

News from Central America: Wilsom's Story



Above: Shanda with Wilsom

Below: Wilsom in his new reclining wheelchair; Wilsom and his mother receive training from Physical Therapist Margaret

We just received this praise report from our partnering ministry in Honduras, Through the Roof Ministries: "On our recent trip to Honduras trip Wilsom and his mom traveled for hours to the distribution site. A year ago he fell backwards from his second floor balcony. As a result, he is paralyzed from the neck down, unable to move any of his limbs. He can move his head and is very intelligent. Unlike many that are paralyzed, Wilsom does not have to use a respirator to breathe. He is larger than the average Honduran man making it very difficult to move him. He is cared for by his mother who is unable to move him on her own. They made a large sling and use it to move him from one place to another. "When he arrived at the Through the Roof Ministries (TTRM) mission building it took three men to remove him from the truck seat and temporarily seat him in a heavy duty, reclining wheelchair. "Because there are no wheelchairs available for him he has spent the past year lying on his back. Sitting erect caused him to have severe headaches on the way to the distribution. His heart was unaccustomed to pumping hard enough to move his blood "uphill" to his head. Wilsom had to be moved to a supine position to alleviate the headache and to keep him from passing out. We are fortunate to

have plinths in the therapy center in Otoro.

"While he was waiting Shanda Grubb, coordinator with TTRM and Founder of Strength of Heart speaking ministry, spent time praying with Wilsom and holding a Joni book for him to read. He was very encouraged by Shanda who has cerebral palsy, and by the journey Joni has traveled as a quadriplegic. Margaret Matasic, Doctor of Physical Therapy and President of TTRM, was able to spend time with his mom and show her how to do range of motion exercise and to fit him in a wheelchair that would allow him to progress with a seating schedule to allow his body to get used to being upright. The wheel chair donated by Wheels of Hope is a model designed to accommodate a larger person. The most encouraging news came

from Pastor German from a local La Cosecha church that Wilsom accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior!"

— Through the Roof Ministries

Prayer point: Pray for Wilsom as he continues to adjust to life as a quadriplegic in Honduras. Pray for him to gain a seated position, and fully realize his spiritual position as a child of God; that he can do all things through Christ who strengthens him (Philippians 4:13).



Boy scouts help Wheels of Hope "Be Prepared"

On December 5th Boy Scout Troop No. 48 of Akron paid their second visit to the Wheels of Hope warehouse dressed to get dirty doing good deeds. The boys spread out to tackle the many recycling jobs on hand: flattening and palletizing broken boxes and scrapping broken-beyond-repair equipment for metals.

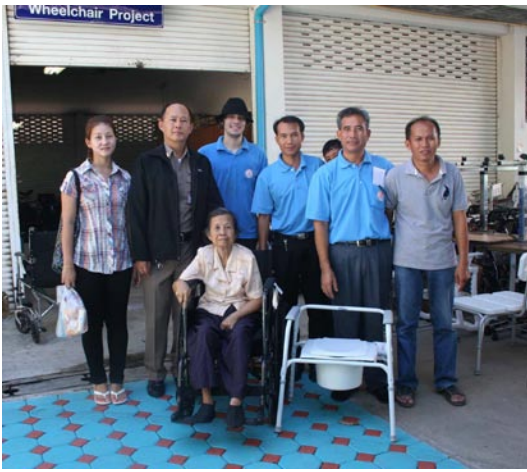
As a part of their disability awareness merit badge, Patrick introduced Wheels of Hope at one of their Monday night meetings. He also invited Rich Attalla to tell his story of life challenged by multiple sclerosis, so that the boys would gain a better understanding of the battles others face and overcome with God's help. In a subsequent meeting, Patrick shared on taboo: the ancient cultural programming that says disability is a curse. Then Patrick shared of the Biblical hope we have in Christ to overcome and be transformed by the renewing of our minds. (Romans 12:1-2)



Above: Boy Scout Logan Michalec takes apart a broken rollator.

Right: Boy Scouts Alex Jones and Brad Salladay cut it up recycling damaged boxes.





Troop leader Denise Markland, Assistant Scout Master and Venturing Crew Advisor, comments: "It's a great opportunity to be able to work with Wheels of hope to learn about the disabilities and abilities and to serve others in need. We are looking forward to working with Wheels of hope next year and into the future." Indeed, the Venturing Crew of older Scouts will be back at the warehouse to serve in January.

Prayer points: *Pray for the boys who are gaining disability awareness as they earn their merit badge.; that what they have learned about disability and the grace of God will have lasting impact.*

News from Thailand:

Luc Masschelein reports "Here everything is going now much and much better. My health situation is going better and better, but still it is not yet as before. I do surely not complain— I realize very well that He has still some plans with me. I am so thankful to Him that the Lord still allows me to be here and to be able to help people with disability. "About the work, it is really very busy. The last three months we have been doing distributions (fittings) almost every day at our warehouse here at RICD. I would like to thank you again for the very nice wheelchairs and other equipment we again received from Wheels of Hope this year. Again so many people benefit from these! Thanks so much !

"... I am also very proud to announce that we now also do complete maintenance and repairs of the equipment. We now even see that people who did not receive their wheelchair from our project still ask us to repair. We of course do also these repairs. For this we also try to make our workshop more efficient with some good working tools.

"Now we can also say that we have some local support groups all over Thailand working with us e.g. in the region of Nakhon Si Thammarat (deep south), Nan province, Mae Hong Son province, Prachuab Khiri Khan province. These groups are doing the maintenance of the wheelchairs and other equipment but also doing the small repairs. This system is very helpful for the local people.

"For December 2009 we also scheduled to have two big distributions: one at Ratchaburi (150 km south of Bangkok) and one at RICD in Chiang Mai.

"This year we also have more and more CBR home visits. In 2008 we still had 31 CBR visits ... This year from January to November, we had already 61 CBR home visits. This is quite a necessity to do as many people with disability are not able to come by physical limitations to a distribution venue somewhere in Thailand or to RICD in Chiang Mai.

"So this is it a little bit for the moment. Again, thanks so much for your beautiful support ! This means so much to so-o-o many people in Thailand !"



Wheels of Hope 2009 shipping value reaches almost a half million dollars:

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.

This year, we have shipped five containers: three to Guatemala, one to Thailand and one to Uruguay. The total value of equipment given in the name of Jesus was just under a half million dollars: \$476,745.

Meanwhile, our operating budget has undergone the same downturn as many. We have managed on less than \$12,000 in financial donations, while our budget remains at over \$15,000. We trust that God will continue to provide as He prompts many to make a year-end gift.

Look for our annual report and further testimonies of God's faithfulness in Ecuador, Uruguay and Guatemala in early January.

Prayer points: *Continue to pray for increased distribution channels, shipping connections and operating funds in 2010, and a special year-end financial blessing to meet our budget.*



Top: Sept. 4th distribution at the RICD hospital in Chiang Mai

Middle: Luc, left, poses with a family who received a pediatric wheelchair in the town of Maerim on Sept. 10th

Bottom: a RICD/Pioneers of Hope home visit to Prachuab Khiri Khan on October 21.

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 via email patrick@wheelsofhope.org or call 330-620-4214

Visit www.wheelsofhope.org

God continues to provide through your prayers, volunteer efforts and financial giving.

—Thank you!