



# Tri-Kin Trailways



December 2021  
Volume XIII Number 5



## South Sudan

It's been several years (4 to be exact) since we featured the newest country in the world; South Sudan, who celebrated their 10th anniversary last July. We wondered what has been happening there since a load of our carts arrived in October 2013. An article on the National Geographic web-site woke us up to the fact things have not been going well for those people. War has been pervasive and now severe flooding continues to get worse by the day. National Geographic says "After years of drought, South Sudan has been suffering for three years with its worst flooding in six decades." The Sudan Tribune says: "Epic floods leave the South Sudanese to face snakes, disease, and starvation. Almost every person has been displaced and is seeking shelter at former



schools or warehouses, or huddling in makeshift tents strung together with plastic sheeting, corrugated metal, and tree branches. As of late October, both the airstrip and the road network were submerged, cutting off vital aid donations of medicine, food, tents, and other essential goods from the United Nations World Food Program and other international humanitarian organizations."

South Sudan is one of the countries with the lowest rate of vaccination against COVID-19; just 0.8% of the population have had one dose. The Sudan Tribune says: "Even if we can secure the vaccine, it's over 10 times more expensive than in neighboring countries which have more reliable road networks."

With only a few roads paved, most of the country remains largely inaccessible by road.

This picture shows how some of the lucky people receive their "groceries".

For a country with such bleak news, there remains one very bright spot. In our August 2017 newsletter we first mentioned a dedicated doctor, Dr. Jill Seaman,



who was born in Moscow Idaho, and educated at the University of Washington. Dr. Jill is a specialist in tropical diseases, spends 4 months each year in Bethel Alaska and the rest in Old Fangak South Sudan. As you can see from the pictures on the next page, she not only loves the Sudanese people, but they love her too. Dr. Jill first went to South Sudan in 1989 where they were facing an epidemic called Kala-azar, a body wasting tropical disease from sand-flies which causes death within a few weeks if not treated. During an interview, Dr. Jill said that half of the region was already dead when she got there. "You





could walk through villages where nobody was alive, just ashes from fires and bones left. Whole towns were silent, devastated, and eerie.”

Just before South Sudan’s civil war started, 28 of our Freedom Carts were delivered to South Sudan. They took the “long way” to get there, but they did make it. They traveled via a brand new Boeing 777 from Seattle to Nairobi Kenya. From Nairobi they



finished the trip mostly by boat. The picture on the previous page shows one of the first recipients in South Sudan to receive one of our carts.

Dr. Jill says there is one good thing about a country with no roads, much flooding, and a continuing civil war; “no roads means no tanks.”

---

## *A Very Unselfish Act*

A letter from Delbert Groves in Zambia says: “We are back at the work of assembling and distributing Pet carts; after having to move because of the war. As in Congo, the need here is great and the waiting list is overwhelming.

“The first Pet cart that we gave out had to be taken back because it was too big for him. The man was a midget. We are so thankful that the shipment from the USA included smaller children size carts. We assembled one of these and soon had him on his way. You should see all the smiling faces of those who receive the Pet carts.

“A lady came by our center who really needed a cart. She had braces on her legs and was walking with crutches. After we explained the cart to her she said she had a friend who could not even walk with braces, and asked if we could give the cart to her friend instead of her. An unselfish act of kindness like this is rarely seen. We are so thankful we could give her AND her friend each new carts. A young mother, who was stricken by polio and wore heavy leg braces, could now move about with her small daughter in the cargo area of the cart.”



---

## *Our Spotlighted Volunteer*

When it was time for the October Tri-Kin Trailways newsletter to go to press, we didn’t know much about this mother and son who had visited the Trinity shop. We just introduced them by saying the mother (Beth Wilson) seemed to be interested in helping in the welding shop, and her son (Scott Hendricks) was making crosses for us. We showed a picture of parts for 36 crosses on his workbench in various stages of completion.



We now know much more about Scott and the work he does for us. As a matter of fact, just as the October newsletter went to press, an article appeared in the Spokesman Review which featured Scott and his cross building. The reporter, Cindy Hval, titled this one “Wooden Crosses Carted Worldwide”, “Inland NW Trinity Project volunteer’s idea takes off”.

Page 3, Vol XIII No 5  
December 2021

Cindy has written several excellent articles about the Trinity Project and our volunteers; for example, Dick Carpenter, as the founder of our shop, and Jack Rogers, who used to paint beautiful landscape pictures on each tail-gate.

First, a little about who Scott Hendricks is. He was born 44 years ago, has been married to Tori for 18 years and they have two daughters, 17 and 16.

Scott worked at Big-R (North 40) and Zak Designs where they design and make unique dinner and drink-ware. He then moved to UTC (now Collins Aerospace) building carbon brakes for aerospace for 19 years. Scott loves his family and enjoys spending outdoor time with them. His favorites are family camping trips, bicycling, professional photography, and snow skiing.

It was during one of his family camping outings about two years ago that Scott got a very serious wake-up call. He had a Grand Mal Seizure. The cause was a large, slow growing, malignant brain tumor which he had removed a month later. The tumor was diagnosed as astrocytoma, a cancer which was causing his epilepsy seizures. According to their web-site, usually this cancer is not curable, but fortunately it is treatable. Scott is regularly monitored with frequent MRIs.

Unfortunately, because of his seizures, he had to leave his job, quit driving, and take a medical disability leave of absence. At age 42, that’s an extremely large adjustment.

Scott has a very positive attitude though. Rather than saying “why me”, his question was “what’s next?” Since his mother was a chaplain for the Spokane Police Department, she got the idea that he could make crosses with scrap wood they had. After some research, he settled on a technique he liked. Over the next year, he built and gave away over 500 crosses to various people. His total now is somewhere in the range of 600. The crosses range in size from 6 to 24 inches and each one is different than the last one. Within each cross he embeds a small red marble which stands for the blood of Christ. The crosses have given Scott the opportunity to connect with and encourage many parents who have lost children, or are sick themselves.



Scott was introduced to the Trinity Project by Joe Kramarz, our chief painter. When Dick Carpenter heard about the crosses, he decided it would be a good idea to include one with each cart we ship. It fits right in with the metal decal we place on each steering column which says: “God Loves You and So Do We”. After Scott visited the Trinity shop and saw how we are helping the down-and-out people who cannot walk, he got so excited on the way home, he stopped at the lumber yard and bought another \$400 worth of wood. He said he has already made more than 70 crosses for us. The picture shows the intricate detail of the beautiful crosses Scott makes.

We appreciate Scott, and especially his positive and encouraging attitude. He is a great asset to the Trinity Project.



When reading their first newsletter, new individuals find themselves being educated about our mission as we try to show a human need which most people never realized existed. When they realize there are



approximately 20,000,000 leg disabled people living in developing countries, and that we have a product to help them live a life of productivity and self-worth, a light goes on in their mind.

After several newsletters, a desire begins to grow in the hearts and minds of most of our readers – a desire to do something to help these desperate people we are trying to serve, in some tangible way.

I wish I could share with you the sight of our mail box filling up after a newsletter is published.

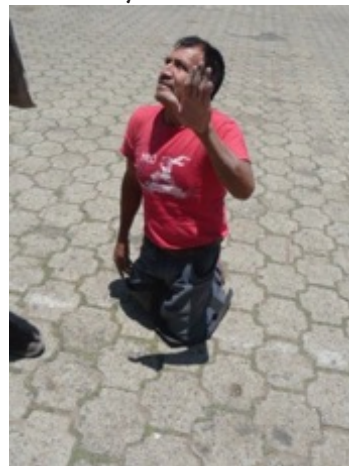
Usually, there is a desperate financial need about

the time a newsletter goes out, and what comes into Post Office Box 361 provides a welcoming relief. Watching this response to a newsletter is always rewarding. We are so grateful and want to thank you for the many ways all of you have responded.

So on behalf of the many handy-capped we are serving – Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Another vital purpose of our newsletters is to get feedback from our donors. We have received several requests for prayer, mostly for a donor's health, or to find gainful employment. As we all are, unfortunately, getting older, we lose friends and loved ones. We've lost several very faithful donors this past year.

One especially generous donor ended her note that came with her last donation: "You can include me in your prayers for my health." As we hear about these personal needs, we will indeed be praying for you.



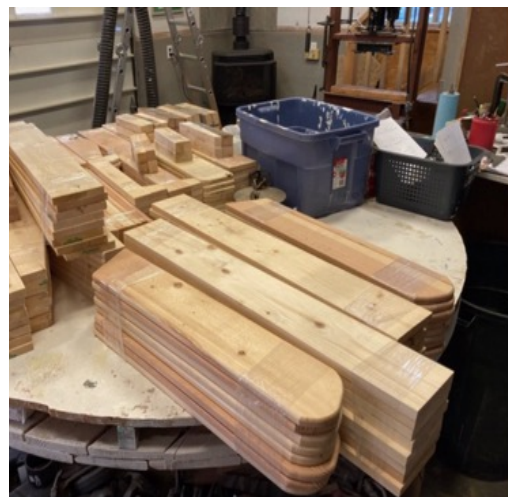
---

### *Ripley's Rap*

One of our West-side Tri-Kin (Ted Ripley) sent this picture after he had completed his first attempt at wrapping the wooden parts for eight carts. He said: "I was able to complete it without getting entangled myself in the shipment." And it stayed for the whole trip from Auburn to Spokane. Next stop is the paint shop, then, combined with a bit of steel, 3 tires, and lots of bolts and screws, will make eight leg disabled people very happy.



And here it is in the Spokane paint shop. Beautiful, perfectly cut, ready for the next step. A pretty good job all-around I would say!



## *A Most Intriguing “Talent” by One of Our Founders*

Page 5, Vol XIII No 5  
December 2021

We always enjoy getting stories, or in this case Cinquains, from one of our founders. Mel West wrote these interesting “poems”.

Mel sent a set of “Cinquain”. That’s a new one for this editor. They have a fascinating set of rules. Mel said: “I discovered Cinquain the weekend of January 17, 1976 while at a young adult retreat in Kearny Nebraska. I learned the interesting rhythms of Cinquain, and of its ability to paint a simple word picture in 22 syllables.”

A Cinquain is a five-line poem that was invented by Adelaide Crapsey. She was an American poet who took her inspiration from Japanese haiku and tanka. A collection of poems, titled *Verse*, was published in 1915 and included 28 Cinquains. Cinquains are particularly vivid in their imagery and are meant to convey a certain mood or emotion.

We’ll just include one set of rules, but there are more. You can “Google” the word and see many other rules the author needs to abide by.

Syllables Per Line:

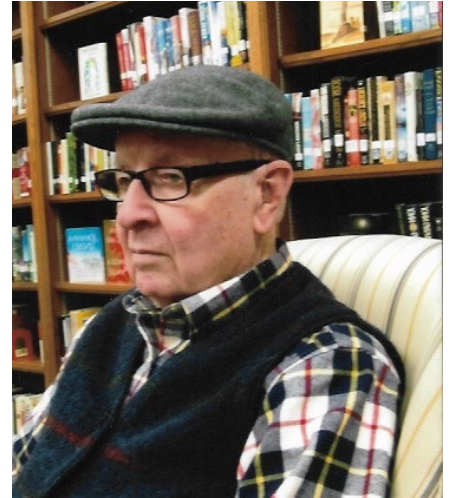
Line one has two syllables.

Line two has four syllables.

Line three has six syllables.

Line four has eight syllables.

Line five has two syllables. (That totals 22 syllables)



Here are three of Mel’s set of Cinquain he sent:

Wild geese  
fly formations  
as if Almighty God  
were leading them on strings into  
next spring.



Robin  
eats an earthworm  
and drinks from a puddle  
nature’s sacrifice of bread and  
wine.



Rainbow  
in eastern sky  
one end in a corn field  
the other in a church’s yard  
God’s gold.



Mel’s Cinquain brings up an interesting thought. It is so unique and well done, why not let other volunteers and donors have a chance to show what they have come up with, which would be interesting for other supporters of the Trinity Project? We’ll not have a contest, but we would like to see something you believe to be unique and would be interesting to others. Your editor doesn’t guarantee publication in the newsletter, but your ideas will be carefully considered by a committee of at least three people to make a decision. Please send your ideas to us at [8trikin@gmail.com](mailto:8trikin@gmail.com).



Treat everyone with politeness, even those who are rude to you, not because they are nice but because you are.

Page 6, Vol XIII No 5  
December 2021

Be tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, tolerant of the weak, because someday in your life you will be all of these. ~ George Washington Carver



### *They're Beautiful, but not cheap*

We just received a shipment of front tires, one of the “vital” parts of each Trinity cart. This recent delivery contained 400 tires and rims. Total cost was just under \$9,000. Thankfully, we had just received a very generous donation which covered the total purchase. Rear tires and wheels are roughly the same price, but we need twice as many for each cart.

### *Who Gets One?*

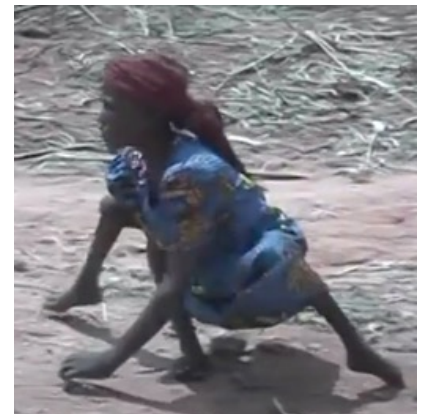
When Gong was sixteen, her test scores earned her a place at a top level local high school; a trans-formative moment for a farming family. Shortly before school was to start, she was riding into town on a trailer-taxi, on her way to restock her ice pop supply, when the tractor plunged into a ditch. The 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 recovered, but when she got out of the hospital, wearing a hip cast, she discovered that a rural school could not accommodate a student who was unable to walk. The school suggested she withdraw.

Gong's mother, Jiang Xiaoyuan, 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. (Gong trained herself to use the bathroom no more than twice a day.) While Gong was in class, her mother hustled outside to the street to sell fruit from baskets to make extra money. The author said: “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.”

The story was to be continued, but this is all we have. My guess is that she got a cart so her mother doesn't have to carry her anymore. When I Googled Jiang Xiaoyuan, I found her (or somebody with that name anyway) to be a very prolific author of very expensive science and technology books about China. Makes one wonder.

Dick Carpenter came across this in an old file. Author unknown  
I think it is a good moral and ethical code for us Tri-Kin to follow in our dealing with each other, our supporters, and our corporate partners.

I will do more than BELONG – I will PARTICIPATE  
I will do more than CARE – I will HELP  
I will do more than BELIEVE – I will PRACTICE  
I will do more than be FAIR – I will be KIND  
I will do more than FORGIVE – I will FORGET  
I will do more than DREAM – I will WORK  
I will do more than TEACH – I will INSPIRE  
I will do more than EARN – I will ENRICH  
I will do more than GIVE – I will SERVE



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.

Giving from a traditional IRA is a fantastic option when it comes to charitable giving. When you give a QCD (Qualified Charitable Distribution) you take money that would normally incur income tax and transfer it directly to The Trinity Project. This can do two things: as the giver, you decrease your taxable income, and a QCD can fulfill the annual Required Minimum Distribution that begins when you reach age 72. You can donate up to \$100,000 per year. This is a really good way to give if you are at least 70 1/2 with a traditional IRA, even if you take the standard deduction on your tax return.

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 each).

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.

### ***Other 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. You will receive a tax deductible letter shortly after the first of next year.

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. (*Please don't try to click on this one, it's just an example to show what the "real" one on our web page looks like.*)

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](http://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](http://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.





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 [bebold@comcast.net](mailto:bebold@comcast.net).

For address changes and 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.

Our 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.

