



Tri-Kin Trailways



September 2023
Volume X Number 3
(Our 54th issue since
December 2009)



Congo (Two of Them)

When we checked with the charity who will be shipping our July 6 load of 70 carts as to where they would be sent, they replied, “mostly likely Congo”. Little did we realize the implications and complexity of the word “Congo”. “Congo” may refer to either of two countries that boarder the second longest river in Africa. Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is the larger of the two and is often referred to as “Congo-Kinshasa”. The Republic of the Congo (ROC), the smaller of the two is sometimes referred to as “Congo-Brazzaville”. Kinshasa and Brazzaville are the two country’s capital cities which face each other across the Congo river. There is no bridge between the two, so the only transportation is by ferry or what they call the no-frills “fast canoe”. The map shows the relative size of the two different countries.

It’s a bit difficult to keep up with the official name of the DRC, as it has been known in the past as “The Congo Free State” (before 1908), “Belgian Congo” (1908-1960), “The Republic of the



Congo – Leopoldville” and the “Democratic Republic of the Congo” (1960-1971), the “Republic of Zaire” (1971-1997), and again the “Democratic Republic of the Congo”. They gained their independence from Belgium in 1960.



As large and wide as the Congo River becomes (it drains all of this portion of Africa and is second only to the Amazon in South America when it comes to volume discharged) and it is the deepest river in the world, it is not navigable. Near the mouth, navigation is blocked by a series of 32 cataracts as well as the famous Inga Falls. It is famous though for the fact that it is the only major river in the world to cross the equator twice.

The DRC’s flag is as varied as the country’s name.



What do people do for entertainment? Sports, singing, dancing, music, storytelling, and visiting relatives are pastimes everywhere in the Congo. In the city, there are movies, some theaters, and discotheques. Fishing is also considered recreational, as well as work.

DRC is endowed with exceptional natural resources, including minerals such as cobalt and copper, hydropower potential, significant arable land, immense biodiversity, and the world’s second-largest rainforest.

You may remember this fellow who was born in DRC in 1930, and worked himself up to the presidency in 1971. When he became president he changed the country name to

Zaire, changed the flag, and at the same time, changed his own name to: *Mobutu Sese Seko Kuku Ngbendu Wa Za Banga*, which is usually translated as “*the all-powerful warrior who, because of his endurance and inflexible will to win, will go from conquest to conquest leaving fire in his wake*” or also “*the rooster that watches over all the hens*”. Wikipedia says that He became very wealthy by exploitation and corruption, selling the country’s natural resources and pocketing the proceeds. Mobutu was notorious for corruption, nepotism, and embezzlement of between US\$4 billion and \$15 billion during his rule. He was known for extravagances such as shopping trips to Paris via the supersonic Concorde. He was finally exiled to Morocco where he died a few months later in 1997.

In the “other” country, the much smaller Republic of the Congo, things are a little simpler. The country is sparsely populated with over 50% living in it’s cities. It has a 100 mile long coastline along the Atlantic Ocean.



During the period when it was colonized by France, it was known as the French Congo or Middle Congo.

Two interesting facts about the Republic of the Congo; it is the only country in the world where Bonobos live (and as Wikipedia says; they have a lot humans can learn from them). It is also home to the famous Pygmy Tribe. Typically, a Pygmy man has a maximum height of 4’10”, while a pygmy woman has a maximum height of 4’1”. In many countries with such height, many may would call them dwarfs, but that is the typical genetics of the Pygmy tribe.

When it comes to tourism, neither country is as safe as we are used to here in the U.S. Here’s what one web-site says this about both countries: Be alert to the risk of street crime and armed robbery at all times. Foreigners are at particular risk of street robbery in Kinshasa and Lubumbashi, especially near hotels and supermarkets in the center of town. Robberies by gangs of street children are increasingly common and they can be aggressive. The lack of formal economic opportunities, combined with the legacy of entrenched political conflicts and instability, as well as high rates of malnutrition, illness, and poor education, make the DR Congo one of the hardest places on earth to raise a family.

Denis Sassou Nguesso (right) is a Congolese politician and former military officer. He has served as president of the Republic of the Congo (ROC) since 1997 when he won the first round with 84% of the vote. He served a previous term as president from 1979 to 1992. During his first period as president, he headed the Congolese Party of Labour for 12 years. From outward appearances, he seems to be more for his country than for himself which speaks well for the future of the ROC.



In spite of all of the human rights violations, rebel wars, and extremely crooked political leaders, there may be a small ray of hope for the future of the DRC. They have a very long way to go, but the current trend appears to be in the right direction. Your newsletter editor knows of several U.S. efforts to help in the DRC. One is able to send teams from the US to hold training courses in leadership for Pastors and lay people. Feedback is extremely encouraging.

And, in addition to all of these issues, their mostly poverty stricken population desperately needs what we can, and did to a small extent, provide for their leg disabled people.

“**C**ourage is contagious,” Billy Graham wrote. “When a brave man takes a stand, the spines of others are often stiffened.”

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

In the last 3 newsletters, we mentioned several things that “happened,” just at the right time, the right place, and were unexpected. Our conclusion was “Wow, we do indeed serve a divine and omniscient deity.” Then in the March and June newsletters, we mentioned 3 more “unexpected”, but perfectly timed events. Now we have several more to let you know about.

On June 8, two days before we were to load the next shipment of 70 carts (as a matter of fact the semi-trailer had already been delivered for loading) we got a call from the intended recipient that they were backed up and had not even shipped the entire 70 we sent them in March. The bad news: we all had to scramble to get the scheduled load-out canceled at the last minute. The good news: the intended recipient found another charity who desperately wanted our carts for immediate shipment to The Congo and Somalia. The bad news: the new charity is located in the Mid-West and shipping the carts there would cost us \$2800. The good news: they offered to pay the entire cost of shipping.



Wow!!! Do we ever serve a divine and omniscient deity.

The other piece of good news is that the new trucking company was so helpful and flexible in their scheduling and getting information to us, that they were an extremely easy group to work with. The truck arrived a day early, so everything was ready to be loaded when our load crew arrived at 10:00 the next morning. The picture shows our load crew (plus Dick Carpenter) who got the

truck loaded in almost record time.

Getting the June newsletter ready to be mailed differed a bit from past times. After the newsletter is printed in California, it still has to be made ready to put in the mail. A donation card and return envelope are inserted in each newsletter, newsletters are then tabbed (those clear plastic sticky things we all hate to have to open) to keep them



folded so they won't get caught in the postage machinery, then labeled with a preprinted labels, sorted according to the label printed using Postal software, and placed in the proper mailing tray which goes directly to the Spokane Bulk Mail

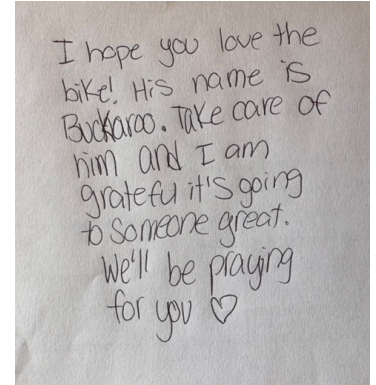
facility. Bill and Nancy Reeves, with a few helpers, had been getting all of this accomplished previously. However with their move to Texas, we have had to switch gears. It usually took the Reeves just over 2 days to process the 550 we mail to donors, prayer partners, other



interested people, and companies. Dick and Lois Carpenter volunteered this time, and with several others, made a real time of fellowship and fun getting them ready to mail. The first picture (on page 3) shows Dick, Lois, and Becky Kramarz starting the project, then #2 shows Dick, Joe Kramarz, and Larry Rees finishing. Picture #3 (left) is the send-off party for the Reeves. Yes, that's Dick's head in the foreground, with Bill and Nancy Reeves on Dick's right.

You'll see more about the youth group from Florida's visit on the

next page, but take a look at a note one of the youth wrote for a cart recipient. Very good thinking on the part of a very sensitive young person.



We have one "good natured" volunteer (Joe Kramarz) who says: "people criticize me for not doing anything worthwhile". Then he sent this picture (right) for publication in the newsletter to be sure everybody knows he does



do work around the shop. He didn't title it, but it looks like he is checking to be sure the board isn't warped before he puts it in the rack for the builders to use. We'll let you decide whether this qualifies for "doing something worthwhile".



We have another picture that needs to have someone give it a good title. We'll talk about the Florida Youth Group visit (starting on the next page), and about Marc Kiehn, our Featured Volunteer for this issue, but here is a good picture of two of the Florida youth getting all the scoop on the welding shop from Marc. We're really not sure what the facial

expressions are trying to tell us, but I'm sure someone will figure it out.



Fresh off the truck from our Tri-Kin on the West side of the state, and ready to go to the paint shop, perfectly cut and finished (left). Just the right number of pieces to build eight carts. The next step is for Larry Rees (our chief "hooker", right) to insert hooks into each piece, then

after they are painted, they are hung on clothes lines to dry.

One of the High School youth groups from the Palma Ceia Presbyterian Church in South Tampa Florida go on a mission trip every summer, and they chose Spokane this year. Their choice of a destination was no accident since their leader, Pastor Ken Hubbell, is a Whitworth grad. While they are on the trip, they help their host church with various programs, Vacation Bible



School, visitation, or what ever they need. During their stay, they had two afternoons free to see what the Inland Northwest Trinity shop does. They all (16) visited, and helped, in our paint shop, welding shop, and final assembly area. Even the leader got his clothes “painted” in the paint shop with Don Mortenson (left).



All the youth were enthusiastic, very hard working, cooperative, well behaved, and more than willing to help get carts ready to go to those who cannot walk on their own. We appreciate all of them, and their leader, and hope we get more youth like this in the future. They were able to assemble 5 carts (a good start on the next batch of 70) and most got to personally try their end product. We think they all enjoyed being here as much as we enjoyed having them. We also trust their visit will influence their future choice of vocations.



Volunteers Needed

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Most people who are at retirement age don't have any desire to "sit in the rocker" all day and just wait patiently to die. Statistics show that 100% of retirees will die, but they also say that keeping active helps prolong that eventual day. Unfortunately, time seems to go in only one direction, but keeping active helps slow that process down. As our faithful Trinity Project volunteers age, they need to be replaced. Just as a specific example, we have one extremely active volunteer who can no longer stand. He needs to be replaced since his participation is vital to the project.

Our current needs are: **assembly and packing carts** for shipment, **metal working** and **accounting**. (Also see "Our Future" on the next page.)

If you know someone (men and women) who has a desire to stay active by helping those who cannot walk, please have them contact either Maurice Feryn, our chief engineer, at 509-710-2047 or Don Mattocks, our treasurer and newsletter editor at 509-434-9133. By email; Maurice at mferyn@comcast.net, or Don at 8Trikin@gmail.com.

Our Spotlighted Volunteer for this Issue

Our spotlighted volunteer was born and raised right here in Spokane, but being one who never seems to let any grass grow under his feet, was constantly on the move in his younger days. Right after high school, (1971), he had to try the "big city", LA, but soon realized the advantages of a city more like Spokane.

Marc Kiehn was always good with mechanics and got a job at Tiny Car Shop in North Spokane, where he met his future wife (a good customer) Nancy. They were married in 1981, bought 10 acres in Clayton, built a house, and raised 2 children, Lindsey and Derek. They moved back to live in the Mead school district when the kids were 3 and 5.



During this time, Marc and his fellow co-worker Mark from Tiny Car Shop decided to open their own auto repair business. They started Northgate Import Auto Repair renting an old gas station which is now the location of KFC on north Division. Marc and Mark purchased property at the corner of Holland and Newport Hwy and built their 5 bay auto repair shop. After several years, Marc took over the business and continued until his retirement in 2015. The property was sold and is now Wheelsport bicycle shop.

Marc started volunteering with Trinity when Dick Carpenter (one of his favorite customers) asked him if he could help with some welding. Although not a welder, he had done some welding through his mechanic repair work. He offered to help and has slowly improved his welding skills.

Lindsey is a teacher, is married and lives near Vail Colorado. She and her husband have 2 girls, ages 5 and 7. Sadly, Derek died in 2016 at age 29 after a tragic mountaineering accident while living in Germany.

Marc and Nancy have taken several trips to Europe as well as South Korea to visit Lindsey and Derek and join them on their travels.

Marc has enjoyed many outdoor activities through the years, primarily with the Spokane Mountaineers club: whitewater canoing, ice climbing, mountaineering, rock climbing, bicycling and backpacking. They both volunteer with Inland Northwest Adaptive, a community based group to assist people with disabilities learn to climb indoors. Using adaptations and specialized equipment, people with physical, neurological, and vision disorders can experience our wonderful outdoors.



To make a difference in someone's life, you don't have to be brilliant, rich, beautiful, or perfect. You just have to care.

Our future (at least as-of this moment)

This space would normally have the information for “*Ways you can make a direct impact on the Trinity Project*” – but we need make a bit of a diversion this time. At this time, we can't say for sure the changes will be temporary or permanent, but we need to let you know what has happened to the Trinity Project over the last month or so. There are three primary reasons for, what appear to be, some pretty drastic changes. 1) We have been unable to get liability insurance for the project, which we desperately need to stay in business. 2) Because of #1, the owner of the facility where we assemble, pack, and store the carts until they are shipped, asked that we find someplace else to do this work. 3) Volunteers in key positions are, unfortunately, not getting any younger. One key volunteer is now over 90, and is unable to walk without assistance, while others are getting “old age issues” at ever increasing rates.

With these issues in mind the board, and others interested in our future, met on August 10. In light of the fact that the owner of our assembly and storage areas has been more than gracious for almost 20 years, by providing space, with all utilities paid, the board decided, unanimously, to follow their wishes, complete one more batch of 70 carts, by mid-October and be out before the end of October. Our wonderful donors have provided more than sufficient funding to complete these 70, thus the letter to all present and past donors to please cease further donations.

We are currently using Dick Carpenter's shop building for welding and painting. He stated that, with some readjustment, we would have room in this building for cart assembly and packing, but not to store finished carts. The day after this was made public, a donor called to say they have a large shop building, almost empty, and would be glad to let us store completed carts there until they can be shipped. The building is close enough to Dick's shop that we can move the boxed carts, 1 or 2 at a time, via pick-up truck. The one draw-back to this facility is that the entrance driveway has a sharp “dog-leg” turn that may not have room for semi-trucks to get to the building. We are currently assessing this situation.

What this all boils down to is: 1) With a bit of re-adjustment, we can continue building carts as we currently are. 2) Donations are not needed at this time since we have funds to proceed for several more months. 3) We need to find an insurance company willing to sell us liability insurance. 4) We need additional (younger) volunteers to step in to our shoes which are nearing the completely worn out stage. 5) We need a leader who can coordinate each part of the project, (i.e., a Dick Carpenter clone). 6) We need prayer warriors to keep us on track. We have too many unexplained, and unexpected, “coincidences” take place to not believe we are being led by a divine, omnipotent, authority.

4 Pictures That Need No Words





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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 and comments about this newsletter, send to 8trikin@gmail.com. Our mailing address is: the Trinity Project, PO Box 361, Colbert WA 99005-0361.

Our web-site is: nwtrinityproject.org. We are on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/trinityfreedomcarts/> where we always appreciate a thumbs-up.

