

# Hope in Motion

Volume 6 Issue 1

Mid-year Report 2008

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## **FRIDLA partnership report from Judy Nunez:**

Last September, when Alberto and I arrived at the hotel in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, we noticed that one of the long time employees, Lucio, was not working. After a couple of days, we asked what had happened to him. They said that he was not able to work and in danger of losing his foot due to complications from diabetes.

We went to visit him at his home and found that he needed a wheelchair that would elevate his leg. He has four young boys ages 10-18. His wife is ill and not able to work. The oldest son was working at the hotel, but not making enough to feed the family and purchase the medicine for Lucio's infection. Lucio had given up and was having a "pity party" for himself. He said that he did not want to take the medicine as there was no hope for him. We talked to him about Jesus and tried to encourage him.

Several days later we took him a wheelchair (reconditioned by Wheels of Hope) and a pair of crutches. He could not believe that anyone would care that much. We told him how important it was to watch his diet and take the medicine prescribed by the doctor. Freddy, our technician, told him that he would continue to visit and encourage him through the Word.

It appears that Lucio listened. We have now been informed that he has now been able to return to his job at the hotel. I have not heard if he has made a profession of faith. We hope to see him in March when we are in Santa Cruz. Please pray for the salvation of the whole family.

We did see Lucio in March 2008. He was doing what the doctor had told him. He had lost weight, had returned to work and we were able to give him a pair of shoes especially for diabetics. He works every Sunday, but he would like to be able to go to church.

Friends of the Disabled of Latin America (FRIDLA) is based in Rock Hill, NC. Judy and Alberto Nunez direct this ministry to persons with disabilities in South America.

**Prayer point:** *Judy and Alberto and Patrick were scheduled to fly to Bolivia for training workshops in October. However, the political situation has become unsafe. Please pray for the Bolivian believers who will be distributing the container that was just sent, without help from Judy, Alberto or Patrick.*

## **A visit from Chile**

Gustavo Sanchez visited the warehouse in July. Gustavo works with FRIDLA to distribute wheelchairs. He volunteers regularly to support programs for the disabled and elderly through Fundacion Misionarios Cristo Ayuda (Help of Christ Mission.) We helped him select equipment during his visit that we sent on August 13th: 71 manual wheelchairs, four power wheelchairs, rollators, hospital beds, a donated piano (that had been left in the warehouse for over 10 years!) and other home medical supplies. Gustavo will distribute these in Pirque and Santiago this fall.

We also hosted a cook-out at our home for the volunteers and their spouses to meet him. Our friend Theresa translated some of the stories that Gustavo told of those who have been blessed in Chile as a result of our volunteer efforts.

Valeria is a little girl from an extremely poor family, living on about \$200/mo. that her father earns. One day Valeria could not get transportation to school. As she was going down the road in her wheelchair, her hands cramped and blistered. Gustavo saw her and asked if she would like power chair. When Valeria said "Yes", Gustavo said "Let's pray to God and He can provide it." Later, when he got a power wheelchair from Wheels of Hope, the mother was so touched that God would care enough about them to provide a wheelchair for Valeria to go to school to learn how to read and write.

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Gilda, age 64, has phlebitis and can no longer walk. When she got a power chair, her daughter and her mother cried and cried for joy. They could never go on walks together, and now they can go for walks, the mother going beside them so they can be together. Friends have asked, "Where did you get such an expensive chair?" She says "The Lord brought it to me."

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Manuel is 24, with the mind of a 14-year-old. His parents are poor farmers who can't read or write. A friend of Gustavo's family saw the father taking Manuel to the Doctor's in a little cart. That friend told the father, "Tell your wife that we're going to ask God to help your son ... pray to the Lord, and He will send a wheelchair." The friend called Gustavo the same day, and the next day Gustavo took a wheel



*Above: Lucio receives a wheelchair and encouragement last fall. Then, in the spring, he was back to work!*

chair to see Manuel. The Mother said "This is a miracle. Last night I prayed, and today we have the answer!"



Gustavo working in Chile

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Francisco was born with not enough oxygen. She was blind and couldn't move. She can't speak or hear. Her mother wanted to throw her away. When Francisco received her wheelchair, her grandmother said that was first time she saw her daughter cry with emotion. These were not believers— Patrick saw them. Then he told them "You have to seek the Lord," but the grandmother said "I don't have to seek the Lord. He is here."

Gustavo says he likes to work with adults so he can talk about their faith. He feels those with disabilities are always in a corner and he wants to take them out of the corner. He relates to the mission statement of his ministry: "La sonrisa del que sufre es la dulce Mirada de Jesus agradecido" which means "the smile of the suffering is the sweet smile of the Savior looking down."

**Prayer point:** *Pray for continued wisdom for Gustavo, as he meets those with disability at their point of need, and shares the love of Christ.*

### **Gene Shishler packs it in**

Our Board of Directors has found it more cost-effective to rent a twenty-six foot truck to pick up donations from Invacare. We are now getting more equipment, but we can pick it up less frequently, due to the size of the rental truck. With drivers like Gene Shisler, we get even more bang for the buck.

Gene picked up a load of donations at Invacare in August, which Patrick helped unload. It took an hour and a half to get it all upstairs: 20 fully-loaded skids! Amazing!

One of the guys at Invacare told Gene that when he moves, he would hire him to pack the truck! We are fortunate to have been blessed with Gene's time and talents for the last ten years.

Gene will be going to Macedonia in September to do a wheelchair distribution with Hope Haven International. He has been to Russia, Vietnam and China. He and Patrick have been to Romania and Bolivia to do wheelchair distributions of Wheels of Hope wheelchairs.

**Prayer point:** *Pray for Gene's continued health and safety during his upcoming trips. Pray for more volunteer drivers to help Wheels of Hope pick up equipment.*

### **Upcoming Training partnership in Honduras**

Margaret Matasic, of *Through the Roof Ministries*, a local disability outreach of the Chapel in Akron, has invited Patrick to train Hondurans in wheelchair repair in Jesus de Oturo, Honduras in November. Patrick has been working with Margaret in Honduras for over 10 years, but this is his first time back in the country since 2005.

**Prayer point:** *Pray for wisdom and fruitful ministry for the team. Pray for receptive hearts and minds during the wheelchair repair training.*

### **A Thank You from Hearts in Motion**

August 27, 2008

We are truly appreciative of the time you took to meet with us, and for showing us around your warehouse. We are very excited about all the things that your organization is doing and are so grateful to have the opportunity to work with you. There is so much we are going to be able to do for this hospital in Guatemala because of you.

We'd be delighted to continue in service with you in the future and again, we appreciate you for helping us in such a special way!

In H.S.M.,

Karen Scheeringa-Parra  
Executive Director

**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 in 2008-9.



Above: The last load of 20 skids of donated equipment from Invacare, which Gene packed with care.

Right: Gene Shishlar with Ethan Rimke, way back in 1998.



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