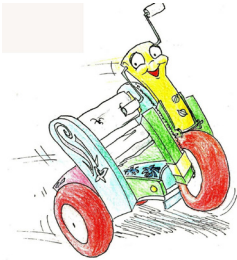




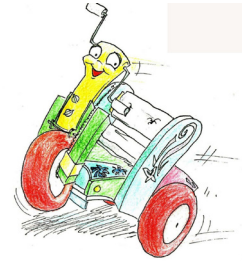
The Inland North-West Trinity Project
Home of the Rainbow Freedom Cart
15123 N Little Spokane Dr.
Spokane WA 99208

Tri-Kin Trailways

June 2019
Vol XI Number 2



News from the Democratic Republic of the Congo



The long delayed shipment of 70 carts to DRC has arrived. It was first held up because of civil war when ships had to turn back, or just sit idle, until they could safely dock. Once docked, the next road-block was getting the carts through customs. The following was written by the team leader, to the rest of his team, who distributed the Trinity Carts. It was titled: **“Struggle and Success”**.

“Beloved David, Buck and the entire team of friends. You can’t imagine the amount of suffering you have alleviated and the joy you have ignited in lives of handicapped people of Bunia, Ituri, Eastern Congo. After a long battle with our challenged government, the customs released our precious goods after paying around 8000\$. 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. Together with our church team of volunteers, they took 3 weeks recruiting beneficiaries within and without Bunia town.

“Donation started with a church service which was attended by the deputy mayor of Bunia town, the CECA20 Deputy Bishop and Deputy Governor of the Ituri 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. The greatest need expressed by almost all beneficiaries is a workshop where their mobility materials can be repaired since they lack a space and working materials. A rough budget they submitted to us is of 10.000\$. Pray for this please.”



Bunia is in the upper right-hand corner of the map, very close to Uganda and South Sudan.

A DRC map on the web





shows zones marked for “safe to travel”, “use caution when traveling”, and “do not travel” with the whole area of northern and eastern DRC marked in red. The pictures and story we received don’t say anything about why recipients needed Trinity carts, but our best guess would be that many of them are caused by their recent civil war. We aren’t certain when the carts arrived, but we think they took at least 9 months at sea waiting for safe travel, and getting them through customs.

Assuming my financial conversion skills are working right, 8000\$ is about \$4.85 U.S. and 10.000\$ is just a few cents, but neither amount is insignificant by their

standards.

In addition to a civil war causing turmoil in the DRC, the team leader also writes about a pastor who lives in Bunia. He titled it “Bulletproof Pastor”.



“Each day Rev. James Byensi seeks the face of God in one of the world’s deadliest places, an environment where rape has been used as a weapon, children have had their innocence stolen, and the church of Jesus Christ is called to stand in the gap.

“He lives in Bunia, a town on the eastern edge of the Democratic Republic of Congo. While only



the largest events of the DRC’s conflict make world headlines each day, Byensi engages his community and country as an active agent of peace. For example, recently he helped deter a cycle of violence from escalating in his hometown.

“Even as I write, I have just received a call from the mayor to join him in talking to a group of people who are protesting against the killing of their brother last night,” Byensi told Sojourners in October in one of several email interviews. “The killers were one of the rebel groups operating in the area surrounding Bunia.” While advocacy against violence is a cause close to Byensi’s heart, the protest itself threatened to become part of the problem: “Protest in this area is always violent and followed by looting or even rape,” he explained. The result of that meeting was that Byensi and the mayor together “devised the way to address the people and cool them down,” which included the mayor’s office helping the bereaved citizens with burial expenses.

That is the kind of advocacy and justice work Pastor Byensi does on a daily basis as a leadership and conflict-management consultant and trainer, and through the nonprofit he founded, the Rebuilders Ministry.”



*A big cart for a little
guy*

You can’t live a perfect day without doing something for someone who will never be able to repay you. ~John Wooden

Coincidence or something much larger?

After our last Trinity cart shipment in December, we began to look for a way to ship the next load of carts overseas. As we searched we began to realize all of our previous shippers and distributors were unable to ship at this time. Additionally, we were running out of funds to buy parts for more carts. We had just enough in the bank to pay for a shipment of tires which have a lead time of about 6 months between the time you order until they are delivered.

After several meetings between January and May to attempt to find a shipper, with no success, we decided to hold one final meeting to determine what steps we needed to take in order to close the Trinity project. What do we do with over 120 carts already built; how do we tell our business partners who have so faithfully provided parts and services at drastically reduced, or at no cost, to us over the years, and how do we break the news to our faithful donors. Would there be any possibility we might be able to restart once a shipper was found?

As we were about to close the meeting with the final decision of closing the shop for at least 3 months, we decided to contact the president of the organization who had shipped and distributed our last two loads of carts. After several minutes of covering all the steps an organization needs to accomplish to get carts out of the U.S., shipped overseas, unloaded, through customs, warehoused, and distributed to those who need them, we discovered his main problem. Donations to his organization had dropped to the point he could not get started on a shipment unless he had sufficient funds. When we asked the obvious question of when he would be able to ship if he had funds, his answer was “tomorrow”. Our next decision was almost a “no-brainer” and we said we would send a check for \$10,000. The meeting was dismissed with praise that we would not have to close the shop at this time.

The \$10,000 check was mailed on a Wednesday and when Friday’s mail was opened, there was a \$15,000 unexpected donation. Coincidence? We think not!!



Life before & after she got her new cart

Current shipping date for the next 140 carts is July 9. Destination unknown at this time. Our goal now is to complete a shipment of 70 carts every 3 months ~ assuming enough donations arrive to make that happen.

Teamwork at its best

The front fork on each Freedom Cart is a critical part which allows the user to steer and propel their cart. It is complicated – many steel cuts, bends, and welds are involved. Since we want to make each cart as light, safe, and cost effective as possible, we are always looking for better, faster, and more efficient ways to produce each part.

A few weeks ago, several Freedom Cart volunteers got together and designed a lighter and cheaper to build fork. After the revised fork went through an engineering inspection and was installed on a cart to experience use in real life, the OK was given to put it into production.

Thank you team for your timely ideas, design, and production expertise.



New (left) and old front fork

The panel at the bottom of this page explains several different ways you can donate to The Trinity Project. There are ways to give funds, leverage your assets, and at the same time save income/estate taxes?

We can't give you financial or tax advice; that needs to come from a professional tax advisor or tax attorney who will help you determine financial consequences of your charitable activities. What we can tell you is that if you have items such as stock, a 401(k), IRA's, or 403(b)s, you are able to donate up to \$100,000 to be transferred directly to the Trinity Project. Inherited stock falls in another (even better) category. One thing you need to keep in mind is that, to avoid taxes, the funds need to be transferred directly from your account to the Trinity Project. Once you personally receive a check, tax is due. Again, different rules apply to different types of investments and timing as to when contributions to the investment were made, so please check with a tax advisor or attorney as you plan your personal charitable giving. There are many tax advantages when you give retirement assets to a qualified charity such as the Trinity Project.



Two additional ways of donating to the Trinity Project are through making a bequest of part, or all, of your estate, and setting up either a revocable living trust or an irrevocable trust (there are advantages and disadvantages to both).

Trinity has also established a Schwab account which is funded for the future (3-5 years) costs for the production and shipping of Trinity carts.



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 parts for ourselves that had been donated by these partners. We are extremely indebted to all of our business partners, and especially to those who have remained with us through these 14 years. We can't say enough good things about them. In addition to losing business partners, we are now having to pay an extra tariff on steel, tires, welding wire, and bearings.

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

1) **PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE:** You can send checks, made payable to WCPC (or Whitworth Community Presbyterian Church). Put "Trinity Project" on the memo line, and mail to: 15123 N Little Spokane Dr., Spokane, WA 99208. Please ONLY put WCPC on the made payable to line.

2) Donate electronically through PayPal (and you don't even have to have a PayPal 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 you see on the right. Click on the yellow button (or any of the other buttons below the yellow one). The rest is explained. We'll gladly send you an official tax receipt when you donate via PayPal.

3) As mentioned above, we have an account with Charles Schwab & Company into which you can make donations of stocks, bonds, annuities, mutual funds, IRAs, and other such investments. To get more specific details on this account, please contact Mike Larson at (509) 998-5517. This is a great way to keep from having to pay capital gains tax, and to reduce your tax liability at the same time.



Losing one of the Original Founders

Page 5, Vol XI No 2
June 2019

When a missionary named Larry Hills nearly stumbled over a woman crawling in the tall grass in Zaire (now known as the Democratic Republic of the Congo) with a child on her back and two others walking near her, he knew he needed to do something to help relieve her pain and suffering. On his next trip to the U.S., Larry met Mel West, for the first time. Mel had been shipping bicycles, typewriters, and sewing machines for their work in Zaire. As they parted from the meeting, Larry asked Mel if he could develop a “3-wheeled, hand cranked, sturdily built, wheelchair with hauling capacity, capable of traveling the rough roads and trails of the Third World”. He knew such a vehicle was vitally needed by millions of those in Africa who were leg-handicapped because of land mines, polio, birth defects, leprosy, diabetes, work and war injuries, and many other causes.



Mel’s next stop was to get together with his old friend, Earl Miner, a product designer who designed and built such a cart for testing. The cart passed muster and production of PET’s (Personal Energy Transportation) carts began in Mel West’s garage in 1995.

Earl Miner (left), and his wife Leona, had 8 children of their own plus 8 more foster children. In his “spare time” he delighted in designing and building mechanical things for the handicapped.

Last April 12, complications from Alzheimer’s took Earl’s life. His compassionate heart, brilliant mind, and skilled hands have dramatically changed the lives of thousands of leg-handicapped people in the developing world. He once said, “Come into our home once and you are a visitor. Come twice and you are family”.

While your newsletter editor realizes the following has absolutely nothing to do with building Trinity Carts, it is of interest to all of us who work, donate, or pray for the Trinity Project.

Last winter Dick and Lois Carpenter were invited to spend a week near Phoenix. Since weather here was so miserably cold in Spokane, and one had to plow through several inches of snow anytime you left home, the



Dick weighing his new find

Carpenters did not refuse the invitation. Besides the week included Lois’s birthday.

During their stay, Dick managed to find a man who collects and sells petrified wood. Since that is a rarity around Spokane, he decided to buy a chunk of it. The size that caught his eye weighed about 100 pounds, and even for the Post Office who have a “one-price no matter what it weighs” box, that was a little too

much.

As you can see from the pictures, the piece is very nice looking, but even at 100 pounds, Dick and Lois’ front porch slightly overshadows their new “prize”.



Wow - this thing is heavy



We aren’t certain whether or not she approves ~ but she must, it’s still on their front

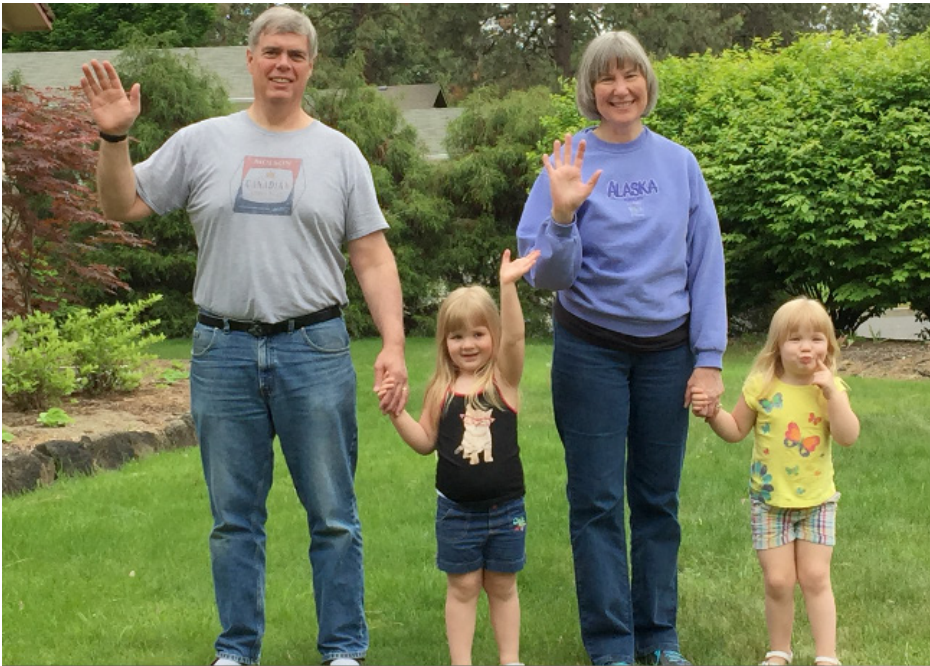
Our Spotlited Volunteer Tri-Kin

Page 6, Vol XI No 2
June 2019

Ron Bohman grew up on Lake Sammamish in Bellevue Washington, the oldest of three sons of Ron and Beverly Bohman. After High School graduation, he attended Washington State University, where he earned two Bachelor's degrees; one in business and one in mechanical engineering. Three weeks after college graduation in 1977 he married the love of his life, Julie Houk and they moved a few miles north to Kirkland. After a year of working on the cruise missile project for Boeing, he joined his dad's small marine and industrial engine distributorship in the Ballard area of Seattle. Daughter Sarah was born in 1980, followed by Melissa two years later. Outgrowing their first home, they moved to a larger home in Bellevue. where daughter Renae joined the family in 1988.

Ron enjoys serving people and was an elder in their church. Ron also loves children, so he was a wonderful father and now grandfather of 5. (Two of them are in the picture below.) They next moved to Spokane in 1994 to start his own company; fulfilling a dream of small business ownership that he had harbored for many years. He named his new monument shop Genesis Granite. Here he could use his knowledge and experience with both business and mechanical engineering.

Most important to Ron was helping people express their love and grief for the one now lost to them through



the creative process of designing a memorial to honor them. There were many times he came home with a heavy heart as he had spent the day with grieving families. People were always more than just customers. He insisted on quality workmanship and was able to hire the perfect person to run the shop. Ron's faith was put to the test when 16 year old Renae went to live in Heaven after a car accident in December, 2004.

While attending Whitworth Presbyterian Church he learned of the Trinity Project from Dick Carpenter. After retirement in 2016,

he has enjoyed the camaraderie of the other Trinity volunteers, the building of the carts and knowing he is helping people around the world. Ron brings his loving and selfless attitude to the Trinity shop.

Ron loves to be helpful in and around the shop and always accepts any assignment given to him. His great strength allows him to accept many jobs others just can't do. It's impossible to say he is good at one particular job since he excels at anything the shop needs to have accomplished. It's a joy to have Ron on the Trinity Team.

The picture on the right was taken "a few" years ago.



That question has been asked often ~ why can't someone just find those who need the carts and give them to those who do? As we know, if we have been with the project for any time, there are always more people who need carts than carts available. So, the hard question to be answered is "who does not get one?" A local community leader understands, not only the people's needs, but the customs, characteristics, and ethics of their own community.

If 70 Freedom Carts were sent to the country in which there are 71 leg-disabled citizens who have been identified in anticipation of the distribution, who makes the decision of who doesn't get a cart? It has to be made by the leaders of the community. A North American should never be the one to make that decision. It would engender anger and may impact future shipments. A local leader understands the mores and ethics of the community and thus their decision will be better understood.

When Gong was sixteen, her test scores earned her a place at the top local high school, a transformative moment for a farming family. Shortly before school was to start, she was riding into town on a trailer-taxi when the tractor plunged into a ditch. The other passengers were thrown clear, but she had been sitting on the front bench. Her right leg was crushed, and her nose was nearly severed. She would recover, but when she got out of the hospital, wearing a hip cast, she discovered that a rural school could not accommodate a student unable to walk. The school suggested she withdraw.

Gong's mother, Jiang, would have none of it. She moved into the dorm and carried her daughter on her back — up and down the stairs to the classrooms, back and forth to the toilet. While Gong was in class, her mother hustled outside to the street to sell fruit from baskets to make extra money. I wondered if the story was a metaphor, until I met her mother. "There was one especially tall building, the laboratory, and her class was up on the fourth floor," Jiang said, scowling at the memory of it. Gong has never seriously considered an alternative. "School was the only way out." Jiang told me. "We never wanted her to work in the fields like us."

Gong now has a Trinity Cart and is prospering in her new job thanks to a very faithful and persistent mother, a determined young daughter ~ and the help of their mayor.



Worldwide Education and Research Institute (WERI)

Who, you might be asking is WERI? The short answer is that, as they describe themselves; "a very different kind of philanthropic organization". They almost always act cooperatively with other donors by matching donated resources. They prefer for their funds to act as a catalyst to encourage initiative and creative innovations. They have limited resources, so they need to apply them properly and with correct timing. They were incorporated in 1967 as a 501(c)(3) to provide assistance for international, multifaceted, experiences.



Dick Carpenter discovered them on the web many months ago, applied for a grant, then forgot about them. We just heard back, they asked a lot of questions, and, we qualified. They sent a check for just under \$3,000, for which we are most grateful.

In the picture on the left a young Peruvian girl learns to make sweaters from Alpaca fleece to sell in order to help fund her education. Focusing projects on individuals (right), rather than institutions allows specific changes to be better quantified.





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



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 beboid@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. We are on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/trinityfreedomcarts/> where you can give us a thumbs-up.

