Recently, we received a Ford Explorer as a donation vehicle. As is often the case, there were several mechanical issues that needed to be addressed before the truck could be sold and the proceeds used to help purchase our next missionary van. One of the main problems with this Explorer was a noticeable rear differential noise and vibration. When volunteer mechanics, Thavuis and Garland, brought the truck into the shop for inspection, they quickly determined that the differential pinion bearings were severely worn and in need of replacement. After replacing the bearings and completing several other repairs on the truck, a test drive showed that this truck was once again roadworthy.

Volunteers, Isaac, Lucas, and Renee spent several hours cleaning the truck, vacuuming and washing and waxing it to get it ready for a new owner. As we drove the truck in the days that followed, a quite noticeable chattering noise began to develop in the rear differential. After further investigation by our volunteer mechanics it was determined that the original failure of the pinion bearings had also damaged the limited slip clutch assembly and we would now need to either completely rebuild this rear end or find a good used one to replace it.

When a donated vehicle is sold, the value of all parts put into the vehicle comes off the sale price, reducing the total funds applied toward the purchase of our next missionary van. With this in mind, and seeing the amount we had already invested in this Explorer, I was a bit concerned that we were fast approaching the point of diminished returns on this truck. Little did I know, the Lord was already at work. Thavuis and Garland just happened to come across someone at a local body shop who was selling an identical “scrap” Explorer that had a bad engine. Our volunteers arranged a $200 purchase price for the damaged Explorer. We were able to use the differential out of it to get our donated Explorer running and on the market to sell.

The next day another volunteer, Melvin, brought his truck and trailer and took the old damaged $200 Explorer to the salvage yard where they paid us $438.30 for more than 4000 pounds of scrap iron! Praise the Lord! Praise Him for His ability to use a worthless “scrap” Explorer to ultimately advance the Gospel! Praise Him for raising up willing volunteers to serve the Lord with us! What a joy to watch the Lord use His people and to watch Him work out the “nuts and bolts” details of providing transportation for furloughing missionaries.

~ Paul Kimball
More “nuts and bolts” of the ministry...

We have a great team of volunteers who are helping Righteous Rides serve missionaries. From changing tires and brakes to washing vehicles, from updating the website to answering the phone, volunteers are the nuts and bolts of this ministry!

On Tuesday, August 31st, we invited the volunteers and their families to the shop for a pizza party and time of fellowship. With about 50 in attendance, we enjoyed celebrating how God has brought us all together to minister to missionaries. We’re grateful for the privilege of participating in what God is doing to change lives around the world, and we thank Him for the awesome volunteers that make it possible! THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!

God cares about the tiniest “nuts and bolts” details . . .

Just recently a missionary family was met at the airport with the van they would be using for their furlough, and just like all vans for incoming missionaries, it included “goodie bags.” Later, this family sent the Righteous Rides team the following note:

Thanks so much for helping us, meeting us, and making everything so nice as we arrived last evening in St. Louis. The special touches of the two gift bags and the great condition of the van were both so impressive. As we went through the two bags, we were amazed at the things you included, things that were exactly what we needed: shampoo, deodorant, shaving cream, and even some Metamucil!

It’s always amazing to see how God cares about the tiniest things in the lives of these missionary families. The Metamucil was “randomly” put in the bag for this family. The wife has been fighting cancer and needs to take Metamucil every day! When packing up the van with their luggage, they told the van delivery volunteers that they left Austria with very little personal care items, because the flight restrictions are so tough. They had virtually nothing when they got here, so these items would help them tremendously.

Isn’t God great!!! He works out the smallest of details…even Metamucil details!