





June 2018 Vol X Number 2



Trinity (Freedom) Carts in Senegal

Looking at an outline of the country of Senegal is a bit unusual, since it "sort-of" looks like a lion's head with Lits mouth open. Slightly smaller than South Dakota, this West African country with a population of 14.8 million, is one of the countries in the world with the highest fertility rates. The main language is French and 90% of its citizens are Muslim (mostly Sunni). The country outline may look unusual, but Senegal, just like nearly 200 other countries around the world, has its share of those who have to crawl on the ground because they don't have access to our Trinity (Freedom) Carts.

One of our frustrations has been that we seldom receive feedback from Freedom Cart recipients. About three years ago we started printing a note on the shipping boxes asking recipients to please send pictures and articles to our email address. About a month ago, one came back from Senegal - the first ever response to our note.

Here is a picture the recipient included with his response. It looks like the shipping box has seen its share of wear and weather. On the left is the recipient with the cart he took out of its box.

Yankhobe who wrote: "Hello dear benefactors, my name is Yankhoba Ndiaye and I live in Senegal precisely in Dakar (Grand mbao, city Sipres 5, villa No. 192). I am one of your beneficiaries and I am very happy. Really it allows me to move



to school but also in my neighborhood. Before I went out because I had no wheelchair and it was my little brother who put me in his back sometimes. It's really a useful gift thank you from the bottom of the heart

May God bless you." We responded asking him for his story and whether he could get similar pictures from others. Here is his reply: "Good evening. In fact I gave them your email address so that they do like me, and I really hope they did it. In short, I was born with this handicap 21 years ago. When I was born my mother told me that my legs and hands were deformed. For that I had to undergo a lot of operation to be able to move feel at ease. This almost ruined our modest family for lack of money. But good my situation improved when I joined the

center TALIBOU DABO. Which is an inclusive

school. And that's where I received wheelchairs during my childhood. If not two years back I had no wheelchair because mine was out of use. It was later that I received your wheelchair thank you from the heart."

We have stories from several other recipients, but unfortunately we're not sure which pictures go with which story. They express so much gratitude, we want to share them with you.



send photo and story to

strikin@gmail.com

Serigne (from Yoff)- "My handicap developed after an illness which began at my feet and quickly reached the knees. I had several evaluations and X-rays but the doctors said they could

do nothing. And that is when I saw my legs take a shape which meant I had to crawl. I was very bothered and could no longer go out for I was ashamed for people to see me. But thanks to God with this gift of the little car I

will be able to move about where I want and return to the house calmly without bothering anyone. May God bless those who have the heart to help handicapped people get around and improve their resources so that others handicapped like me can (also) benefit from having one."

Ababacar Laye MBengue (Yoff) – "I am 45 years old and since 1966 (age 7) my legs have been handicapped by polio. Facing the many difficulties which I have to face, the rolling chair that I have just received is for me like a new 4x4 vehicle.

May God bless the organization who really thought about us and brought us out of

shame and begging for to be handicapped in Senegal is difficult for your family's finances must pay for your needs and expenses. Thank you for all you do."

Medone Pouye – "I am 44 years old, married and the father of a family. I got my handicap after an accident. After several intense (medical) care (attempts), I felt light pain which got worse a year later. My left foot swelled

and so I decided to pierce it but it contained a black liquid. After several attempts to help me, they ended cutting off my toes. To talk about how important this gift is to me, I cannot imagine what I can say for that is beyond my

mouth to explain what I feel. I say only "thank you" to the Lord and to the givers."

From this map of Senegal, you can see why an outline of the country looks a little different. The country of The Gambia is carved out of the middle of Senegal.



Although not unique to Senegal, they do have two trees worth mentioning. The tree in this picture (left) is an Acacia which is farmed for gum-Arabic (also known as acacia gum) an important natural substance used as a stabilizer in the food industry. (Without it, the sugar in our soft drinks would crystallize and



sink.) It is also used in paint, glue, and cosmetics and has several medical benefits. Its use has been traced back to ancient Egypt, about 4000 years ago.



The sunset picture is the famous 6000 (at least reported to be) year old Baobab in Senegal. The other picture is a grove of Baobab trees (the national symbol of Senegal).

Sometimes called the African Tree of Life, - a fascinating plant. Legend has it that when God created the Baobab tree it



didn't want to stay where He planted it and kept walking. God pulled it up by the roots and replanted it up side down to keep it from moving. Looking at one, it surely looks like its roots are in the air. Its huge trunk (up to 154 feet around) contains about 80% water and can hold 1200 gallons. In the dry season, elephants get water by

chewing the bark. As a matter of fact, elephants are one of its enemies; along with lightening,



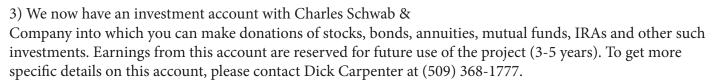
black fungus, and either too much, or too little, water. Their trunks sometimes split open and have been used for storm shelters, prisons, post offices, human tombs, and even a pub. Leaves are typically five inches long and have teeth, but lose them as the tree matures. They are rich in calcium and are eaten raw or used for food flavoring. Its flowers are pollinated at night by bats, but they have to be quick as the flowers only last one day, and they don't even start to bloom until the tree is about 20 years old. The fruit, known as monkey bread, is reported to contain six times more vitamin C as an orange, is eaten as an antidote for diarrhea, fever, and malaria. Their hard seeds are ground into oil for soap or whipped into a peanut butter like treat at Easter time.

Ways you can make a direct impact on the Trinity Project

As we've said before, funds for buying parts for Freedom Carts, seem to be getting more and more scarce. As our business partners have to cut back, or in some cases, go completely out of business, we are having to buy more items that used to be donated by these partners. We are so indebted to those new business partners, and especially to those who have remained with us through these 13 years. We can't say enough good things about them.

We now have several new ways (and some old ones) to make donating to the Trinity Project more convenient.

- 1) you can still send checks, made payable to WCPC-Trinity Project and send to:15123 Little Spokane Dr., Spokane, WA 99208.
- 2) Donate electronically through Pay Pal, even though you don't have a Pay Pal account. All you need is either a credit or a debit card. Go to our web-site: **nwtrinityproject.org** and click on the word "DONATE" (which is on every page of the site). That will take you to the image on the right. All you need to do is click on the yellow button (or any of the other buttons below the yellow one). The rest is clearly explained. We'll gladly send you an official tax receipt.



I was hungry and you formed a humanities club to discuss my hunger.

Thank you

I was imprisoned and you crept off quietly to your chapel to pray for my release.

Thank you

I was naked and in your mind you debated the morality of my appearance.

What good did that do?

I was sick and you knelt and thanked God for your health.

But I needed you

Donate

I was homeless and you preached to me of the shelter of the love of God.

I wish you'd taken me home

I was lonely and you left me alone to pray for me.

Why didn't you stay?

You seem so holy, so close to God; But I'm still very hungry, lonely, cold, and still in pain.

Does it matter?

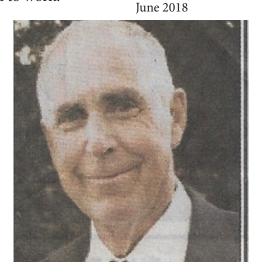
--Anonymous

Page 4, Vol X No 2

Once he was trained to build Freedom carts, he would build two each day he was on the job. His work was precise and he would not tolerate slovenly work on the carts he built. If he had to redo some aspect of his work, he did it without question. As Jim's work matured, his mistakes went to zero. He was with us about 4 years but one day he told us he could not work with Trinity anymore. We didn't know what happened until his illness became apparent, and permanent. But, while ill, he and his wife would pick up bags of plastic water jugs from dental offices. We used these, and still do, as part of our packing process. We thank God for sharing Jim with us for as long as He did.

im Price came to us from retirement. He was very quiet but he just liked to work.

Jim was born in Seattle, a US Navy veteran, worked for the railroad, and was a delivery truck driver at one time. He also completed numerous marathons, and was married to Julie for 56 years. They have 3 children, 9 grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren.



Jim's strong and honest work ethic was an example for all of us. He will be greatly missed.

Great note from a grateful recipient

"Dear Mr Dick

"How are you and your Great Works? I do hope God is continuing giving you much strength and ideas in building as many carts as you can.

"Im very well here and it's my pleasure to see that my fellow disableds are enjoying life after receiving carts and however requests continue coming in that Im just praying to God to be the leader on everything. Some were isolated themselves after amputations and any other diseases, but ever since they saw some driving carts, they now come open.

"From my group, the male beneficiaries are: 9 and female are 5. 1 male is a school going boy aged 14 and is now comfortable in going to school. These people have now engaged themselves in different activities of life for their survival since they are able to mobilise from point A to B. I also initiated a training program for them which is called Appropriate Paper Technology. They can now produce different products out of paper eg fruit baskets which we were given the opportunity to exhibit in the just ended Harare Agricultural show. I was greatful that some of our products won prizes.

"Right now they are pressuring me to lead them in starting projects like poultry etc. Because they are motivated and feel they have the potential.

"Im also glad to let you know that I have managed to register as a trust and our name is "Faith, Hope and Love Trust" (F.H.L Trust). We aim to visit rural areas and meet those in need of wheelchairs since we discovered that they enable them to do their daily works without much assistance from others.

"I wish one day I would be able to come and visit the place where you are doing the excellent work. I strongly support this project because I have also seen the support from beneficiaries. Now on my list, I have some adults who crawl like infants, some amputeed after accidents and diseases. I also wish if there could be a suitable plan that would help these people to gain easy mobility, and become able to participate in various activities of life.

"Thank you very much for the response to my letter which was written on 1 July. I was very much pleased but I could hardly read it and after thoroughly going over it I managed to read.

"May God bless you and the whole team that came in to support your idea.

"Sincerely yours, Terence Nyamazana O"

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.

Another Wonderful Volunteer ~ Ted Ripley

Our spotlighted volunteer for this issue of the newsletter lives on the other side of the mountains (the wet side) but he is one who loves to build things. The earliest memories his family has of Ted are his carpenter abilities; as in green houses, rental houses, and even the family home. Ted's son remembers distinctly being taught how to build concrete forms for foundations, especially how to hold a hammer and hit the right nail (not the one on your thumb), and most importantly, just how to hold your tongue. (After he said that your editor wondered whether he meant as you are building, or after you've hit the wrong nail.) As his son says, "His wry sense of humor would always come through."



Ted, and wife Kris, built several houses while teaching full time, and in the process taught their kids a strong work ethic, including how to care for their tools. Ted and Kris raised two girls and a boy.

Summers were family time, and as teachers, both Ted and Kris were able to take road trips with the family which they used as learning opportunities for the kids. On several occasions they would talk small town librarians into loaning books (for strangers from out of town) for the kids to read. These trips also taught us valuable every-day lessons - like always checking with a motel where they were going to stay to see whether they had water, and not construction material or lawn furniture, in their pool.

His son wrote the following paragraph, which speaks well of Ted's integrity, love for his family, as well as his compassion for other humans. "One of the

most enduring lessons he taught was a sense of compassionate responsibility; we are responsible for leaving this world better than we found it. We are to do the best we can with what we have at that time; he taught this by example. He would clean his tools before he put them away, fix our cars, and darn his socks. During a trip to Washington DC our family went out to lunch. He noticed a man begging outside the restaurant and invited him in as our guest. I wasn't sure what to think, just like the manager at the restaurant, I noticed the man

didn't smell good and looked dirty. When the manager asked him to leave my dad said no, he was with us. We sat and ate and heard this man's story. While I don't know what happened to that man after our lunch, I know I was changed. This man had a story, a life way beyond what could be seen through his current state of dress. My dad saw that and treated him as his equal. I learned to care for people that day and what doing THE BEST I could with what I had been given at that time really meant."

Once Ted retired, his family was delighted, but not surprised, that he began working with the Trinity Project. He enjoys working with the small team in Western Washington, cutting wood for and building carts. His love of working with his hands partnered with his deep sense of compassionate responsibility for our earth and its people, are beautifully matched to serve as a Tri-Kin.

That's Ted on the right ready to unload the uncut lumber for cutting to size and shape.



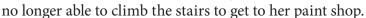
Our Oldest Tri-Kin

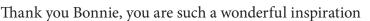
We've written about her previously, but her next birthday sets another record for our Tri-Kin. It's hard to believe but Bonnie Wartes has lived almost 98 years. She and Bill were married 56 years and served in and

around Barrow Alaska where Bill was a pastor and pilot flying to remote



villages all across the North Slope of the Brooks Range. Last time we wrote about her, she was "only" 90 and still volunteering at Classy Rack (a ministry of the Union Gospel Mission), New Hope Resource Center, and teaching a Bible class at church. In her spare time, she painted wood parts for our Trinity Carts, and collected stuffed animals to pack around the carts when they are shipped. She is now having to "retire" since she is





to all of us "younger" folks. Your faithfulness and your desire to help others who cannot help themselves is a real testimony for others to follow.

We still smile at the picture on the top left. Bonnie is painting Trinity Cart parts, but we aren't sure whether the parts she is currently painting are green or brown.

When her daughter told Bonnie she wanted a picture of her holding some Petite Carts, Bonnie couldn't figure out why. She'll figure it out for the first time when she sees this newsletter. When I first saw the picture on the right, I asked one of Bonnie's daughters if she was really sitting on the floor, and if she was, could she still get up-and-down. I was told she really is sitting on the floor, and she actually could get up and down, but with a little help now-days.



Several months ago, we made contact with an American independent missionary in the city of Chiang Mai northern Thailand. Don Willcox has operated "The Foundation to Encourage the Potential of Disabled Persons" (FEPDP) since 1993. They currently focus on the actual delivery of wheelchairs to the disabled. Since they live among those who need their help, they not only know the people individually, but know how to meet their specific needs because they understand how the disabled have to live. Over the past years they have struggled to work with groups who send "goodwill ambassadors" who are well intentioned but have no in-depth

knowledge of the dangers or appropriateness of the vehicles they provide.



Our immediate goal is to build <u>AND</u> ship 70 Freedom Carts directly to them for distribution in the areas they know best. Unfortunately we don't have \$8000-\$10,000. We have applied for numerous grants, but grant makers apparently don't want to make grants for shipping, customs, and other miscellaneous fees.

The picture shows Don and his wife Piranan Singjai with some of the "wheelchairs" they distribute. As you can see, their chairs require an additional person for mobility, have small wheels which don't do very well in sand or on unimproved streets, and compared to Trinity Carts are pretty light weight. They are meeting a definite need to help people get off the ground, but they also need our durable, hand powered, "go-anywhere" carts. The motto for FEPDP, which we have quoted in one of our previous newsletters, is "Never look down on anyone unless you are helping them up".

Tri-Kin as Changemakers

By: Dick Carpenter

That is a Changemaker? No, rather who are the Changemakers?

Children in Haiti creating a new traffic safety system.

American truck drivers preventing human trafficking.

Cell phone employees establishing mobile phone services for people living in the slums.

Tri-Kin building and shipping Freedom Carts to leg-disabled people.

A child in an Indian slum recycling plastic to help protect the wildlife.

A man in Saudi Arabia focusing on empowering women with jobs.

Poor women in Nigeria incorporating technology to increase living standards.

They are men, women, and children who desire change in the world and, by gathering resources, make that change happen. Now in our 13th year, the Tri-Kin on the NW Trinity Project change lives, instantly, every time a leg-disabled person receives a Cart. Those people are lifted up out of the dirt into a new life: A lifetime dream comes true.

That's changemaking AND being a changemaker.

There are people who act to make change happen but many fail. Changemaking Tri-Kin are different. We make that change happen! It takes, empathy, courage, creativity, and a relentless spirit, combined with knowledge, materials and financial resources. This insures Freedom Carts will be made and distributed to land mine victims and others who desperately need them. We believe with George Roter of Engineers Without Borders, that our volunteers have "changemaking in their DNA."

What evidence do we have of this? This June, our Tri-Kin will have shipped 3120 Freedom Carts to countries as diverse as Mongolia, Congo, Honduras, Viet Nam, and many others. It takes the knowledge of our engineers to keep improving the design to make each cart stronger and safer. A new chain linked brake helped do that. It took the insight of our builders to make the seat system adjustable so men and children can use the same cart. As this is written, the team is determined to ship carts that can be either self-driven or, where needed, converted to a pull cart. Once design is integrated, and achieved, the need to spend scarce dollar resources for two different designs will be eliminated. Here's a challenge for our Tri-Kin: Make the tailgate adjustable.

Our Changemaking Tri-Kin in the NorthWest remove shame from lost lives due to polio or other disabling diseases. Every Rainbow Freedom Cart received from changemaking NW Tri-Kin re-energies that life to get more education, start a business, accept a more challenging job, and, in one case we know, gets married while sitting on his cart!

We realize God's Spirit stimulates all of this, but what JOY to be led by that Spirit, to a life with friends of changemaking for our Lord.

Proven results of our Changemakers

















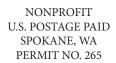














Various Helps for the Leg-Disabled









Freedom Cart Connection - Contact and Newsletter Information

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: nwtrinityproject.org Please also see the article "Ways you can make a direct impact on the Trinity Project" on page 3.