WHAT IT MEANS TO ME

Being a Volunteer

FOR AGAPE MOBILITY ETHIOPIA

By Nicole Gross, AME Volunteer

Being a volunteer with an amazing group of humans means that if I have the energy and skill set to use, I can use it to be a part of something larger than myself, while completely depending on God to provide the strength and next steps to further this mission.

We are the hands and feet, working on equipment that will get people off the ground, while at the same time we are surrendering the journey of the equipment that is shipped to people in need. Not only do those receiving this equipment have a physical need, but a spiritual need. Through this volunteering opportunity we are all reminded, those providing and those receiving, that we are all loved by a mighty God. He has commanded us to love one another. As we use our talents for this earthly mission, one that aligns with unconditionally loving others no matter where or who they are, we are also working on furthering Gods kingdom right here on earth.

NATIONAL
Disabilities Awareness
MONTH

DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH IN THE USA

March is National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in the USA. Its purpose is to raise awareness about the inclusion of people with developmental disabilities and address the barriers that those with disabilities face. Inclusion is necessary since about 15% of the world's population lives with a disability. In Ethiopia, 17% of people live with a disability. Awareness helps people understand the relationship between the way people function and how they participate in society and making sure everybody has the same opportunities in every aspect of life to the best of their abilities.

How to give financially:

BY CHECK

You can mail a check to
Agape Mobility Ethiopia
P.O. Box 15291
Fort Wayne, IN 46885

ONLINE

scan the QR code or visit
agapemobilityethiopia.org

How to donate wheelchairs or equipment:

Contact us at:

(260) 498-7862

agapemobilityethiopia@gmail.com

Our Purpose

With your partnership, we provide mobility and dignity for the immobile in Ethiopia.

"No more crawling on the floor!"

Agape Mobility Ethiopia

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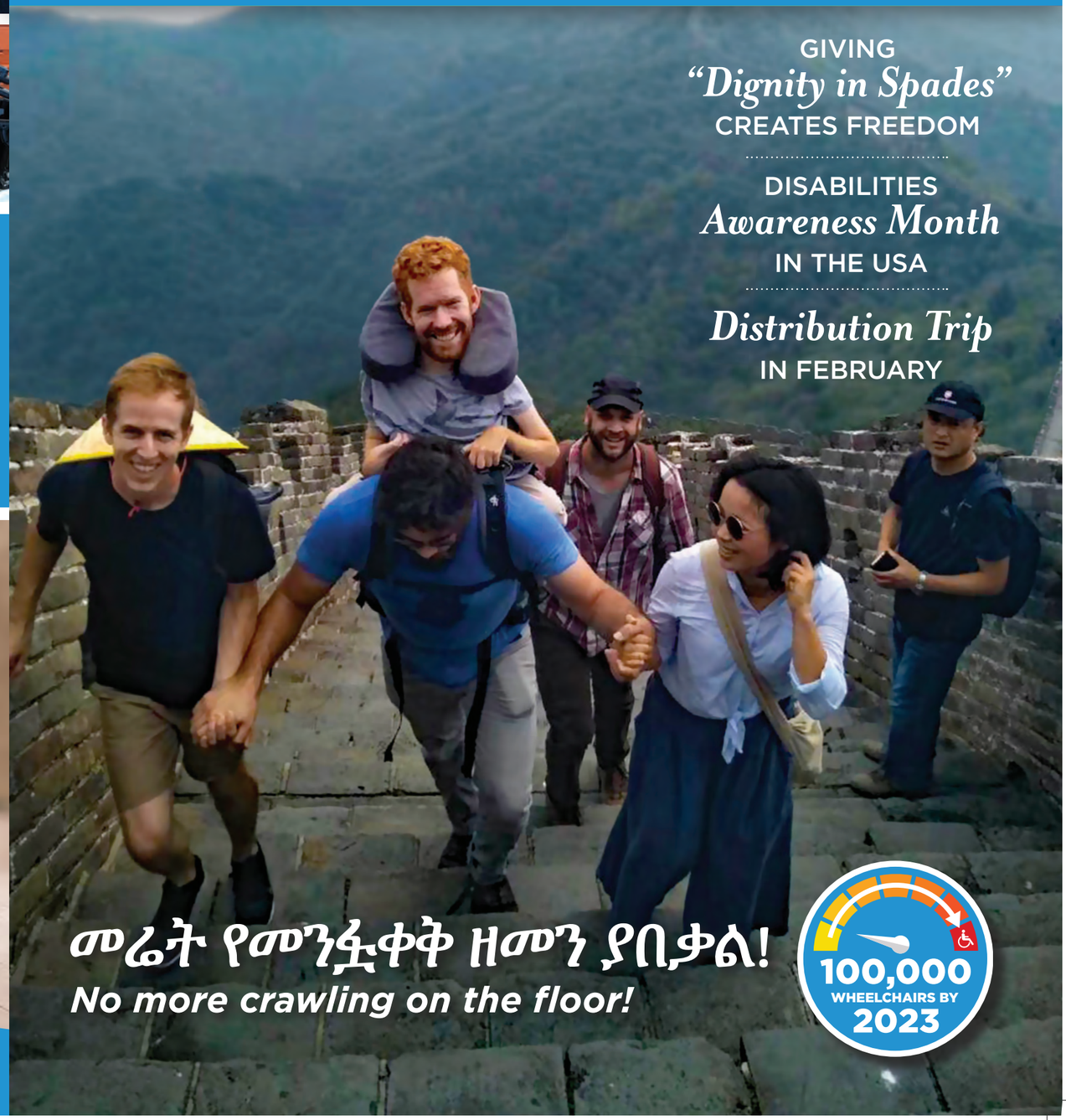

GIVING
"Dignity in Spades"
CREATES FREEDOM

DISABILITIES
Awareness Month
IN THE USA

Distribution Trip
IN FEBRUARY

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No more crawling on the floor!

100,000
WHEELCHAIRS BY
2023

MEET *Debra Gebheyu*

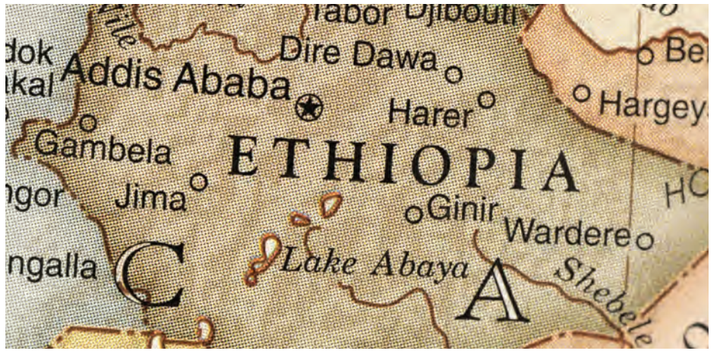
WHEELCHAIR BRINGS RELIEF TO COUPLE MARRIED 20 YEARS

Debra Gebheyu and his wife, Adanch Kassa, have been married 20 years and have three children.

But eight years ago, he became disabled and unable to walk. Adanch had to carry Debra on her back everywhere they went: to the hospital, to church, to the market and many other places, while bringing their children along with them.

But now, with a wheelchair from Agape Mobility Ethiopia, Adanch has relief from the strain of carrying Debra everywhere and he can easily move around in their home.

Support of this ministry touches the lives of everyone around the wheelchair recipient and opens doors for sharing God's love.



Distribution Trip IN FEBRUARY

We will be distributing wheelchairs and mobility devices throughout rural Ethiopia in late February and March.

- 260 wheelchairs sent from Fort Wayne
- 540 wheelchairs from Free Wheelchair Mission

These wheelchairs will be distributed in 9 or ten rural locations and in the capital city of Addis Ababa.

Three volunteers are planning to accompany Saba Teklemarcos and the Addis Ababa Agape team. They will help fit wheelchairs to recipients, provide training, and share God's love.

Please pray for safety, smooth logistics and travel, and for open hearts to receive God's loving message of hope and dignity.

HOW YOUR GIFTS *Are Used*

SAMPLE EQUIPMENT EXPENSES:

- 1 pediatric wheelchair — ***$325***
- 1 adult wheelchair — ***$125***
- Chair cushions and covers for 1 wheelchair —***$20***
- Tires for one wheelchair — ***$50***

SAMPLE LOGISTICAL EXPENSES:

- Ship one container to Ethiopia — ***$15,500***
- Overland transport from Djibouti seaport to Addis Ababa — ***$3,100***

GIVING *"Dignity in Spades"* CREATES FREEDOM

A Glimpse into the life of Author, Speaker, and Founder of "We Carry Kevan," Kevan Chandler

Kevan Chandler is a catalyst for change, starting with his own heart, searching for God's purpose for his life to bless others.

That may sound like a high ambition, but Kevan is one to get down on the floor, eye to eye with others, in order to communicate in very meaningful ways. "The way we love people can set them and us free and can turn lives upside down," he told guests at the December 9, 2022, Agape Mobility Ethiopia fundraising dinner.

Kevan Chandler grew up in the foothills of North Carolina with his parents and two siblings. The youngest of the bunch, he was the second to be diagnosed with spinal muscular atrophy (SMA), a rare neuromuscular disease. He has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Counseling from John Wesley College.

An avid storyteller, Kevan has authored several books, including a memoir of his adventures with his friends, and speaks worldwide about his unique life with a disability. He is also the founder of the nonprofit organization, We Carry Kevan. This organization redefines accessibility by partnering with organizations to build backpacks that carry lives to new and extraordinary levels.

After leaving his wheelchair at home and traveling Europe for three weeks with friends in 2016, Kevan and his band of brothers decided to stretch their comfort zone and travel "somewhere entirely outside of our familiar western culture and the English language." They settled on China and traveled there in 2018. Just as they did in Europe, Kevan's friends carried him everywhere in a backpack.

In a book he's writing, one chapter recalls a poignant encounter he had with a small boy, Toby, in a playroom. They both lay on a mat, lying face to face, speechless and pretty much motionless. The experience came at a time when Kevan felt vulnerable and helpless and of little use himself, he said.

At his request, Kevan's friend, Ben, lifted him from his backpack and laid him down on the mat facing Toby.

"We stared at each other for a long time as I rubbed his shoulder between my index finger and thumb, my only working fingers, but just the right size for the purpose," Kevan said.

Toby sucked his fingers loudly, and Kevan mimicked the sound.

"He seemed to give a response and we went back and forth in conversation, understanding one another far beyond words. I smiled at my new friend as we fell into fellowship, his eyes enveloping me like a muddy ocean. A new sense of belonging overcame me in a foreign country on the floor of an orphanage with a nonverbal child. I was whole. This little boy was seeing, and so was I. Looking back, I wondered if Toby had the same question I had that day: how to connect with such limitations. Maybe our needs weren't limitations at all, but the hand of God bringing us to this moment of truth and beauty."

Keven acknowledged "it's not just a wheelchair that Saba and her team are giving. It's one thing to give someone a wheelchair to lift their body off the ground. It's another to look into their eyes while they are still on the ground to join them there and really see them for their value regardless of their condition and joyfully give them dignity in spades as you lift their soul off the ground too."

Kevan said Agape Mobility Ethiopia is "a profound ministry of being present along with the wheelchairs, sharing their hope in the Gospel and love of Jesus in word and deed."

Save the Date!

Our next fundraising dinner is being planned for Friday, May 19, 2023.

Watch for updates in the next few months.