



WHEELCHAIRS FOR NIGERIA

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Dear friends,

I was hoping to be able to send out a nice April newsletter with a lot of color photos and stories of wheelchair distributions for Nigerian polio survivors. Sharon and I were scheduled to fly to Nigeria March 17, my 30th trip. My partner Ayuba Gufwan had arranged 10 large wheelchair distributions and the shop had been working hard building 600 wheelchairs ready to give out.

Flight cancelled. On March 13 Delta cancelled our flight to Paris and then Air France cancelled our flight to Abuja. We are thanking the Lord for his timing. I bought the tickets months before and if I had bought them for a week earlier, we would have gone, and now we'd be stuck in Nigeria where everything is locked down. Ayuba had to postpone all the distributions, of course, and shut down the shop.



600 wheelchairs ready to present. The wheels, crank and chain are assembled at the venue.

New generator: In January we replaced our worn-out and under-powered 105 Kva generator. A new 200 Kva generator cost \$32,000, but Ayuba was able to get this good used one for \$15,000. It turns out the big new generator uses less fuel than the old smaller one. Ayuba bought 5 more welding machines and hired 5 more welders. Because the need is so great we are always trying to increase our production.



Container arrives. A container has arrived in Lagos for us, with 77 used wheelchairs, 705 walkers, 680 crutches, 411 canes and other aids. Crutches 4 Africa, an organization in Denver collects these used items from nursing homes and garage sales around the US and ships them to partners overseas. We badly need standard wheelchairs for our few beneficiaries with cerebral palsy or other disabilities who cannot use their arms, unlike polio survivors. Our tricycles do not work for them, and standard wheelchairs are very hard to come by.

Customs, clearing the port and trucking to Jos will cost about \$8500. Ayuba has raised about \$6000 locally, but we will need to pay the rest, a great bargain that will allow us to help many hundreds of disabled Nigerians.

Ayuba was recently honored as the Plateau State Man of the Year in the Charity Division. He has received over 50 plaques and trophies for his work with the disabled. He celebrated his 48th birthday on April 7th.



Finances. We need \$20,000 a month in order to maintain our current production, \$5000 for payroll and \$15,000 for supplies. Our total payroll for 65 employees is less than the cost to hire one journeyman welder in Seattle, so we are getting a terrific bang for the buck!

Yet we only received \$6483 in March (one-third of what we need) and only \$2712 so far in April (through the 14th). Our account is dangerously low, not enough to fully resume work once the shutdown is over.

Please consider a generous extra gift to help see us through these next several months. The need is so great we don't want to have to cut back on production.

You can give online at WheelchairsforNigeria.org, or send a check to 1542 Palm Ave. SW, Seattle WA 98116. All gifts are tax-deductible.



Ayuba was able to give out a few individual wheelchairs before the shutdown.