The Inland North-West Trinity Project
Home of the Rainbow Freedom Cart
15123 N Little Spokane Dr.
Spokane WA 99208

Tri-Kin Trailways

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Life in Cambodia

Mr. Pheung, 72, had a stroke about 5 years ago and lost his ability to walk. After being immobile all these years, having your own transporter was occasion for overwhelming joy. With tears in his eyes, he said "Now I can go to the Wat".

What is a Wat? We would probably know it as a Buddhist Temple, but it is also the center of village life in Cambodia. Not only for spiritual gatherings, but also for their social life. Gathering for social events is something they do very well, so the Wat is a popular gathering place where every villager wants to be.

Mrs. Long Yan, 87 (left) and Mrs. Kem Sourn, 82 (right) live in a rural village in the Province of Toung Khum. When they say "Ah khun" in Khmer, their native Cambodian language, they sincerely mean "thank you". Their smiles and praises say it all. With their carts they can now get around the village to visit family and friends.

Tep Yeaaurn lost both of her feet in a land mine explosion. She has prosthetic legs but walking is a very painful chore. Now, with her cart, she can travel extended distances for shopping at the village market and visit family, friends, and the Wat. She is so thankful and happy for the first time in years.

More about Life in Cambodia

This is Mr. Um Saran, 33, who lives not far from the Wat in Bok Rong. Birth defects caused him to be unable to work in his family's rice fields as a child like most of the other children did. Usually the children only go to school until about the 6th grade, but Saran stayed in school. He is now extremely articulate and can demonstrate amazing penmanship, which is unheard of in most rural villages in Cambodia.

Before he got his cart, he could only ambulate for short distances at a time. Trails in his village are hard-packed dirt, mostly flat, and about wide enough to ride a bicycle or motorcycle. His cart is ideal for this terrain and he is elated to be able to move further and faster on his own. The little girl in the red dress is his daughter.

A typical fruit market right in the street (left), and a "hardware store" (right).

When boxes holding the carts are opened, joy comes not only from the carts, but for all of the toys, clothes, shoes, and stuffed animals. They are always a big hit in each village. Unpacking the boxes has become a great festival and people of all ages love the goodies included (left).

Mr. Thai Saroeun is 64. Like so many others who have lost mobility due to a land mine, he lost both legs to one.

No article about Cambodia could possibly be complete without at least one rice field picture. It's back breaking work!!

"The carts are 'uplifting' - lifting up off the ground!! Thank you and God bless you and your ministry."

Our Spotlighted Volunteer

Bet you didn't know the Freedom Cart Project has a volunteer "hooker". He is what we call the "Happy Hooker" and he doesn't mind at all. His job is not only critical to getting the carts built for those who have lost use of their legs, but what he does saves us hours and hours of drying time for all of our painted boards. If it weren't for Bob the Happy Hooker we would have to wait for each board to completely dry before it gets it's second coat. Bob Fuller screws cup hooks into the end of each board so after they are painted they can all be hung on a line, completely out of the way of the painting tables, until they are dry. The hooks also give our painters a place to hold onto while they paint the entire board at one time.

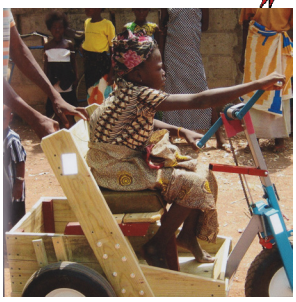
Bob was born in Pomona California in 1927, yes, if your math isn't too bad, that makes him a 90 year old youngster. He loved to play sandlot baseball with friends and when he wasn't doing that (and his mother wasn't home) he enjoyed squeezing fresh orange juice from tree ripened oranges, by using the ringer on her washing machine.

When he was a senior in South Gate High School one of his teachers challenged him to take the qualifying test for the naval radio and radar school. He passed and enlisted in the Navy before he graduated. His parents attended his graduation without him and received his diploma.

After he was discharged from the Navy, he 1) married Jeanie Hodges; 2) with whom they raised four children; 3) enrolled in Arizona State where he played football for the Sun Devils; 4) paid for most of his education using the GI Bill; 5) transferred to USC where he completed his degree in accounting; and 6) became an excellent golfer where he hit multiple "holes-in-one".

Early in 2000, Bob and Jeanie moved from Southern California to Spokane to be closer to their children. They began to attend Whitworth Presbyterian Church where they met lots of quilters and Freedom Cart volunteers. As you probably know, Freedom Cart volunteers are good recruiters and they had Bob "hooked" to be our one-and-only "Happy Hooker". Bob comes in early to "hook" 100-200 boards before the painters get there - so efficiency in the paint shop has gone up by leaps and bounds.

Bob enjoys the fellowship with the other painters - and the feeling is mutual. After he rode a Freedom Cart, he quickly visualized what the whole project was about and where he fit. He was no longer just building carts but was helping people who could not help themselves. We now have another very dedicated, loyal volunteer in the shop, and we couldn't be happier. Bob is a most welcome addition to our volunteer cadre and a vital part of the team.



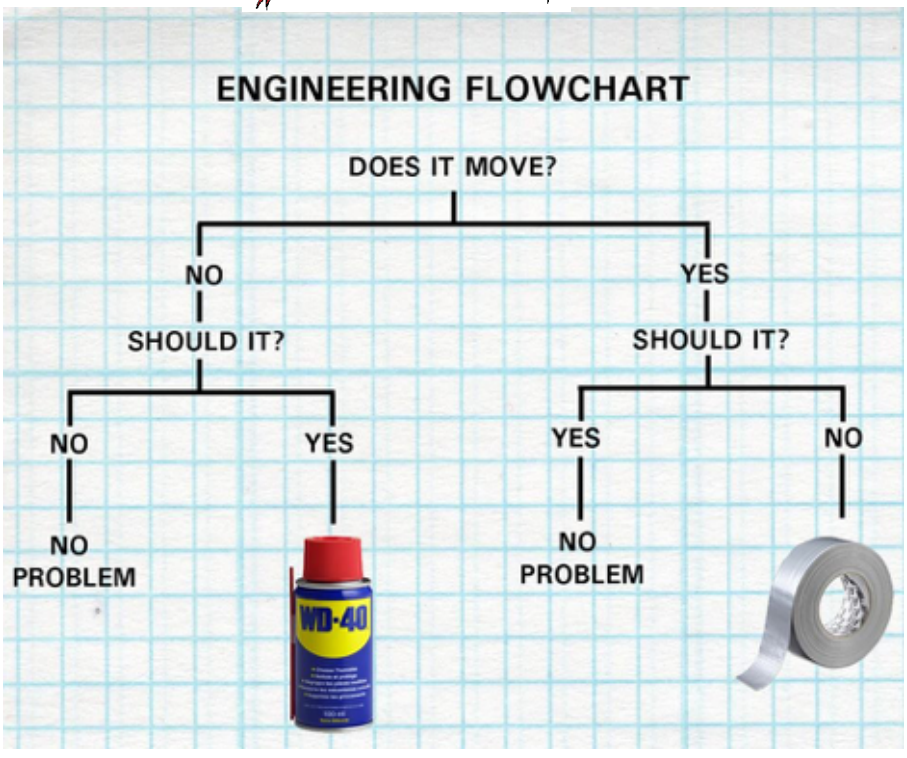
Our new web-site is up and running.
Please check it out at:
http://nwtrinityproject.org

Just after our last newsletter went to press, our 94 year old beloved tail-gate painter, Jack Rogers, breathed his last. Not only was he an accomplished artist, painter, and teacher, but he was a star-athlete, gymnast, mountain climber, runner, bicyclist, and a WWII hero. He was involved in many Pacific battles in New Guinea, Manila, and the Japanese home islands. He was married to Fran for 71 years and they had 4 children, 12 grandchildren, and 12 "greats". We'll miss Jack as will everyone who has seen any of his famous Freedom Cart tail-gates.

Jack had completed the outline for his last picture and Georgia Morris filled in the color.

These pictures were in the last newsletter. Two more beautiful tail-gates from Jack Rogers

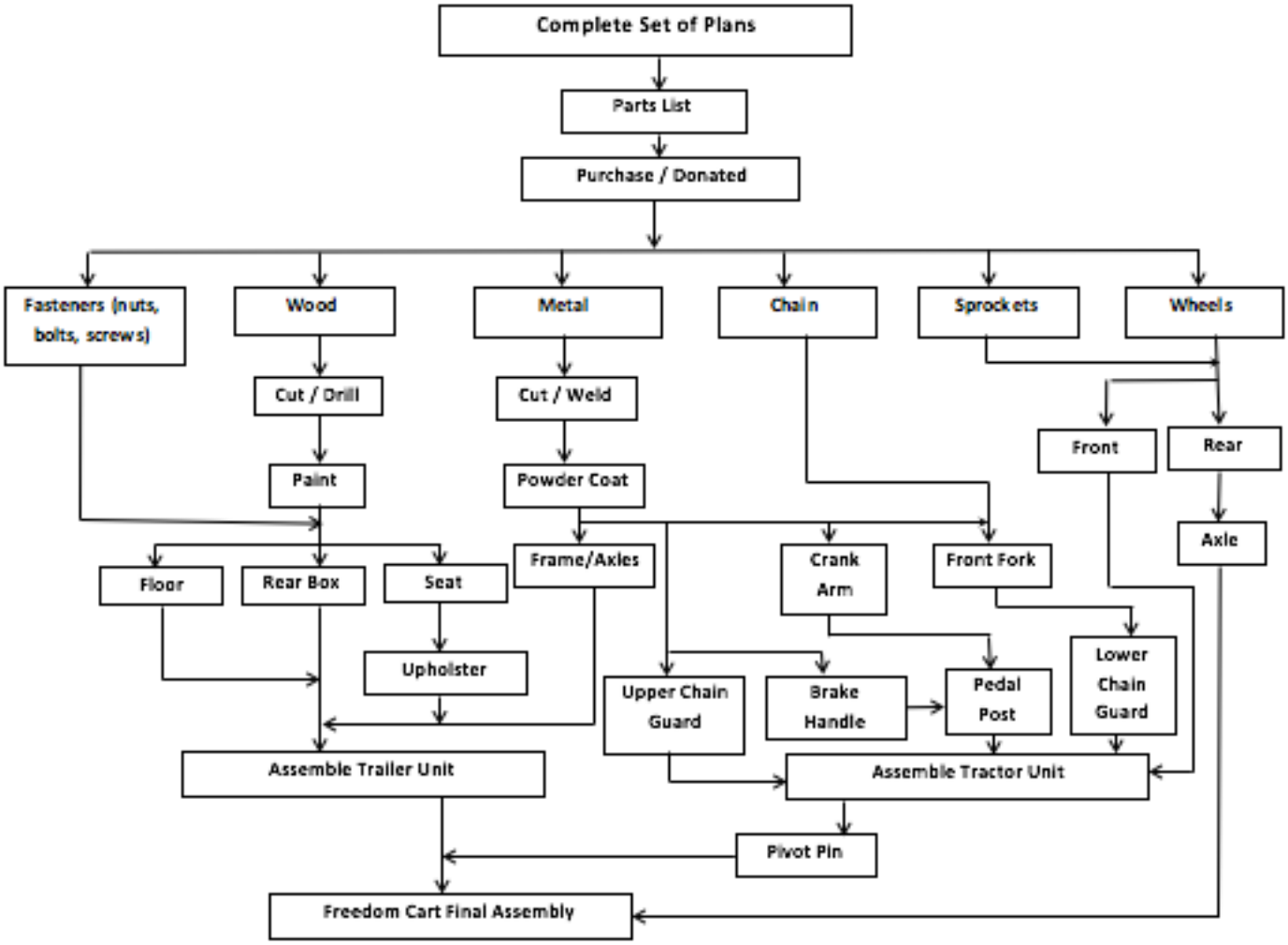
This one is "hidden" somewhere. The "real" Dick picture is pasted in.



Guest Speakers Needed?

Does your church, Sunday school class, club, or organization need a guest speaker? We are passionate about our mission and love to talk to groups. We can give a 15-minute or hour-long presentation and can bring a Freedom cart along for the ride! Call or email us to schedule your presentation. Visits to the shop may also be scheduled here: 509-466-3425 or bebold@comcast.net.

Some of the steps involved in the assembly of each Freedom Cart



Never look down on anyone unless you are helping them up.

Teamwork is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results.

A jubilant cart recipient in Swaziland asked, "People who care for me that I have never seen did this for me? Why?"

Unfortunately leprosy has not yet been eradicated from the world. Henrique Quintas Cassimba who lives in Angola has had one leg amputated and has almost no fingers left. Without fingers, he can no longer propel a standard wheelchair, but he can "palm" a Freedom Cart. When he first saw his new cart he could hardly believe it was for him, and it was free. He says "I was so happy I just cried. You see, even though I have no fingers I can move the cart. I was baptized as a child and know that God loves me and that Jesus is my Saviour. This gift is so great it changes my life and makes me able to move. It is even restoring my health."

Every two minutes someone in the world is diagnosed with leprosy. It causes nerve damage and muscle weakness that can lead to deformities, crippling, blindness and, probably worst of all, isolation. Many Americans think leprosy no longer exists, but it still occurs in more than 140 countries worldwide.

Statistics

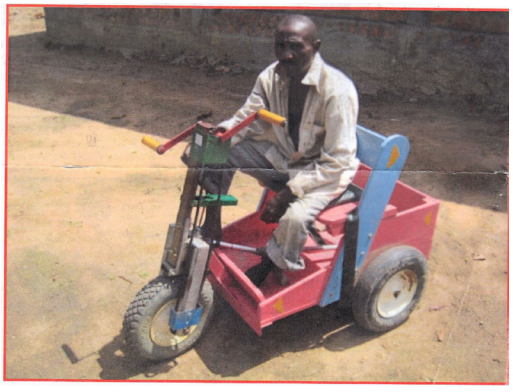
- 214,783 new cases of leprosy were diagnosed and reported in 2016; many cases have not been detected or reported.
- India, Brazil and Indonesia reported the most new cases in 2016.
- The U.S. reported 168 new cases of leprosy in 2016.

Leprosy is an infectious, but curable, disease. The cause is a slow-growing type of bacteria called Mycobacterium leprae (M. leprae). It is generally spread between people and is thought to occur through a cough or by infected nasal secretions. Leprosy occurs more commonly among those living in poverty, but is not highly contagious. It can infect peripheral nerves, which may lead to varying degrees of neuropathy. In the most severe circumstances, this infection may result in an inability to feel pain in the hands or feet, a loss of digits, and blindness. Medical treatment, mostly antibiotics, will stop the disease and remove the infection, but does not repair the damage it has caused.

Leprosy is an ancient disease, described in literature of ancient civilizations. Throughout history, people afflicted have often been ostracized by their communities and families.

In addition to humans, nine-banded armadillos are the only other natural host of M. leprae. Free ranging armadillos in the southern U.S. are known to harbor high rates of M. leprae infection. Their habitat ranges from northern Argentina to the central U.S.

Since armadillos so closely replicate leprosy in humans, there has been interest in using them to test specific interventions, especially anti-leprosy vaccines, and hopefully some day will eliminate human suffering caused by leprosy.



Are Tri-Kin Hustlers? - by Dick Carpenter

That's an interesting question. "Hustle" brings to mind a picture of some criminal activity or illicit behavior.

Alexa Clay writes "Hustle … to move fast, to trade one thing for another, and to pro-actively create your own opportunities rather than waiting for an opportunity to come your way. Hustle is about getting things done. And, there's no better place to see this in action than around the Tri-Kin shops.

Tri-Kin welders are charged with cutting and welding steel parts which will go to our Powder Coating company. They get dirty and smelly as they cut various sizes of steel to the precise dimensions needed for assembling our Freedom Carts. When their work comes back from powder coating, our Tri-Kin sub-assemblers and builders take over and add them to other parts already assembled. Dave, in his own shop, takes front tires, places them on a robo-chuck and welds the large sprocket perfectly in place. As I write, our welders are hustling to design and build a new front fork which will save the ministry money and construction time.

When our intrepid Tri-Kin painters walk into the Paint Barn and see stacks of wood parts for 20 Carts – over 400 pieces, they know only by hustling will they get that wood primed, rainbow colored, dried, floured and delivered to our Tri-Kin builders waiting in the Trinity Shop. It will take them 2 weeks of constant hustling as parts are hooked, primed, and painted colors that enhance our Rainbow theme. The paint they apply will have to endure -40 degrees in Mongolia or 120 degrees in Nigeria. They do it, week after week, day after day because they know the ministry stops until the wood is painted. Wayne, in his shop, completes the pedal post assemblies which have 8 different parts, and hustles them to the sub-assemblers who add acrolyte handles as a last step before they are ready for final assembly. This teamwork is essential for achieving the production promises we have made to our shipping charities.

Another team is hustling in the Trinity Shop. They insure painted wood, powder coated steel, upholstered seats and back rests, and the thousands of nuts, bolts and screws are in house and ready for final assembly.

If you want to see real HUSTLING in Action, Go to our Website – nwtrinityproject.org – and watch the Tri-Kin loading 150 boxed Rainbow Freedom Carts into a FEDEX truck with tandem trailers, beginning their journey half-way around the world to lift people out of the dirt into a life of dignity and hope.

Now you know we have booth "hookers" (page 3), and "hustlers" working to help people who cannot help themselves.

Our Shoreline Tri-Kin hustling to get wood from their shop to the Kent shop.

Two more very happy people who have just gone from crawling in the dirt to their new life of dignity and hope.

Are you aware?

That every shipment of 70 Trinity Carts represents about $17,500 of either donated parts and services (e.g. transportation) or money from our faithful donors. As those businesses, who so graciously donate their services, either change hands or have to cut-back their donations, the cash we must raise goes up in order to get carts to those who so desperately need them. At a time when several of our business partners have had to reduce their giving, we would be extremely grateful if you would prayerfully consider giving over and above your normal gifts to help make up for former business partners who have had to cut back in order to stay in business. Thank you ever so much for your consideration.

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Freedom Cart Connection – Contact and Newsletter Information

For volunteer opportunities, visits to the Freedom Cart shop, or to request a presentation, please call Dick Carpenter at (509)466-3425 or send him an e-mail at bebold@comcast.net. For address changes or comments about this newsletter, send to 8trikin@gmail.com. Tax-deductible donations may be sent to WCPC-Trinity Project, 15123 Little Spokane Dr., Spokane, WA 99208. Our web-site is: **http://nwtrinityproject.org**