



Tri-Kin Trailways



July 2021
Volume XIII Number 3

*Next Destination ~
El Salvador*



Next destination for 50 Trinity Carts is El Salvador. Parts of the following information, and pictures, are from the web site: blog.compassion.com.

El Salvador, officially called the Republic of El Salvador, is a country in Central America with a population of just over 6 ½ million. Honduras is on the northeast and Guatemala on the northwest. It's southern coast boasts of a long and beautiful Pacific Ocean coastline, famous for it's good surfing. It is the only country in Central America without a Caribbean coastline. The Spanish translation of El Salvador is "the savior".

A bit of general information: El Salvador's official language is Spanish, (it gained its independence from Spain in 1821). From 1979 to 1992 the country experienced a bloody civil war where, it is estimated, 80,000 were killed. Currency is the US dollar, and the country is about the size of the State of New Jersey. Agricultural products include coffee, sugar, corn, rice, beans, oilseed, cotton, sorghum, beef and dairy. About ½ of the people identify as Catholic, and the rest either Protestant or other miscellaneous religions. Salvadorians are known as "guanacos", although you might not want to call them guanacos to their face. A guanaco is a small, some might call it lazy animal, since it will run from danger rather than fight, from the llama family.



As far as dress is concerned, Americans would feel right



at home in cotton T-shirts and jeans. Dresses are also commonly worn. Traditional clothing is generally reserved for formal occasions or holidays, and the bright blue and white colors of the flag are often featured. Cell phones are ubiquitous (the highest density in the world) with 125 phones for every 100 people – a bit unusual due to the country's level of poverty.

Blue on the El Salvadorian flag represents the beautiful blue Pacific ocean (shown above on the left). White is for purity.

From mysterious Mayan ruins and striking colonial architecture to deep crater lakes and enchanting beaches, El Salvador is full of wonders. Known as "The Little Thumb of America" (being the smallest country in Central America), it is also the most densely populated country in Central America. There are 30 volcanoes in the country with 23 either active or potentially active. Lots of lava, ash and violent shaking, but little or no damage or injuries. The last major eruption was the Chaparrastique volcano near the city of San Miguel (86 miles east of San Salvador, in 2013). Apparently the only damage was to several coffee plantations. A 7.7 magnitude

earthquake did occur in January 2001 which caused a severe tsunami.

El Salvador is the only country in Central America with no visible population of African descent. Two legal activities, drinking and driving, become *very* illegal when done together. It might only result in a ticket or suspended license in most of the country, but it can result in the death penalty (by shooting) in San Salvador. Visible tattoos are associated with criminal activity, so don't let them show. Speak English in any of their shops and you will be tagged as rich, resulting in being overcharged for everything.



In spite of all their difficult challenges, there is much to celebrate. Salvadorans are welcoming, warm and friendly. They enjoy jokes, playing soccer and sharing delicious meals with each other. It is considered polite to leave a small amount of food on your plate when you've finished eating.

The country is a large exporter

of hammocks with nearly every porch in San Salvador (the capital city of El Salvador) sporting a hammock. San Salvador is nicknamed "The valley of the Hammocks".

Unfortunately there is also great poverty and suffering. Almost 1/3 of the people live below the poverty line. The country is fraught with gang violence, government corruption, human trafficking and discrimination. Violence against girls and women is tragically common and residents don't trust the authorities. It has one of the highest murder rates in the world.

Rather than end on a negative note, we quote from an author who wrote about El Salvador, who says in closing: "That all being said, let me also say that El Salvador is the most beautiful country I have ever seen. The scenery in every part of the country is spectacular. The food is the best I've ever eaten. I love this country as my own."



Please be sure to note the 2 important changes on page 7.



“Mysterious” holes ~ for a logical explanation, see the next page.

You ask; what are those “funny looking” holes for? Do we now have “coded” wood parts? These are the ends of 3 boards cut and ready for us to paint, sent from the west side of the state. The “code” is pretty simple; the two smaller holes (some call them “snake bite holes”) identify where the wood was cut to shape and size, and the larger hole will be used to insert a cup hook. After they are primed and painted, the board can be hung on our paint-shop “clothes line” to dry. Simple? And not really mysterious. Now if a board does not meet our strict size and shape requirements, we know where our “correction” (10 lashes with a wet noodle) needs to be applied. Once the cart is assembled, the holes are hidden from sight.

A Worthy Retirement

It isn't often we make special note of a worker's retirement, but in this case the worker is more than worthy of mention.

Several times in the past, we've featured articles on the use of rats to discover buried land mines and unexploded ordinance, especially in Africa and Southeast Asia. As we know, hidden land mines kill, or maim, thousands of people each year, and 80% are civilians with children representing almost half of those casualties.



Magawa

Currently more than 60 million people in 59 countries continue to be threatened by these mines and explosives. In 2018, 6,897 people were either killed or injured by these explosions left behind from wars and other conflicts. A recent estimate says there are over 100 million more antipersonnel land mines strewn across the globe, and they last up to 50 years.

Specially trained rats can detect buried explosives much more quickly, cheaper, and safer than can humans with a metal detector. They are too light to activate fuses and can cover in about 20 minutes what would take a human 2 – 3 days. They have very poor eye-sight, but an extraordinary sense of smell. When they smell TNT they either bite or scratch the ground, then wait for an expected a treat when they hear a clicker. Training costs less than \$2,000 whereas training a dog runs over \$12,000.

The picture shows “Magawa”, an African giant pouched rat, displaying his own award, a British civilian award for animal bravery, normally reserved for dogs. But Magawa is more than deserving. He has cleared more than 1.5 million square feet of land, the equivalent of some 20 soccer fields. He has sniffed out 71 land mines and 38 other items of unexploded ordinance according to his owners, a Belgian nonprofit.

Magawa is now 7 years old and will probably live at least another year in his retirement enjoying his favorite foods, bananas and peanuts.



Two VERY happy young men!!



This is what faced the painters when they came to work a few days ago.

Our Spotlighthed Volunteer

Although he has lived in and traveled to many places, he is really a Washingtonian at heart. Born in Yakima, he lived in Olympia from age 2 through High School, educated at the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma and Oregon State, taught briefly at Purdue in Indiana, lived in San Luis Obispo California, he was drawn back to the Evergreen State to “retire”.

Bill Johnson and Le Ann were married on June 8, 1963, so they celebrated their 58th just over a month ago. They met at the U of Puget Sound, where both graduated, Bill with a degree in Analytical Chemistry. Oregon State University awarded Bill his PhD in 1967, then he did post-doctoral work 2 summers at the University of Buffalo in New York. Bill started his teaching career, teaching chemistry at Whitworth University, for 5 years, then 4 years at California Polytechnic State University at San Luis Obispo (Cal Poly for short), and one at Purdue. He decided he had taught long enough and joined Boeing as an analytical chemist for the next 25 years.

Bill and Le Ann have 2 boys and a girl, one son is a professor at the University of Illinois who works with voice recognition and artificial intelligence, their other son has been a missionary in Papa New Guinea with Wycliffe for 25 years, and their daughter (who has a teaching degree and then more training in Mexico as a Spanish language teacher). Her husband is a federal fire investigator here in Spokane. Bill and Le Ann have 9 grandchildren.

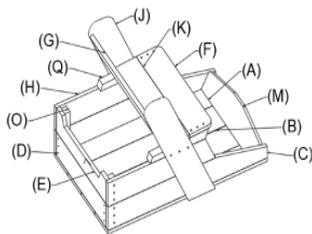


Just a few of Bill’s foreign travels include Papua New Guinea where he helped set up much needed radio communications from headquarters to missionaries working in remote areas of the island. He is an avid hiker, has climbed Mt. Rainier and several mountains in Europe. Remarkable for a man in his 60’s and 70’s. He also plays tennis and was a good skier, even being on the University of Puget Sound ski team. In his spare-time, he is an active Gideon.

Bill got acquainted with the Trinity Project by attending a Bible Study with Dick Carpenter, and is currently volunteering in the paint shop. He is an excellent worker and very much appreciated by all. Most of all he sees the desperate need for Trinity Carts to help those who cannot walk and wants to do all he can to get them to a life of dignity and hope.

Thinking Ahead

Something all of our Tri-Kin strive for is being able to complete Trinity Carts at the lowest cost possible, but without compromising their utility, strength, or durability. With that said, we are always looking for ways to cut costs; and the “West Side” Tri-Kin have come up with an ingenious way of saving a few cents here and there which adds up to dollars saved on each cart.



Refer to the picture (left) of the completed box of a cart with labeled parts. Thanks to Maurice Feryn, our Chief Engineer for this drawing. Thanks also to Ted Ripely for his detailed description.

When part “C” (the lower-side-board) is cut, 2 triangular pieces are left over. Normally these pieces are just scrap and usually are not used for anything. The photo of these pieces, laid side-by-side shows that they form a rectangular piece. If the long side of the 2 pieces cut from each “C” part were to be glued together, the combination would form the back end of the cart (“D” or “E”).



Does A Church Go To Heaven?

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We always enjoy getting stories, or in this case a poem, from one of our founders. This one is from the only one of the 3 founders who are still alive. Mel West wrote this some time ago and titled it: Does a Church go to Heaven?.

One by one
Like their members,
They are dying.
Those rural churches, called Asbury,
Mt. Moriah, Bethel, Flat Ridge,
Turkey Creek, Zion, Elm's Grove
Cross Timbers, Doe Run, Blue Springs,
Pleasant Hill, Bald Knob, and Hope.
They are all leaving us.

On their walls hang photos of
Large Sunday School classes,
of beloved past preachers,
of sons and daughters gone to war,
of sons and daughters lost in war,
of confirmation classes of youth,
of certificates for mission donations.
Also there hangs the last Sunday's
attendance – S.S. 4, Worship 5.

Outside and behind is the cemetery.
The oldest grave dates 1878 –
a mother who died in childbirth.
The last stone dates six months ago,
her great-great-great grand-daughter.

The stones tell of the history
of the community – of wars,
of epidemics, of marriages, and
of times of affluence and of poverty.

Sit in a pew inside in the quiet
and listen to the spirit tell of the past –
of weddings, of revivals,
of dinner-on ground,
of beloved pastors,
of Sunday School meetings,
of community sings,
of 4-H clubs, and quilting bees,
and of the people of faith.

The church building may be torn down,
or left as a community building,
or used for a once a year reunion.
But the Church lives on,
in the lives of those touched by its mission,
in the families whose marriage bonds it sealed,
in the hurt and lost it healed.
The Church has life eternal.

Mel West

Editor's note: Mel is spot on as long as one realizes the "Church" is composed of people, and not just a building.

The first paragraph and picture were provided by Scott Walters, from Mobility Worldwide (formerly PET International). It is from Indonesia.

How can a Mobility Cart provide more than just mobility?

Komang (to the right) will likely tell you that his Mobility Cart gives him the opportunity to work and provide for his family. He transformed his cart into a mobile billboard to advertise a local café to travelers. Rain or shine, he travels about 25 kilometers (15 1/2 miles) a day since he outfitted his cart with a canopy.

That's what it means to have mobility and more.

If you haven't done so please consider donating to The Trinity Project so we can get more carts into the hands of those who need them most. It costs approximately \$250 to make one cart and deliver it to a disabled person in the developing world. See page 7 for more information.



How has the COVID-19 Pandemic Impacted the Trinity Project?

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My first response would be that it hasn't impacted us, but that would not be correct. Probably the thing that has hurt most would be in two parts; 1) Closure of the Canadian border, and 2) The cost of lumber to build our carts.

In "normal" times our lumber is harvested, cut, milled, dried, then shipped from Chilliwack BC (where we were *given* the lumber from a large stand of timber) to Kent WA (where it is then cut to size, drilled, and shipped to Spokane). However, with the border closed to all but "essential" traffic, that hasn't been possible for the last year and a half. Now we have to *buy* what we need from lumber companies here in the U.S. Fortunately there is at least one lumber company in the U.S. willing to either give us, or charges us greatly reduced prices, for the wood we need.

But, when we do have to buy it, why is it so much more expensive now than previously?

A recent article in the "Market Insider" (markets.businessinsider.com/news) says, "Lumber prices have surged more than 275% since May 2020. According to the National Association of Homebuilders, lumber prices have added some \$36,000 to the average price of a new single-family home since April 2020."

The "Market Insider" research shows the following 6 reasons for the high lumber prices: 1) The housing market is on fire. People, since the pandemic hit, are spending more time at home and are thus finding themselves in need of more space, thus looking for a larger house. 2) The surge of remodeling and renovating by homeowners. Besides more time spent at home, and working from home increasing the need for remodeled offices, DIYers have stimulus money to spend, and discretionary money spent on vacations and eating out is being spent by DIYers. 3) Soaring demand for wood products. Furniture demand is rising which leads to an increased demand for lumber of all types. 4) Lagging industry supply. A miscalculation for the need for lumber at the start of the pandemic when predictions showed a lower demand for lumber, but it actually increased. 5) A supply chain in disarray. Again the miscalculation by lumber suppliers, and the facts of positive cases of COVID-19 at sawmills and trucking companies have contributed to this disarray. 6) Long term capacity constraints. Three causes are listed here: a) Reduced logging in the Pacific Northwest due to new regulations; b) Mountain pin beetles in B.C.; and c) Record wildfires in the Pacific Northwest and B.C.

Unfortunately, between capacity restraints, continued high demand, and lagging supply, it appears higher wood product prices are here to stay, at least for the short term.

Another of Our Faithful Donors

We've said many times how much we appreciate those who give so generously to the Trinity Project. When one of them makes a neat comment, or writes a super note, we can't help but share it. Here is one that came in lately with their donation.

Dear Dick, Yesterday was my father's birthday . . . I miss him very much.
I really enjoy getting your newsletters & hearing about all the good you do. My Dad would be proud as ever for you & the group. – Bless You, Love - - -

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 do need to keep in mind is that, to avoid taxes, the funds must 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 Charles Schwab account which is funded for the future (3-5 years) costs for the production and shipping of Trinity carts. To get more specific details about 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.

Please Note: Two Important Changes

Our new mailing address is PO Box 361, Colbert WA 99005-0361. Please no longer use the Little Spokane Drive address.

Checks are no longer made payable to WCPC (Whitworth Community Presbyterian Church) but must be made payable to The Trinity Project. Checks which go through the church cannot be accepted and will be returned to the sender. Trinity is a tax deductible 501(c)(3) charity and you will receive a tax deductible letter shortly after the first of next year.

Yes, Dick Carpenter endorses, and encourages, these changes as it will lighten his work-load significantly.

Ways to give to the Trinity Project:

1) You can send checks, made payable to The Trinity Project, then send them to: PO Box 361, Colbert WA 99005-0361. 2) Go to our web-site: www.nwtrinityproject.org and click on the word "DONATE". That will take you to the image you see at the right. Just click on the yellow button. We'll send you an official tax receipt just after the end of the year. 3) Donate electronically through **PayPal** (you don't have to have a PayPal account). All you need is either a credit or a debit card. You can also make this a **recurring monthly donation** by checking the "Make This A Monthly Donation" box. 4) We have an account with **Amazon.com** where, when you purchase from Amazon, you can designate a part of their profit to come to us. When you sign in to Amazon, use "smile.amazon.com". The first time you will be asked which charity you would like to support. Just find "The Inland Northwest Trinity Project", click on it and, as long as you use the "smile.amazon.com" to sign-in, a part of your purchase price goes to help those who cannot walk. There is no added expense to you.





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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 beboid@comcast.net. For address changes or comments about this newsletter, send to 8trikin@gmail.com. Tax-deductible donations may be sent to The Trinity Project, PO Box 361, Colbert WA 99005-0361. Our web-site is: nwtrinityproject.org Please also see the article “Ways you can make a direct impact on the Trinity Project” on page 7. We are on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/trinityfreedomcarts/> where we would appreciate a thumbs-up.

