2010. She also took a trike to Bulgaria in 2008, on a short-term church ministry trip. With Dawn's help I may one day reach my repurposed dream—trikes on all continents. Dawn—just a few more continents to go!

Brother Praying for Others (BPFO)

Back in November 2012, we added the BPFO. This is a group of 54 men in a Texas prison who are now praying daily for His Wheels. I was introduced to JJ and his ministry through my mentor Louise Troup. Louise and JJ became friends over 20 years ago through Charles Colson's Prison Fellowship Ministry when she began corresponding with him. Since then God has done amazing things through their relationship.

Seven years ago, Louise's nephew Dave and his wife Pat went and visited JJ. At the site of his first visitors, JJ wept. Now he is part of the Troup extended family.

Afterwards Dave orchestrated a way for JJ to join his church in Kansas. Dave and Pat visit JJ yearly, and the pastor also visits, convinced it is important to visit each congregational member yearly.

Now JJ has a family, a church, regular visitors and a ministry through BPFO's. And then in 2012 after Louise (93) returned from visiting JJ for the first time I had the privilege of hearing her recount the precious four hours that JJ, Dave and she shared together. Having always wanted a prayer branch to our ministry God nudged me with the thought, *How about JJ & the BPFO's?*

I then sent JJ a copy of my memoir [Riding on Faith: Keeping Your Balance When the Wheels Fall Off](#), knowing he'd enjoy reading the stories in there about Louise. At the same time I asked if the BPFO's would consider becoming the prayer branch of His Wheels International. They graciously accepted the challenge and have prayed daily for us since November.

It is exciting to know that these 54 men have joined us as together we are traveling the world on our knees

in prayer asking God to open up a way for us to get the trikes into the hands of those who need them around the world. To help inform their prayers, His Wheels sent them a copy of [Operation World](#), a book that provides information about every country. Please pray for JJ and the BPFO's as God brings them to your mind.

Comings, Goings & New Additions

Aubrey, a student from Roosevelt University finished her journalism internship with us at the end of December. Thanks Aubrey for all the work you did. She helped raise awareness for His Wheels. This resulted in her classmate Daniel doing a podcast about His Wheels. You can hear podcast number 46 at <http://specialchronicles.com>. Also, as a result of Aubrey's work, I was featured on WBEZ, Chicago Public Radio Worldview with Jerome McDonnell in January.

We at His Wheels also want to thank Kate for the contract administrative work she has done for us over the past few years. Another big thank you goes to Phil who volunteered his time and expertise to do our bookkeeping over the past several years. We will miss both of you, but thanks for leaving us in a better place than where you found us.

Then in February God provided a new contract person to help with our ongoing administrative needs.

Also in 2013 we have added another design engineer to our team along with a couple young men who have a welding business in Chicago. The welder's heard about us on WBEZ and came for a visit. They left with a trike kit and a desire to help by putting together a teaching video series on how to build the trike. We had dreams of developing such a series, but we lacked the needed skill set.



*On Behalf of the His Wheels team,
Alice Teisan, Founder & Executive Director*

