



Tri-Kin Trailways



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 (Our 50th issue since
 December 2009)



A country we have not featured in the past is the landlocked country of Malawi in South-east Africa. Unfortunately none of our Trinity Carts have gone there, but they have just as large a proportion of leg disabled as any other country. The two pictures above are from Malawi, both need Trinity Carts..



Being one of the poorest countries in the world, Malawi's economy is heavily dependent on agriculture (80% of the population are either farmers or farm workers). Major exports are tea and tobacco. Malawi is poor through no fault of the people. Stricken with disease, plagued by droughts and floods, doomed through geographical location and cheated by corrupt officials, Malawi has been given no opportunity to flourish and no chance to thrive. Its population is about 20 million, and has an average annual income of just \$1550 (US). Literacy rate is 75% for men and 49% for women.

In colonial times, the territory was ruled by the British, under whose control it was known first as British Central Africa and later Nyasaland. It then became part of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland. The country achieved full independence as Malawi in 1964.

Endowed with spectacular highlands and extensive lakes in the south, it occupies a narrow, elongated, curving strip of land along the East African Rift Valley. Lake Nyasa, known in Malawi as Lake Malawi, accounts for more than one-fifth of the country's total area. It is surrounded by Mozambique, Zambia, and Tanzania.



Capital is Lilongwe. Lake Malawi borders most of the east side and is home to an incredible diversity of life, with over 1,000 species of fish at last count. Its average depth is 958 ft, and the maximum depth 2316 ft. It is warm enough to swim year around. (75-84 deg F) very clear but the oxygen limit is approximately 820 ft which restricts fish and other aerobic organisms to the upper part. The lake is 360 miles long, 47 mi at its widest part.

The stripes on the flag symbolize the African people of the country (black), the blood of martyrs for independence (red), and the ever-green nature of Malawi (green). The rising red sun symbolizes the dawn of hope and freedom for Africa. The sun has 31 rays which means that Malawi was the 31st African country to gain independence. In July 2010 the flag was changed to show a white sun centered on the flag, but because so many people objected to this change, it was called an unlawful flag; in 2012 Parliament restored the flag of 1964.

We always enjoy hearing from one of the three founders of the PET (Trinity) project. Mel West is now 98 years old, and what a life of dedicated service has filled most of those 98 years. As you can see in the picture, Mel and Barbara's children gave them a celebration they won't soon forget. They also celebrated 77 years of faithful married life.

Ol' Blue was a real work-horse for Mel and Barbara for over 50 years. Mel tells the story here.

"Ol' Blue heard the call into full time Christian missions while sitting on a used truck lot in Columbia Missouri on March 25, 1971. She was 6 years old at the time, and already had considerable experience in the secular world. Hard work was not



foreign to her, and her travels had already taken her the equivalent of more than two trips around the world.

"But none of this was as exciting and rewarding as her mission work with the Church. Soon after she joined the staff of the Office of Creative Ministries she was given work camp responsibilities, and during the next 8 years took part in some 50 work-camps, repairing more than 250 homes. Ol' Blue enjoyed hauling lumber and building materials, and endured an occasional trip to the dump. Her first work camp was at Hannibal Missouri and she loved the afternoon rides to the swimming pool when all the youth were tired and hot. But best of all she liked the Friday night climb up the hill outside of town to Lover's Leap, where she sat quietly and listened to the starlight communion service from the top of the hill. It was then that Ol' Blue realized deep into her crankshaft that she was truly in the mission field.

"About a year after Ol' Blue became a missionary she was asked to do a task that would have better suited for a much larger truck. We asked her to pull a 20 foot goose-neck trailer for the Heifer Project. Since there was no one else to do it, she took to the job and earned a gold star. Mile after mile, for over three years she lugged tons of livestock over the mountains to the Perryville Arkansas ranch. She also performed well on trips to South Dakota, Kentucky, Oklahoma, Alabama, Mississippi, and Georgia. What a joy she was to have.

"Ol' Blue loved people, both in their times of joy and times of sorrow. Many problems were talked out in her cab during long drives. Groups riding in her bed shared fun and fellowship. A nurse in training needed a vehicle to drive to patients in rural areas; so Ol Blue became a medical missionary. Koinonia House started in Columbia, and Ol' Blue was called on to help move person after person into a new home, and a new life.

"Last summer, after much contemplation, Ol' Blue was retired from the active mission field. She no longer looked forward to long days and nights on the road. After a brief ceremony at the same used truck lot, she went back to a more easy task in



“Yes, old work camp pickups never die - - they just trade away.”

Quotes from others about Our Project

The first two are from Mel West:

“If we have the ability to respond, then we have the responsibility.”



“God has given us the grace of working for Him with men and women of uncommon grace towards this ministry and towards each other. All I can say is “Thank You” with all of the meaning that I can give.”



The volunteers of the Trinity Project are living examples of men and women who have chosen to finish life well. The volunteers that we meet had former careers that gave them success

by the world’s standards. Thank you, to the men and women who are providing mobility for those who have likely lost hope.



A story from the Orphan Grain Train ministry: “We were at the market the other day and a man came peddling along on his cart across the busy road with an empty water jug. He went to the water window where people buy water, filled the jug and then went back across the street. This man, thanks to his 3-wheeled cart, has a business. He can support himself making deliveries of water for people.

“I was so excited, I gave him a hug. He had a nice haircut, and clean clothes. It was great to see the life of this crippled man change and give him employment and self-esteem.”

A case of looks being deceiving. They really aren’t mad at each other, just a ‘small’ discussion of “where should we stack this load of wood?” That’s Ron Bohman and Eldon Manteuffel.



We know you’ve heard the expression, “your eyes are bigger than your stomach”, but isn’t that usually applicable to our children? Maybe it still applies to our leader, Dick Carpenter at 82. Anyway, it must have been delicious.



Our Spotlights Volunteer for this issue is a very special person who doesn't get enough credit for his contributions to the Trinity Project. He lives on the "wet" (West) side of the State, about 2 miles from the Canadian Border. The picture we have is a photo taken for a virtual VBS that he helped create for his church, which had a construction theme, thus the hard-hat.

Brad Hurte was born in Signal Hill, California to a family of teachers. His parents owned and ran a small, Christian school, the Southern California Military Academy. He and his two brothers attended SCMA from kindergarten through 9th grade; all three rising to the rank of Colonel.

Brad's involvement in computers began at the University of Southern California, when his then girlfriend, Pam, enrolled the two of them in a BASIC programming class – and then told him about it! He went from barely being able to spell "IBM" to the two of them co-authoring a programming lab manual a year later. He



wasn't too annoyed with the girlfriend – he married her on October 10, 1987, a date that had two great benefits: 1) he can always remember 10-10, and 2) USC had an away game that day so the guests came to the wedding instead of going to the game!

Brad worked in Silicon Valley for about 10 years in marketing for a telecommunications equipment company, and was given the opportunity to transfer to England. He and Pam are both history buffs so they jumped at the chance. They lived in Northampton, about 70 miles northwest of London, and would spend their weekends driving around the countryside, soaking up history. After a couple of years, they moved back to the US, settling in Woodinville, Washington.

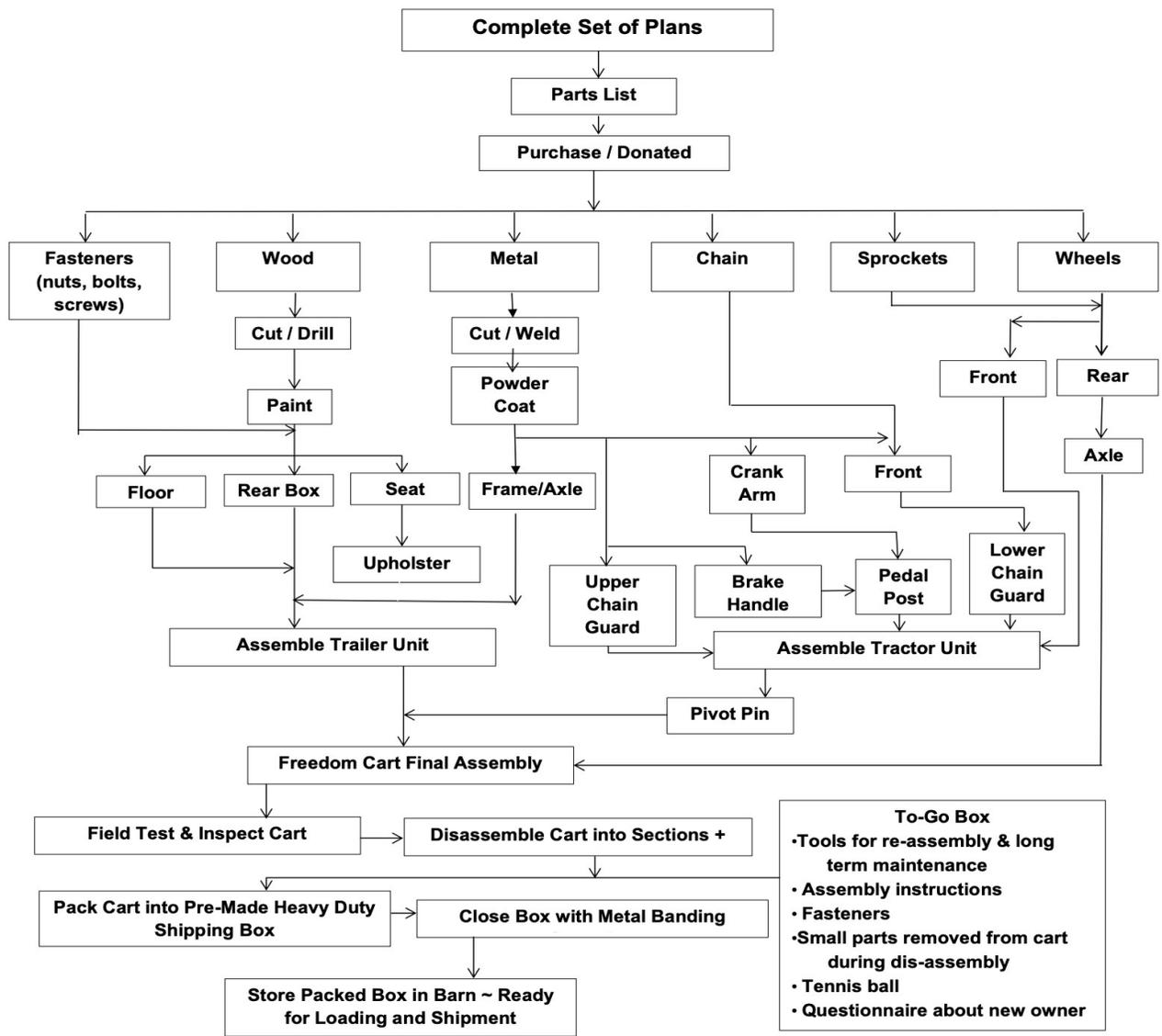
Brad met Dick Carpenter at a church breakfast in Kirkland about 15 years ago. Dick spoke about Trinity and the opportunity to build Freedom Carts. Brad

enjoyed the talk, but as he is never quite sure which end of a hammer to hold, so he didn't really hear a call. But since each of us have different gifts to contribute, Brad mentioned to Dick that if he ever needed help with marketing, he could give him a call. You all know what results from such bait dangled in front of Dick - a call came quickly about helping with a brochure, and Brad found myself pulled inexorably into the Trikin universe. He has been happily creating and maintaining the web site, producing videos, making postcards, and other materials, and generally giving marketing advice ever since.

Brad and Pam recently relocated to Lynden, their front door 2 1/2 miles south of the border – wave at them when you're making a lumber run to BC! He now works as a workforce development consultant, helping young people get into good careers. He is also a trumpet player and is teaching lessons.

One side note: In 2009, Brad was involved in a bicycling accident that put him in Harborview Trauma Center in Seattle for a month then rehab for three more, very nearly costing a leg and his life. He's a firm believer that all things work together for good to those who love God and are called according to His purpose, and this episode was a case in point. Among many epiphanies, he realized that Trinity was a mission God had placed on his heart, and he is beyond blessed to be able to contribute in a small way to bringing hope and dignity to others who have gone through much, much more than he did. And he knows that the Trikin, led by Dick, were among his chief prayer warriors during his recovery. Both Brad and Pam say "thank God for the Northwest Trinity Project". And, we TriKin are so glad to have Brad on-board. He is a great asset to the project.

For our readers who aren't close enough to our shops to visit personally, we'll show you the many steps necessary to complete a Trinity Cart, and then include pictures of various steps along the way.



In The Beginning



Ready for Delivery to us on the East Side



These are some of our great West-side crew who take the wood you see on page 5 and cut, sand, and drill it to perfection (picture on the right). That's Dave Potter cutting wood, then center picture, Gary Christopher, Brad Hurte (whom you met on page 4), and Dave Potter.



The *painting* process; (L) one stack for each cart, (C) all painted by hand, (R) our drying rack.



The *welding* process; (L) the cart frame, (C) tires and front fork, (R) powder coating the steel



The *assembly* process; (L) wood ready for assembly, (C) putting the pieces together, (R) Field testing



The *final* process (L) loading the truck, (C) truck ready for delivery, (R) a final needy recipient who cannot walk

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 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**". 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

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. 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.

