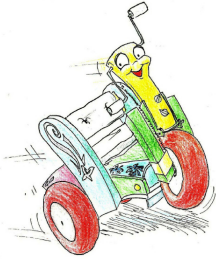


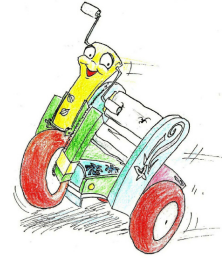


The Inland North-West Trinity Project
Home of the Rainbow Freedom Cart
15123 N Little Spokane Dr.
Spokane WA 99208

Tri-Kin Trailways



September 2018
Vol X Number 3



Lebanon ~ the Country

Last June, 120 Trinity Carts were loaded into two FedEx trailers (picture on page 2) to begin their voyage to the country of Lebanon. Unfortunately we haven't received any feedback from their recipients that we can report so, we thought we might get acquainted with a very interesting country at the eastern end of the Mediterranean Sea. Lebanon has both good and bad historical facts, so we'll start with some of the good and then tell why they need our Trinity Carts so badly.

The country's geography consists of a long-narrow piece of land wedged between Syria on its north and east, and Israel on the south. The Mediterranean Sea dominates the entire west side. Lebanon measures about 130 miles from north to south, and



between 25 and 50 miles wide. Lebanon's land area is 4,036 square miles (almost exactly halfway in size between Delaware and Connecticut) and a population of roughly 6 million. The capital, Beirut, is only about 150 miles north



of Jerusalem. Two rugged mountain ranges, the Lebanon and the Anti-Lebanon Mountains, run parallel to the coast with extensive ravines and valley systems between them. Mountain peaks range from 7,000 to over 10,000 feet above sea level, which is less than 25 miles to the west of the tallest peak. The highest peaks, in the north, are covered with snow and ice all year (one glacier is over 1,000 feet thick) and can be seen from as far south as Israel.



Trade shaped the country's role in the region as several trade routes pass through it. It has been called "The Pearl of the Middle East" and serves as a link between the Mediterranean world



Downtown Beirut ~ Photo by Piotr Chrobot on Unsplash

and East Asia and India. Merchants export oil, grain, textiles, metal work, and pottery to Western markets.



Probably one of the best-known agricultural products of Lebanon are its famous cedar trees. These giant, beautiful evergreens grow at altitudes between 3,300 and 6,500 feet, can attain a height of 100 feet and the trunk may reach 6

feet in diameter. The aromatic, durable, and highly desirable, wood was especially valuable during the time Israel's kings (David and Solomon) were building its temples and palaces.

The Bible has much to say about Lebanon; mentioned 71 times in the Old Testament. When the Israelites returned to their promised land, it was the Gebalites and Hivites who lived in Lebanon. Lebanon is mentioned 9 times as part of the land God promised to Abraham, as was the whole mountain range of Lebanon. Isaiah talks about the beauty and glory of the country. Psalm 92:12 says *"The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree; he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon"*. King Solomon sent 30,000 workers to obtain cedar for the temple he was building. King Solomon's "beloved" in The Song of Solomon, came from Lebanon. Lebanon is mentioned several times in the Old Testament as it plays key rolls in Biblical prophesy.

Although the name Lebanon is not found in the New Testament, Jesus did minister there (it was called Phoenicia in His day). The cities of Tyre and Sidon were where Jesus ministered to the Canaanite woman's daughter when



He healed her.



Ruins of ancient temples are numerous throughout Lebanon. Within a radius of 20 miles of the ancient city of Baalbek one can visit ruins of 15 Roman "sun-temples" with their intricately detailed

stonework and colossal columns. Centuries of war and earthquakes have left their toll on many temples, but tours to the sites are available today.



120 Loaded for Lebanon

Today, Lebanon is relatively peaceful, but a 15-year civil war and conflicts with neighbors have left unexploded land mines and cluster munitions across swathes of the country. The Mines Advisory Group (MAG), a British NGO that works to clear unexploded ordinance in Lebanon, says the number of accidents have increased recently. Lebanon has made good progress in clearing land mines, but there are still many left to maim the unwary. Most were placed during Lebanon's civil war, but no records were kept of where they are located. With the dramatic increase in the number of people living in Lebanon, mostly Syrians escaping their own civil war, there are more people directly affected. The rural poor suffer most as they



cannot farm their lands, the main livelihood for many in these areas. The machine pictured on the left is called a flayer, used by MAG to help eliminate land mines. Ali Srouf, a 31 year-old law graduate lost a leg when he stepped on a mine at the age of 18. He says he has lost confidence and struggles to find employment. Ali is just the person we hope will receive one of our Trinity carts.

Meraki [may-rah-kee] (adjective). This is a word that modern Greeks often use to describe doing something with soul, creativity, and love — when you put “something of yourself” into what you’re doing.

Meraki is also the name of a coffee company in Mississippi managed by Don Mattocks’ grandson, Ben Lewis. But it means a whole lot more! (<http://merakiroasting.com>)

When we, as Tri-Kin, put our soul, our character and something of ourselves into our work, we are applying Meraki! Can I say that I live Meraki when I’m working for Trinity ... or my family ... or my church? I pray so.

When you go deep into a particular skill or art, you train your powers of concentration and perception. You become more discerning about the objects with which you are dealing and, if all goes well, begin to care viscerally about quality, because you have been initiated into an ethic of caring about what you are doing. In essence, you are putting a piece of yourself into your creation, it has therefore become an extension of yourself.

When a new Tri-Kin starts gaining the skill to build a Cart, he or she has to concentrate and listen to the teacher who is already discerning in this art. This allows oneself to spot immediately when a painted part is in the wrong location, when the wrong size screw is used or when a drill is started at the wrong place. As time goes by, the new Tri-Kin, not only cares about the quality of one’s work but will be sensitive to quality in other Tri-Kin’s work.

When you have a whole team of Tri-Kin working this way, a collective judgment is created that has all of us paying attention to the mission of the ministry. We have developed an ethic of caring, extending not only to each Tri-Kin, but also to every leg-disabled person who receives one of our carts. Their safety is paramount and an unsafe, low quality cart will further degrade them. The ethical caring character we have developed by concentrating, perceiving, and caring, will not allow that to happen. And, in the end, we lift people out of dirt and shame into a life of dignity and thus glorify the original Meraki: Our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Ways you can make a direct impact on the Trinity Project

As we’ve mentioned 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 use 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.

3) We now have an investment account with Charles Schwab & Company into which you can make donations of stocks, bonds, annuities, mutual funds, IRAs and other such investments. Earnings from this account are reserved for future use of the project (3-5 years). To get more specific details on this account, please contact Dick Carpenter at (509) 368-1777.



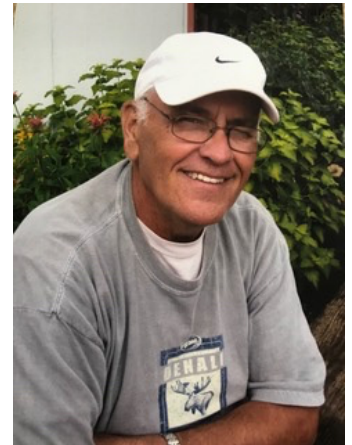
Another of our Spectacular Volunteers

Page 4, Vol X No 3
September 2018

People who know him would say Dan Mencke believes that actions speak louder than words. He is always the one to be called on by family and friends to fix whatever was broken or needed adjusting. He would drop whatever he was doing and attend to the needs of others first. His knowledge plus wisdom in matters of life was what made him a special person in his family and among friends. They would say he walked the walk. Helping others is his mode of operation so it made perfect sense for him to pick up a brochure on the Northwest Trinity Project and in retirement become a part of that family of volunteers.

Dan grew up in Huron, SD, and as a teenager, he loved horses, dogs, and sports. He often says that athletics was what kept him connected to school. After high school, he got his undergraduate degree from South Dakota State University and later got a graduate degree from Webster University. During college, he got his private pilot's license and then entered the US Air Force where he served 23 years as a pilot and transportation specialist. He flew the A-1 Skyraider when stationed in Vietnam. He retired as a Lieutenant Colonel and then worked for both Visiting Nurses and Gonzaga University.

Dan's family consists of his wife of 51 years, 2 daughters and a son, their spouses, and 8 grandchildren. His family could not have a more devoted husband, dad, and granddad. Whether it's fixing something, babysitting grandkids, attending their events, or just talking with them, he loves to be there for them. It might also be important to add that there have always been at least one, and usually more, family dogs.



For 40 years Dan officiated basketball, football, and even volleyball. He also served as a trainer, assigner, and treasurer for the Inland Empire Football Association and the Spokane Basketball Organization (SBO). Due to his commitment to youth and knowledge of these sports, he is in the WA Officials Association Hall of Fame and the SBO Hall of Fame.



Besides NW Trinity Project, flying is presently what keeps Dan involved these days. He is in two flying clubs, which own 3 small airplanes. He gives flight lessons; check rides with pilots when they need annual certification, maintains

the aircraft and keeps the aircraft monetary books and maintenance records. But mostly he flies for love of the adventure!

The Northwest Trinity Project was a perfect fit for Dan in his retirement. He loves to work with his hands and through the project he has made some wonderful friends. While he is quietly thankful for all the blessings in his life, he believes the Northwest Trinity Project is the avenue for him to pay those blessings forward. It is a perfect way for him to serve others since he fully supports its mission.

Dan has been the key to welder productivity since he started volunteering. His coming into the welding shop and patiently cutting hundreds of steel parts allows the welders to come to work and maximizes their productivity since they don't have to stop to cut parts. Dan drives to purchase, and then delivers, the steel to our shop, which saves Dick Carpenter hours of time and travel. His "can-do" attitude is such a blessing as is his desire to help the "least of these" gain mobility and hope. Dan continues to be a tremendous asset to the Project, with both his physical help and his unique thoughts about the carts and how they are assembled.

Here is a quote in the June, 2018 issue of "Guideposts" magazine that made me think of the Trinity Project: "Helping those who are vulnerable and in need is not a burden or an obligation but an opportunity to be like Christ."

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 **beboid@comcast.net**.

Lessons to Think About ~ A Parable

The following parable of "The Giving Tree" by Shel Silverstein is not only food for thought, but we would like your feedback. After you read it, would you let us know, via the email **8trikin@gmail.com** address, how you think it relates to the Trinity Project? Who, or what is the boy and the tree? Do you think the time line of the young boy to old man have any lessons we need to learn? Compare the tree's giving to what you believe the Trinity Project gives – or are we just takers always seeking more money, and donations to make us happy? And – many thanks in advance for your feedback.

Once there was a tree...and she loved a little boy. Every day the boy would come to gather her leaves, and make them into crowns and play king of the forest.

He would climb up her trunk, swing from her branches and eat apples. Then they would play hide-and-seek. When he was tired he would sleep in her shade. The boy loved the tree.... and the tree was happy.

But time went by and the boy grew older, and the tree was often alone. Then one day the boy came to the tree and the tree said, "Come, boy, come and climb up my trunk, swing from my branches, eat my apples, play in my shade and be happy." "I am too big to climb and play," said the boy. "I want to buy things, have fun and I want some money""I'm sorry," said the tree, "but I have no money. I have only leaves and apples. Take my apples and sell them in the city. Then you will have money and you will be happy."

So the boy climbed up the tree, gathered her apples and carried them away. And the tree was happy. But the boy stayed away for a long time....And the tree was sad. Then one day the boy came back and the tree shook with joy and said, "Come, climb up my trunk and swing from my branches and be happy." "I am too busy to climb trees". "I want a house to keep me warm," he said. "I want a wife and I want children, and so I need a house. Can you give me a house?" "I have no house," said the tree. "The forest is my house, but you may cut off my branches and build a house. Then you will be happy."

And so the boy cut off her branches and carried them away to build his house. And the tree was happy. But the boy stayed away for a long time. And when he came back, the tree was so happy she could hardly speak. "Come," she whispered, "come and play." "I am too old and sad to play," said the boy. "I want a boat that will take me far away from here. Can you give me a boat?" "Cut down my trunk and make a boat," said the tree. "Then you can sail away... and be happy." And so the boy cut down her trunk and made a boat and sailed away. And the tree was happy... but not really.

After a long time, the boy came back again. "I am sorry," said the tree, "but I have nothing left to give you - My apples are gone." "My teeth are too weak for apples anyway," said the boy. "My branches are gone," said the tree. "You cannot swing on them - " "I am too old to swing on branches," said the boy. "My trunk is gone, " said the tree. "You cannot climb - " "I am too tired to climb," said the boy. "I am sorry," sighed the tree. "I wish that I could give you something.... but I have nothing left. I am just an old stump. I am sorry...."

"I don't need very much now," said the boy. "Just a quiet place to sit and rest. I am very tired." "Well," said the tree, straightening her self up as much as she could, "well, an old stump is good for sitting and resting ... Come, sit down. Sit down and rest." And the boy did. And the tree was happy.

Now, **please let us hear your thoughts at: 8trikin@gmail.com**

Late last year, we shipped 130 Trinity Carts to Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC, and formally known as Zaire). For months they seemed to be lost somewhere along

Page 6, Vol X No 3
September 2018



Church Service

the way. Finally, last March we heard they were stuck in customs waiting for someone to “lubricate the palms” of a few customs officials. The word we got back was they had to pay “8000\$” to what they described as “our challenged government” customs officials. We really aren’t sure just what

“8000\$” means, but if 8000\$ is in CDF (Congolese Francs) it converts to just under \$5.00 US.

The letter we received said “*You can’t imagine the amount of suffering you have alleviated and the joy you have ignited in lives of handicapped people of Bunia, Lturi, Eastern Congo.*” After the writer talks about the 8000\$, he says “*However, we forgot this kind of labor pain yesterday as we saw the beneficiaries smile, cry, shout and kneeling down for joy.*”

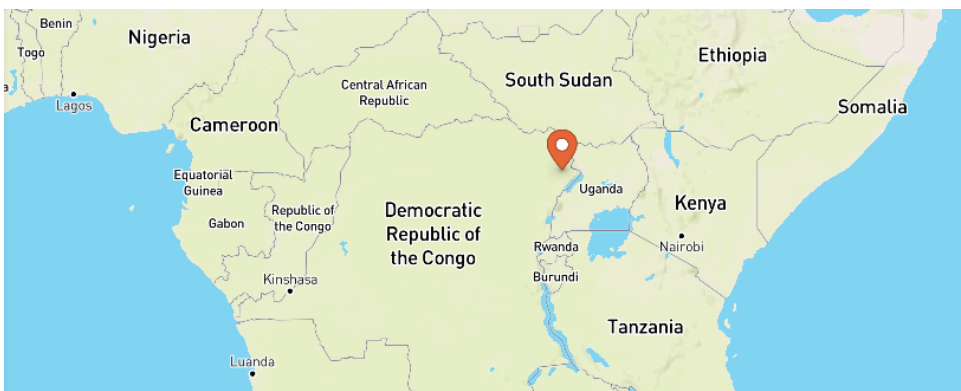
“*The distribution went so well and*

was facilitated by the coordination of people living with physical handicap. Donation started with a church service which was attended by the deputy mayor of Bunia town, the Deputy Bishop and Deputy Governor of the Lturi Province who officially opened the donation ceremony. Wise counsel was given to beneficiaries on how to take care of these precious devices and gratitude abound.”



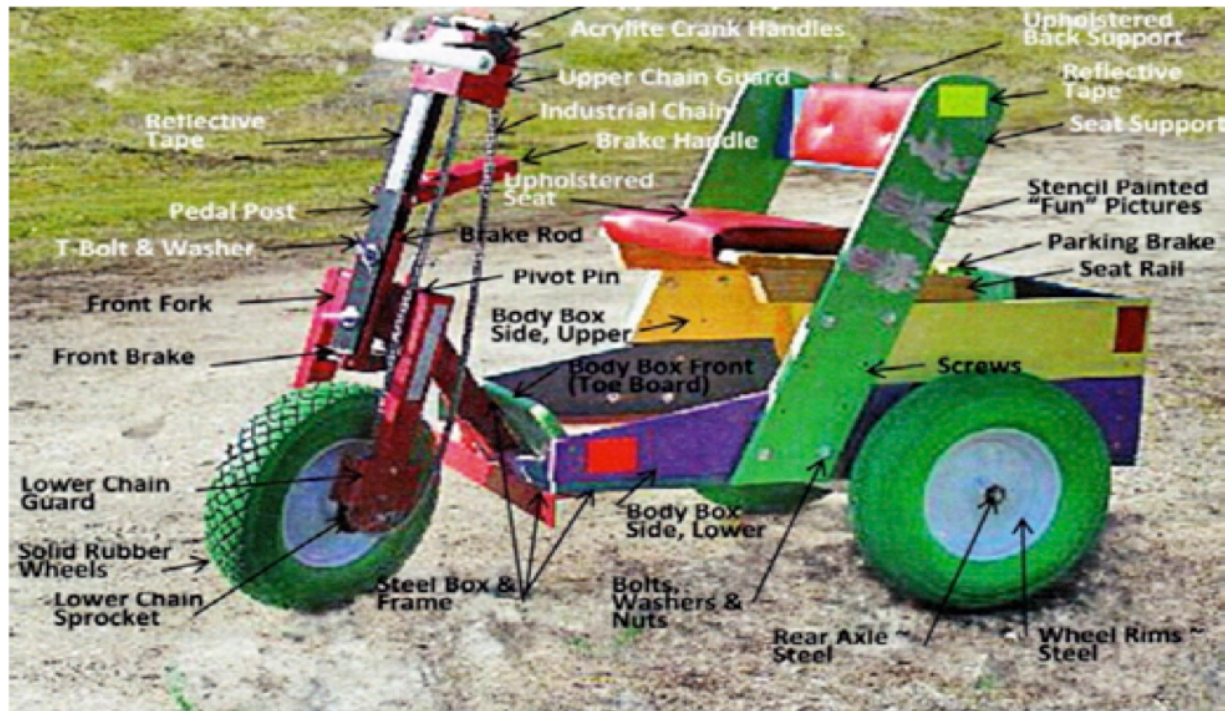
Paralyzed for years, this man was more than happy to get his new cart

Pastor James Byensi knows the need for our carts in Democratic Republic of the Congo first hand. He lives and ministers in the town of Bunia where our shipment of 130 carts went earlier this year. Bunia, a city of about 400,000, is not a safe place. As Pastor Byensi was writing his letter, he got a call from the Mayor of Bunia asking him to come help settle a group of people who were protesting against the killing of their brother the night before. It is protests like this that can lead to much more violence which is always followed by looting and rape. In this particular case, they were successful in restoring order. One of their bargaining chips was when the Mayor offered to help the bereaved with burial expenses.

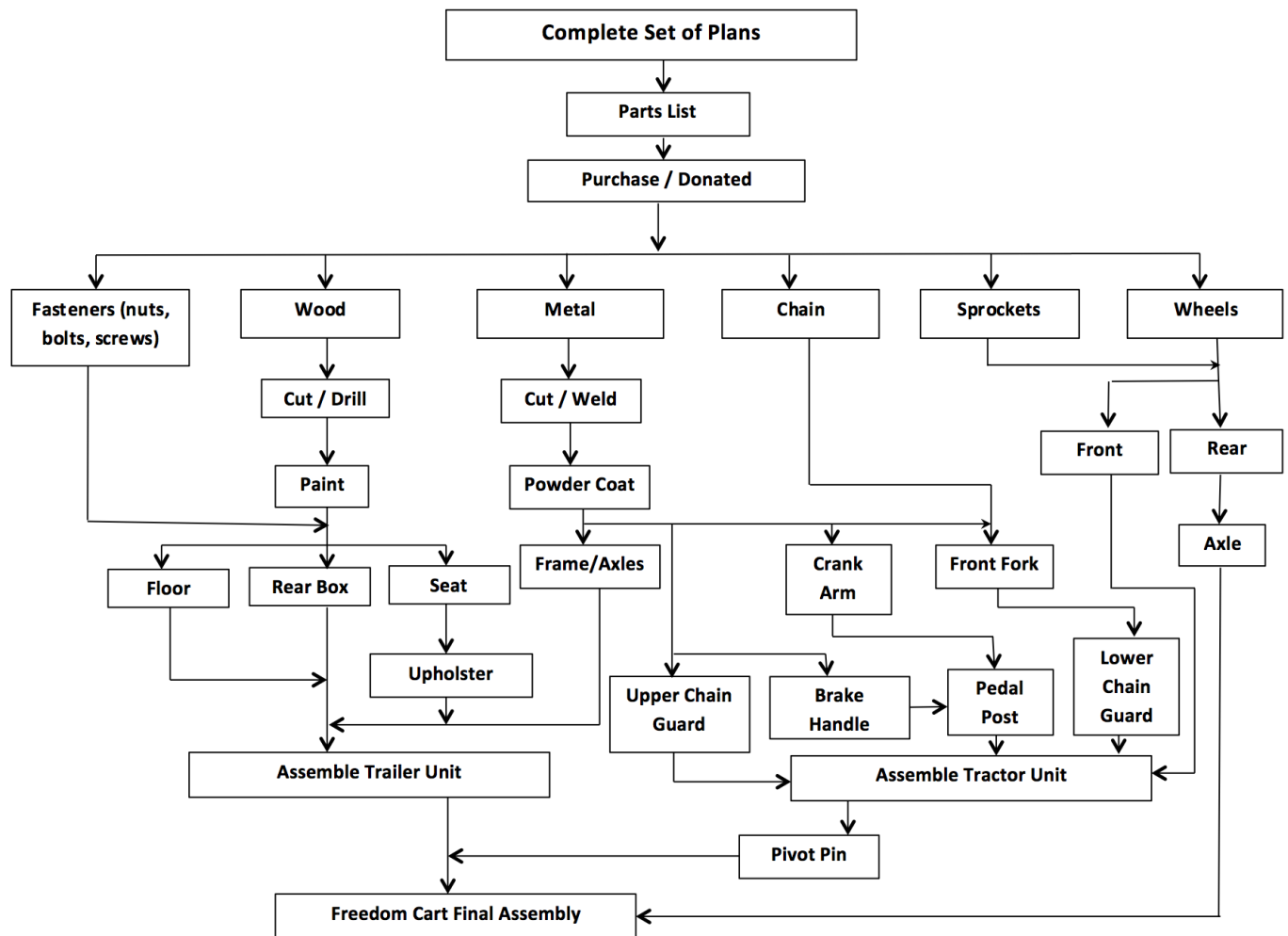


As you can see from the map, the City of Bunia (marked with the red bullet) is a close neighbor of South Sudan where we sent carts in March 2014 at the time the civil war turned deadly there. Because of land mines, crocodiles, war, polio, and other atrocities, Trinity Carts are desperately needed all through this section of Central Africa.

Anatomy of a Rainbow Trinity Freedom Cart



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





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

NONPROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SPOKANE, WA
PERMIT NO. 265



*Two unusual 3-wheeled
“wheel chairs”*



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