

PURE RELIGION

And Feet Was I to the Lame

When John and Nancy Hopkins accepted a call to serve as welfare missionaries, the last thing they imagined was that one day they would be in Mongolia watching a frail woman with a burden on her back struggling up the road to the Khanuul Social Center.

As she approached, Elder and Sister Hopkins realized that the woman was carrying a child. She had come to ask for help for her eight-year-old son, who had been crippled since birth. Because of his condition, the boy had never been to school, and his mother had to carry him on her back whenever he wanted to go anywhere. He was growing fast, and it was clear that soon he would be too heavy for his mother to carry.

Elder and Sister Hopkins wanted so much to help this woman and her son, but, although a medical shipment was on its way from Salt Lake City, they had no way of knowing what specific items the shipment contained.

When the container finally arrived, they unloaded each item until they came to a beautifully built crate. To their delight, inside the crate was a new, child-sized wheelchair.

A week later, their hearts were filled with gratitude as they watched a frail mother, with an eight-year-old child in her arms, gently place her son in his new chair.



“Oh, how I wish that whoever donated that wheelchair could see the happiness their generosity brings,” wrote Sister Hopkins. The chair made available so many possibilities for both the boy and his mother. Now, he would be able to attend school. His mother would not have to struggle under the growing burden of his weight. Others could take him where he needed to go.

Sister Hopkins watched as the boy explored his chair. “All of a sudden he realized if he moved the wheels with his hands, he could propel himself! A big grin broke out on his face as the full impact of the discovery began to dawn upon him. He would no longer have to depend on anyone to move him from place to place. He had, for the first time in his life, become free to move on his own.”

When Elder and Sister Hopkins were in graduate school, they saw others around them doing kind deeds for others in need and they so wanted to one day be able to do likewise. Sister Hopkins remembers praying “that someday we’d be in the position of being able to help others.”

“Many years have passed,” she concludes in her letter, “and, thanks to this opportunity as a Church Welfare Missionary, we’ve been able see a wonderful answer to that prayer.”