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Hope in Motion

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Mid-year Praise and Prayer Report 2009

Thailand Update: ongoing outreach— from poorest to those in high places

In April, our Director Patrick Rimke flew to Thailand to review the wheelchair distribution program through the RICD, Dr. Samai's rehab hospital, and Pioneers Missions. Patrick was able to visit with our Wheels of Hope Thailand Director, Luc Masschelein, on two separate occasions just before he left the hospital in Thailand for continued medical care in Belgium. Luc was in amazing good spirits, in spite of the loss of use of his arm (a terrible blow for a paraplegic!) Patrick was humbled by God's grace to Luc in hard times.

Johannes Janzen, who heads up Pioneers of Hope, the in-country partnering organization with Wheels of Hope, now carries a double load of responsibility for the program.

Johannes shared a story of a woman who received a wheelchair in the southern part of Thailand in the last year. There are only a few Christians in this Muslim area. Johannes says that every Monday he gets a call from her thanking him for the wheelchair and how blessed she is to have mobility!

Patrick and Johannes visited a home of a young man that was in a motor scooter accident. He hit a concrete pole head-on, right in front of the hospital. He has a traumatic brain injury. His mother is taking care of him while his dad serves in the army. His mom is very thankful that now she can take him outside to get some sun and fresh air, thanks to the new reclining wheelchair from Wheels of Hope.

Patrick spent much time with Dr. Samai, who was genuinely happy to see Patrick after four years, and very thankful for his visit. Patrick was shown around the RICD rehab hospital and updated on all that the Thai health care workers are doing to distribute the wheelchairs and medical aids alongside Pioneers of Hope.

Patrick was taken to a Buddhist memorial service and cremation of one of the physical therapist's mother. Another long-term friendship was formed with this physical therapist over the years. This is in the Thai spirit of cultural exchange, but also a very touching sign of deepening friendship. It is in this spirit of cultural exchange, and in these sacred moments, that we have the opportunities to share our own personal stories about what Jesus has done in and through our lives.

The highlight of this Thailand trip was a scheduled ceremony to visit Sirindhorn, the Princess of Thailand, who is the honorary sponsor of the program. The team presented three pieces of equipment to the Princess: a red electric scooter, a red rollator and a red reclining wheelchair.

Patrick was able to demonstrate the equipment for her, and presented

the Princess with a unique gift from Wheels of Hope: an original watercolor painting of a maple tree in full fall color.

Sirindhorn was quite impressed with the painting. Patrick briefly explained that in the midst of chaos there is order in God's creation. We pray that it will be a reminder to her and that God would reveal Himself more fully in the future.

Wheels of Hope shipped another container to Thailand in May, shortly after Patrick returned to Ohio. The shipment included 487 pieces of medical equipment with over 100 wheelchairs. This was valued at \$104,500 for shipping purposes.

Lastly, we just received another story from Doug Tell, our former Thai Director:

"Greetings from Thailand. Here is a story about an 80 year old lady whose life was dramatically improved after receiving a four-wheel rollator from Wheels of Hope. Khun Yaay is a dear old lady who walks long distances— estimated at about 3 miles per day— several times per week to provide massages for people in Chiang Mai, Thailand. Walking and working helps Khun Yaay stay physically fit and receive an income for her family. For years, she used an old, rusty bicycle as a walker. A missionary gave her the rollator along with a Thai version of the New

Testament and some tracts. When she received the Bible and tracts, her face lit up and she asked, "Are you believers in Jesus?" This provided not just an opportunity to help her physically with the rollator, but also

Below: Johannes and Patrick and an RICD team member present a reclining wheelchair to a brain-injured young man and his grateful mother.



Above: Dr. Samai poses with the equipment given to Princess Sirindhorn

Right: The Wheels of Hope ceremonial gift is examined and pre-approved.



Top: A painting for the Princess, presented by the Wheels of Hope team, Dr. Samai and his superior.

Middle: Khun Yaay strolls through town with help from her new rollator.

spiritually. We were able to show the love of Christ to this Buddhist person and we pray that one day she receive the Lord. It has been said that on average, each person who accepts Jesus hears the Gospel 10 times before making the final decision to follow Him. Wheels of Hope has impacted the lives of literally thousands of people in Thailand, like Khun Yaay, to hear the Gospel while at the same time to see love in action as missionaries give them mobility aid equipment in a gentle, non-pushy manner.”

Prayer points: *Pray for the ongoing ministry through Pioneers of Hope in Thailand. Pray for protection of the ministry and missionaries: for God’s continued grace to Luc, and a full recovery; for strength and wisdom for Johannes as he takes added responsibilities for the ministry. Pray also for the opening of hearts in the Thai people who help distribute the wheelchairs: Dr. Samai, the Princess, and all the physical therapists at the hospital who help seat the wheelchairs and fit the walking aids. Lastly, pray for the love of Christ to touch the recipients and their families: the young man with a brain trauma; the Christian wheelchair user in Southern Thailand; and the very active messenger who takes her rollator through town to deliver messages for her clients.*

News from Central and South America:

We supplied 30 wheelchairs and other mobility aids for **Honduras** through the Roof Ministries of Akron (www.throughtheroofministries.org)

We partnered with Friends of the Disabled of Latin America (FRIDLA | www.fridla.org) in June for a shipment to **Uruguay**. We supplied 447 pieces of equipment including 103 manual wheelchairs. It was valued at almost \$63,000. FRIDLA provided sixty of their own wheelchairs for the container that was loaded here in Canton.

Prayer point: *Pray for new FRIDLA opportunities in Uruguay, and Wheels of Hope containers shipped there. Pray for the 28 pastors and lay leaders who completed Judy’s disability awareness training in Durazno in July. Pray for God’s leading regarding taking a team to Durazno in 2010, which will include Patrick, who will help establish and train technicians and repair ministry. Begin to pray for the financial provisions needed for this project.*

Prayer point: *Continue to pray for Bolivia, which is closed to U.S. humanitarian aid and ministry, due to the political situation there. Pray for FRIDLA’s ability to continue to support the ministry in Bolivia. Pray for Freddy, Coco and their families as they serve through the disability ministry.*

We are shipping a container load for **Guatemala** with Vine International (www.vineinternational.org) and Tim Spurrier (www.newcovenantworldmissions.org) who will be taking the equipment to the Petán. We will be providing 100 wheelchairs and other equipment, specifically to furnish the hospital they have established there, called Hospital Shalom.

We are also partnering with Hope Haven International shipping a container of 70 wheelchairs, walkers, rollators, and bathroom aids to **Guatemala**. HHIM is sending parts to build pediatric wheelchairs at their facilities in Antigua and Chimaltinango. We will be loading the container at our warehouse in Canton.

Wheels of Hope continues to offer tremendous value

Thanks to increased donations of medical equipment, Wheels of Hope has dramatically increased the value of life-altering equipment shipped to those in need. Please continue to spread the word that Wheels of Hope offers tremendous value to the world in response to your financial gifts.

Prayer points: *Continue to pray for increased distribution channels, shipping connections and operating funds in 2009-10.*

Pray that Wheels of Hope can get even more equipment to people in need and reduce our inventory at the warehouse in Canton.

Wheels of Hope Income and Value of Goods Shipped



*God continues to provide through your prayers, volunteer efforts and financial giving.
—Thank you!*

Our Mission

To raise the poor with disabilities from the dust and give them a place of physical dignity (Ps 113:7,8) spiritual regeneration in Christ (Titus 3:4,5) and capability in Christ (Phil 4:13).

May God bless and direct you

as you consider supporting our mission.

Contact us

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