



# Tri-Kin Trailways



October 2021  
Volume XIII Number 4



## *Destination for the Next Load of Trinity Carts*

World Vision will ship and distribute our next load of 70 Trinity Carts. They will split the shipment and send them to three different countries, two in Africa, and one in Central America. The two African countries; Senegal in West-Africa, and eSwatini near the East-African coast. We have shipped carts to all three countries in the past; Senegal in 2011 and 2018, eSwatini 2010 and 2016, and El Salvador last October and this past June.

If you are familiar with the country of South Africa, you know there are 2 countries “carved” out of South Africa; Lesotho and eSwatini. eSwatini is a relatively new name for the country of Swaziland.

We’ve written about Swaziland several times in past newsletters. The articles were mostly about Dr. Harry and Echo Vander Wal. They are from the Sandpoint Idaho area, and have distributed many PET and Trinity Carts to the disabled in Swaziland.

Why the country’s name change? The king decided he wanted to eliminate any confusion between Swaziland and Switzerland. He also mentioned the country’s “colonial past”. Actually the country has been known as eSwatini by the native people for many years.

Just as an historical note, this is not the first African country to change its name, either to rid itself of its colonial legacies or because its respective rulers wanted to usher in a “new” era. Rhodesia gained independence in 1980, becoming Zimbabwe. In 1984 the Republic of Upper Volta was renamed Burkina Faso. There are over 50 other name changes in Africa, some of them several times. People are divided over the change to eSwatini, but the king says it will stay that way.



eSwatini is, by-and-large, a safe country in which to travel. It does not have South Africa’s alarming crime rate and tourists are seldom targeted. Equally, it does not have South Africa’s history of racial tension, which means that visitors are unlikely to encounter any antagonism on that basis.

In the middle of the eSwatini flag, the black and white symbolize unity between black and white people, who are living in a peaceful coexistence (for the most part). The central focus of the flag is a Nguni shield and two spears. The two spears symbolize protection from the country’s enemies. The red stands for past battles, blue for peace and stability, and yellow

for eSwatini’s natural resources. The three “blue dots” are feather tassels of the Widowbird.

The country was recently rated as the 85th most peaceful country in the world by the Global Peace Network. Certainly good for a country in Africa. Population is about 1.14 million with 98,000 living in the largest city, Manzini.

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eSwatini, officially the Kingdom of Eswatini is still commonly known in English as Swaziland. It is a landlocked country in Southern Africa, bordered by Mozambique to its northeast and South Africa to its north, west, and south.

eSwatini is considered to be the place in Africa to see Rhino.

The Hlane Royal National Park and Mkhaya Game Reserve are two of the best places in the world to see a wide variety of African wildlife in their natural habitat. The majority of eSwatini's people are ethnically Swazi, mixed with a few Zulu's and white Africans, mostly of British descent.

The 2 pictures show just two of the many wild animals in The Hlane Royal National Park.



We featured an article on Senegal in the June 2018 newsletter, but just a few reminders from that issue. An outline map of Senegal looks like a lion head with its mouth open. The “open mouth” is where the country of The Gambia has been carved out. The country is composed of a mostly (90%) Muslim population, 14.8 million and is known for having one of the world's highest fertility

rates. The main language is French.

In about 2015 we started printing on the outside of each Trinity Cart shipping box: “Please send story and photo to 8trikin@gmail.com.” The first response from this note came 3 years later from a recipient in Senegal. The recipient, *Yankhoba Ndiaye* was born with deformed hands and legs. When we wrote back to him to ask if he could get pictures and stories from other recipients, we almost immediately received stories and pictures from three others who couldn't give us enough thanks for what we had done for them and how their, and their family's, lives had been changed.



We can't leave Senegal without mentioning the famous Baobab tree, 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.



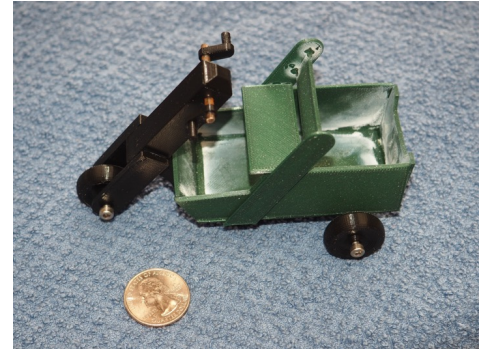
God pulled it up by the roots and replanted it up side down to keep it from moving. Looking at one, it surely looks like its roots are in the air. Its huge trunk, up to 154 feet around, contains about 80% water and can hold 1200 gallons. In the dry season, elephants get water by chewing the bark. As 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. 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 than 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.

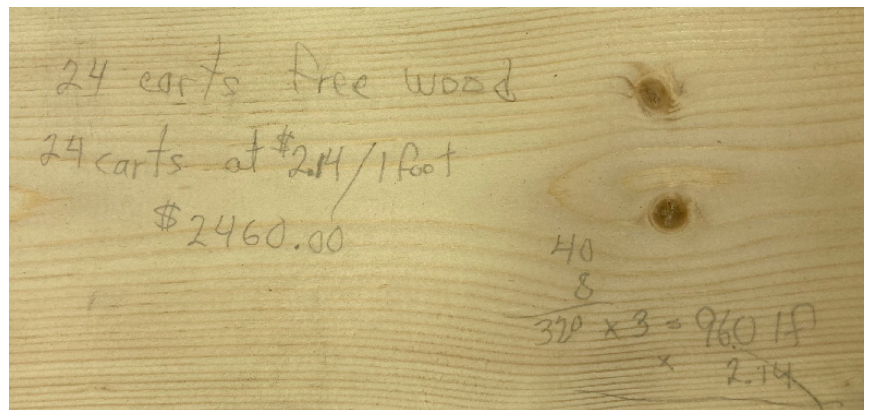
Ted Ripley, one of our Tri-Kin from the West Side, has a very talented grandson (Zach). Zach is a mechanical engineering student at Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo California. He has his own 3-D printer, but borrowed one from school to "print" the Trinity Cart. He learned CAD (Computer Aided Design) while at Issaquah High School.

Ted sent photos and drawings of a full-size Trinity Cart to Zach, who entered them into his CAD program. Once dimensions are entered into the program, CAD will scale them up or down. It took Zach about 2 minutes to print the body with a cost of about \$1.50 for the material. Color is whatever you want, green is what Zach had on hand.



Welcome words from the Canadian Tri-Kin, Robert Prinse: "Jim Martindale and I have spent the last couple of days planing another lift of wood for you guys and gals. Praying that they will open the border soon so Dan can drive up and pick up about 3000 board feet, 6000 lineal feet, of 1x6. That should keep you smiling for a while. With love blessings and a smile.....Robert"

The picture on the right shows one reason we are so anxious to be able to get wood from Canada again. The pencil writing says that the wood to build 24 carts would cost (at \$2.14 per board foot) \$2460.00 when we buy it in the U.S. When we can get it from Canada, the cost for the wood is zero. That's a savings of over \$100 per cart



### *All in the Family*

Recently we introduced a mother and her son to the Trinity shop. The mother (Beth Wilson) seems to be very interested in helping in the welding shop, and son (Scott Hendricks) is building crosses for us. Here are the parts for 36 crosses on Scott's workbench in various stages of completion.



## Hooks and Beautiful Wood

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Enough perfectly cut wood from the “West-Side” Tri-Kin to build 8 complete carts. All they need are cup hooks and they will be ready to prime and paint.



Hooks?  
We use 3  
different  
sizes;  
“baby  
hooks”  
for

support pieces, “mama hooks” for shorter pieces, and “papa hooks” for the long boards.



## KIN?

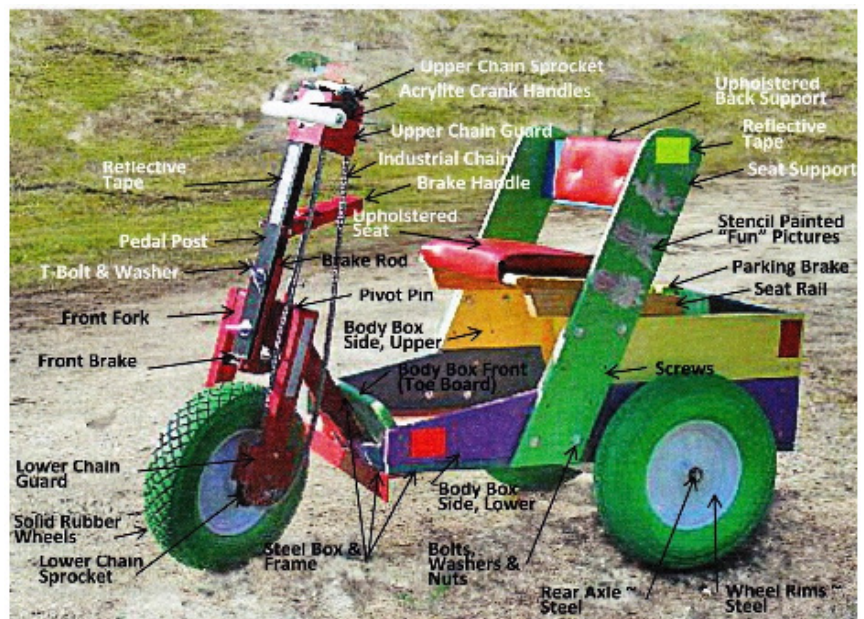
Have you even wondered why we use the word “Kin” in the title of our newsletters, as in “Tri-Kin Trailways”? Dick Carpenter thought of the name many years ago when he first started the program in Spokane. But one may also wonder just where he got the idea in the first-place.

When I looked at the piece of paper attached to my tea bag this morning it had a quote by William Shakespeare. The quote said; “One touch of nature makes the whole world kin”. So, yes Shakespeare used the word the same way Dick intended when he started calling all of our workers, donors, and others interested in the Project, “Tri-Kin”.

It means that anyone who is interested in helping those who cannot help themselves, due to the fact that they have lost use of their legs, is part of a large family of similar-minded “Kin” (or as they say in the South, “kin-folk”). Like Shakespeare said, “one touch of nature makes the whole world kin”; we are all part of the larger family who have now been touched by a desire to help some of the most desperate people on earth.

While we’re on that subject, the other part of the title “Tri” comes from the fact that our carts have three wheels. And that’s where the name “Trinity” Project came from.

We also use in our title “Home of the Rainbow Freedom Cart. “Rainbow” comes from the fact that no two pieces of wood in one cart are the same color (with the exception of the two seat supports). “Freedom” is from the fact that the cart gives a person who is confined, hidden, or dependent on someone else to carry them, the Freedom to (usually for the first time in their life) move and transport themselves without help.



*Anatomy of a Trinity Rainbow Freedom Cart*



## *The Oldest Thing in the Woods*

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We always enjoy getting stories, or in this case a poem, from one of our founders. Mel West wrote this several years ago and titled it: The Oldest Thing in the Woods.

Each afternoon at four  
I take my daily walk  
Through the woods of  
Lenoir woods.  
As I walk the meandering paths  
And cross the bridged stream,  
I say to myself,  
“I am the oldest living thing.”  
Then on my right I see  
The “Stidham Oak”  
So marked and named a beloved tree  
Named for a beloved person.  
I am 97  
And would judge It to be 180, twice my years.  
Knarled and bent it stands in simple majesty.  
I measure its girth with my belt.  
The Stidham Oak is 144”.  
Many times my height  
And rooted to its spot  
It has observed the world  
And all that passed by.

I wish we could talk,  
This tree and I. The tree could tell me the history of  
Lenoir woods –  
Of Crow Indians camped at its roots,  
Of Civil War soldiers riding by,  
And of squirrels and birds  
Living in its canopy.

I could tell it of my travels –  
Of Boa Boa trees in Uganda,  
Of the Magnolia trees of Georgia,  
Of Redwood trees in California,  
And of its cousins,  
The mighty oaks of the Carolinas.

But Stidham Oak will keep its silence,  
And I mine.

I salute it each time I pass,  
And sense its limbs  
Giving a nod to me,  
For we are the oldest living things  
In Lenoir woods.

Mel West [Editor's note; yes we surely do appreciate these old trees. They provide us with one of the main ingredients we need to build our carts.]



Our paint shop is located in the building behind Dick Carpenter's house. We frequently get human visitors who are interested in how we treat the boards between cutting and assembly. Our visitors are usually interested in paint, but we think these visitors could care less about paint but more about a cool place for a rest on a hot day, and some green food.

## Our Spotlited Volunteer

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Our spotlighted volunteer for this newsletter is a real “Spokanite”. He was born and raised in Spokane, for the most part educated here, and now is retired and lives here. Except for a few years at the University of Washington, his time was spent working in Deer Park, Cheney, and Millwood – all in the Spokane area. We welcome Tom Richardson to the Trinity team. The feeling is mutual; Tom is very impressed



with the level of commitment of our other volunteers as well as the support our project gets from the community.

He comes from a very large family – 6 kids – Tom was #5. Tom’s dad was a middle school principal and his mom a nursing manager at Sacred Heart Medical Center. Tom married Michelle in 1998, and they now have two college aged children. Tom also has two more children by a previous marriage. He has one granddaughter who will be joined by a sister later this month.

Tom has two degrees from the U of W, a B.S. in Psychology and an M.S. in urban planning. His first job was an assistant to the Deer Park mayor, then the remainder of his career in the planning and utilities departments in Cheney



and Millwood; both Spokane communities.

The Trinity Project isn’t the only volunteer job that keeps Tom busy in retirement. He also serves on several boards; The Cheney Care Center, Cheney Chamber of Commerce, St. Rose of Lima Church, the Cheney Cemetery Association, Spokane County Housing and Community Development Advisory Committee. Then to stay busy, he also volunteers at Shiloh Hills Elementary School, and of course the Trinity Project.

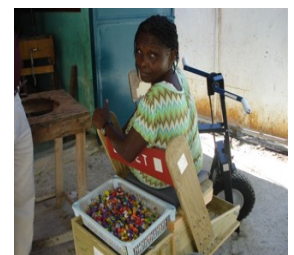
In his “spare time” Tom enjoys the outdoors; sports, camping, and hiking. He has also played the guitar and sung in his church.

Again, we certainly welcome Tom to the Trinity Project and wish him the best in ALL of his volunteer efforts.

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## A Vital Part of each Cart we Build

We have no way of knowing exactly how a new Trinity Cart recipient will use of their cart, but besides the freedom it gives them, some put the back end of their new cart to very good use. Here are just a few ideas people have come up with to meet their needs.





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 a Charles Schwab account which is funded for future 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.

Checks should be made payable to The Trinity Project. Trinity is a tax deductible 501(c)(3) charity and you will receive a tax deductible letter shortly after the first of next year.

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

### Ways to give to the Trinity Project:

- 1) You can send checks, made payable to The Trinity Project, then mail them to: PO Box 361, Colbert WA 99005-0361.
- 2) Go to our web-site: [www.nwtrinityproject.org](http://www.nwtrinityproject.org) and click on the word "DONATE". That will take you to an image like 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, each time you use "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



**F**or 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](mailto:bebold@comcast.net).

**F**or address changes or comments about this newsletter, send to [8trikin@gmail.com](mailto:8trikin@gmail.com). Tax-deductible donations may be sent to The Trinity Project, PO Box 361, Colbert WA 99005-0361.



**O**ur web-site is: [nwtrinityproject.org](http://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.