

## God Sends Angels To Help Cyclist Along Her Way



by Teri Smith-Jones,  
All Saints' and St. George's,  
Rehoboth Beach

Abby Eibin, a 22 year old from Rehoboth Beach, graduated from Arcadia University in May, with a degree in biology. She spent three semesters studying abroad, and says that her time in Africa made her very aware of the struggles endured by families in the developing world.

After graduation and a summer internship, Abby was living with her mom in Rehoboth while studying for her graduate records examination and preparing for a triathlon (her first). She bought a new bike (named it Donkey), and, when the exam and triathlon were over, she decided it was time for a road-trip to visit her sisters in North and South Carolina. By the time she told her mom, she had already planned her route and contacted Episcopal churches to arrange for places to stay along the

way (Abby's dad is an Episcopal priest in Ohio, so she knows that rectories are usually welcoming).

With everything else in order, Abby needed a cause. Coincidentally (another word for God's plan), Abby's mom was working with her parish (All Saints' Church and St. George's Chapel) to support the Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) Nets for Life campaign. Abby learned that 3000 children a day die of malaria in sub-Saharan Africa, and that a \$12.00 mosquito net can save a life. Abby also learned that the Diocese of Delaware wanted to raise enough money to send one life-saving net to a family in Africa from every family in the diocese. Abby had her cause, and so the journey began.

The journey was not without its setbacks. It started a day late after Abby's packs were delayed in shipping and the rack fell off of her bike as soon as she started riding. She got caught in a down-pour on day-two, got a flat tire and then severed a cable while chang-

ing it on her first day in North Carolina, and was clipped by a car as she was leaving Raleigh. She got lost several times, ran out of water once, had to walk up a number of hills, and almost lost her race against the sunset as she entered South Carolina. But every time, God sent an angel to her rescue.

Abby says that her angels are too numerous to count: All the people who prayed for her; everyone who made donations; those who fed her, opened their homes to her and helped her manage her logistics; the bike shop owners who fixed her bike for free; the man who helped her spread her message by setting up a newspaper interview (find a link to it at [DioceseofDelaware.net](http://DioceseofDelaware.net)); the man who stopped after her accident and drove her back to Raleigh, and the woman who saw her struggling past the South Carolina border and felt called to return to check on her just as she was reaching the end of her reserves.

The journey is now complete, and Abby says that it was a life-changing experience. She says that she was awed and humbled by the goodness of God's people. She wants everyone to know how much of a difference we can all make in each others' lives, even in the lives of strangers who we touch for only a moment. Abby doesn't really know how much money her ride will ultimately bring to the Nets for Life campaign (so far, she is aware of about \$350.00 in donations), but her hope is that her efforts will encourage others to find their own ways to reach out to our neighbors around the world.

For more information about Nets for Life visit <http://www.ER-D.org>, or contact Wayne McKee, the Diocese's ERD representative, to arrange for a presentation at your church.

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