



# Tri-Kin Trailways



December 2022  
Volume IX Number 4  
(Our 51st issue since  
December 2009)



## *Life in Cambodia*



Mr. Pheung, 72, had a stroke and lost his ability to walk. After being immobile for many years, having your own transportation was occasion for overwhelming joy. With tears in his eyes, he said “Now I can go to the Wat”.

What is a Wat? We would probably know it as a Buddhist Temple, but it is also the center of village life in Cambodia. Not only for spiritual gatherings, but also for their social life. Gathering for social events is something they do very well, so the Wat is a popular gathering place where every villager wants to be.



Mrs. Long Yan, 87 (left) and Mrs. Kem Sourn, 82 (right) live in a rural village in the Province of Toung Khum. When they say “Ah khun” in Khmer, their native Cambodian language, they sincerely mean “thank you”. Their smiles and praises say it all. With their carts they can now get around the village to visit family and friends.







This is Mr. Um Saran, 33, who lives not far from the Wat in Bok Rong. Birth defects caused him to be unable to work in his family's rice fields as a child like most of the other children did. Usually the children only go to school until about the 6th grade, but Saran stayed in school. He is now extremely articulate and can demonstrate amazing penmanship, which is unheard of in most rural villages in Cambodia.

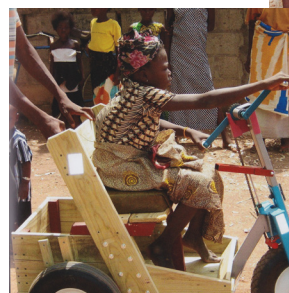
Before he got his cart, he could only crawl for short distances at a time. Trails in his village are hard-packed dirt, mostly flat, and about wide enough to ride a bicycle or motorcycle. His cart is ideal for this terrain and he is elated to be able to move further and faster on his own. The little girl in the red dress is his daughter.



A typical fruit market in the street (left), and their version of a Home Depot "hardware store" (right).



When boxes holding the Trinity carts are opened, joy comes to the entire village. Everyone lines up to see what their needy family and friends are getting and are almost without words to express their joy. Now the disabled can move on their own, so many of them for the first time in their lives.





## Our featured volunteer for this issue

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In the last newsletter, we included 3 pictures of our Canadian partner and some of the processes he goes through to see that we get quality wood at a decent price. In this issue we want to give him the spotlight as someone who is well worth a bright spotlight. If you try to Google “Prinse”, they think you have mis-spelled “Prince”. There are many “Prince’s, but our “Prinse” is unique; and just a few minutes talking to him will quickly verify that fact.

Robert Prinse was born, raised, and still lives in Chilliwack British Columbia Canada. He discovered the Trinity (PET) Project several years ago at a Lion’s convention in Seattle where he met Walt Hayes from Alaska, who was manning a booth where he was showing one of our carts. Seeing what can be done to help those less fortunate who cannot walk, intrigued Robert so much that he drove his old 1941 Chevy pick-up all the way to our shop in Spokane. Dick Carpenter gave him a cart to take back, and he was hooked.



From the time he was in High School and took wood working classes, he knew he had found his calling, although even in his earlier years, he found wood to be an extremely interesting natural wonder. His dream was to one day, build good furniture for the “rich and famous”. Robert attended several furniture maker shows where his furniture won several prizes. From here on, the rest is history, as the “rich and famous” became very interested. A glance at two pieces of his furniture shows why his dream was fulfilled.

Growing up in the beautiful Canadian Frazer Valley, Robert has always had an interest in nice wood, and what it can become in the hands of the right artist. His young life was spent with 3 brothers and 1 sister on a

dairy farm.

Robert is now cutting raw wood for the Trinity Project. A friend of his owned 30 acres of timber and donated trees so Robert could cut them into pieces to fit our Freedom carts. Unfortunately the friend sold his property, so we now have to pay for the raw logs he cuts as a donation to us. Several of our Seattle area Tri-Kin have rented trailers in the past to move the wood to their shops, then after it is cut, drilled, and sanded, trucked to Spokane.

We appreciate Robert so much. Not only is he a great wood cutter, and a hard worker, but he’s such a neat guy. An unsolicited



Black walnut buffet 64” long, 26” deep, 36” tall, tambour doors, removable shelves, hand rubbed oil finish.

comment by one of

the Seattle Tri-Kin who picked up a load of wood from Robert was: “Robert was great as always and ready to help us load. Easy to work with and super accommodating”. Robert’s current volunteer projects are: Cutting wood for our Trinity Project, Building wooden toys to give to disadvantaged children at Christmas, and working with the Mennonite Disaster Services to help rebuild houses for people like those who lost everything in the Paradise California fire 4 years ago. How does he like the Canadian winters?; he is going to Paradise and visit friends in Santa Cruz for at least the first part of this winter.



Black walnut circular table seats 7, 7 foot diameter, top 3” thick & weighs over 500#, each leg weighs over 50#, chairs made by a friend.



We had some very special visitors to the Trinity shop in October. But, they were not just visitors, they were also productive. They assembled, and tested, two carts which will go with the next load to someone who cannot walk. This special group was the Colbert

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Presbyterian Church youth group. Their adult leaders didn't make it into this picture, but two of our "adult kids" did. That's Ron Bohman on the ground, and Bill Reeves standing in a somewhat more "formal" position. The two carts in this picture are the two the group built. An extra plus is that three of the Tri-Kin Trailways newsletter editor's great-grand daughters were part of the group. It was a mutually beneficial visit; not only were we blessed by their

productivity, but according to their leaders, everyone in the group was excited to be helping, and for what we do for those less fortunate in developing countries.



This is Mr. Thai Saroeum, 64, who stepped on a land mine in Cambodia. His upbeat appearance shows his delight with his new cart. But, the tragedy is that there are over forty thousand amputees just in Cambodia, and estimates are that there are still between 4 and 10 million more unexploded mines buried. Most were placed during Cambodia's civil war 25 years ago. Estimates are that only about 25% of the victims reach a hospital within 6 hours of an explosion. Some 15% need to travel at least 3 days to get the medical help they need.





About 10 years ago we wrote about an infectious disease doctor (Dr. Jill Seaman) from Moscow Idaho who went to South Sudan to treat, and eventually find a cure for, a fatal illness caused by the bite of very small sand fleas. This week we got an article from Mel West (one of the 3 founders of the PET project) which mentioned Dr. Jill. It is definitely a success story of a man from South Sudan.

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“Story of James Kuon Daw: James grew up in South Sudan as the 3rd born of 4 children. Sadly, he lost both of his older siblings during the South Sudan crisis. James and one sister survived. Then in 2010, James suffered from tuberculosis of the spine which left him disabled. Dr. Jill Seaman, of the South Sudan Medical Relief Center, gave James a mobility cart so he could be mobile and attend school. She later sponsored James, which allowed him to travel to Nairobi Kenya to attend Mount Kenya University where he graduated with a diploma in Medical Laboratory Sciences. He was given another cart by *Partners for Care* when he arrived in Nairobi so he could attend school.

“He returned to South Sudan where he works with Dr. Seaman as a laboratory technician. James is living proof that when you believe in someone and equip them with what they need to succeed, anything is possible. The gift of mobility truly can change the course of one’s life.”



We mentioned the “*Partners for Care*” organization above. *Partners for Care* partners with Global Mobility (formerly PET International) to distribute carts to those in need, mostly in Kenya. Here are just a few of before and after pictures from their web site.



The need in Africa, in particular in Kenya, is so great, it is hard to know where to begin. But, from what we can glean from their web site, *Partners for Care* is doing an excellent job.



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



This poem was written by Mel West in 2004, who is now 98. It is well worth repeating.

### *Remember Anna*

On the day before Christmas, I was in the PET shop;  
With so much to do, I just could not stop.  
There were holes to be drilled, and pieces to paint.  
I try to catch up, but it seems I just can't.  
So I worked and I worked, until muscles were sore,  
Then I felt a draft of wind, someone came through the door.  
He was dressed all in red, with a beard all so white,  
There wasn't a bit of doubt, it was Santa Claus, all right.  
He was in a big hurry, and talked, Oh, so fast.  
"You need a bigger sign", he said, I almost went past.  
I'm almost ready to go, I leave at midnight,  
But I need one more gift, to make it all right."  
"A little girl named Anna, stepped on a land-mine at play.  
She lost both legs, it was a hell of a day;  
She sits on the ground, and scoots on her rear.  
I need something to give her a Happy New Year!"  
Larry had just finished a blue child-sized PET.  
I pointed to that and said, "That's what she'll get."  
Santa chuckled with glee, and his eyes twinkled bright,  
And in a loud voice said, "You've made my night."  
We packed up the PET, with its tools and all that.  
We put in some toys, and a teddy-bear, round and fat.  
There was a corner in the sleigh just right for the PET.  
The child will be pleased, on that you can bet.  
The reindeer were prancing, they wanted to go.  
So off they went, with a big "Ho, ho, ho".  
Thanks to all of you elves who work in your shop;  
Remember the Annas of the world, and never say "Stop".



### *Fundraising and Other Needs*

Lately it seems we have been inundated by a plethora of adds, offers, and webinars to help increase our fundraising "skills" and to "get more" from those who already donate, as well as how to get new donors. We would like you to be aware that we don't, and won't, use any of these "gimmicks" in an attempt to raise money for our needs. Without sounding overly "spiritual" we know our ministry has been divinely directed over these nearly 20 years. If it had not been, we would have folded our "tent" and let the ministry go a long time ago. One thing you need to know is that we have a mailing list that we use *only* for distribution of our

newsletters. We will never sell, or use this private list for any other purpose.

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Over the last few months it seems we have had to face some type of a "crisis" about once a week. Just two typical examples would be that when a volunteer in a "key" position cannot function any longer, and we think we see the end of the project, another faithful volunteer steps in to fill the vacancy. A second example is that when the price of some part of our carts (like wood, steel, or fasteners) goes way over our budget, another solution we hadn't thought about pops up.

Two recent examples of this are: 1) purchasing enough wood for our carts at a local lumber yard has gotten so expensive, we thought we were "done for". But, a very fine furniture maker from Canada (you can read about him on page 3 of this newsletter) stepped up and offered to dry and cut wood to a size that we can transport and use. He does have to pay for the raw logs (which we reimburse him for) but that cost is about 1/5<sup>th</sup> of the price we were having to pay at local lumber yards. So, issue #1) solved. Then issue #2) was that the furniture maker lives in Canada, and we need the wood here in the U.S. It's too far to drive from Spokane to Chilliwack Canada and back in one day. It's also a very long and hard drive for our wood cutting people in the Seattle area to pick up the needed wood. In addition, wood is pretty heavy, so it takes a sturdy truck and trailer to carry it. Solution: Brad Hurte, our Trinity web-master (he was featured in our September newsletter), lives in Lynden Washington, just a few miles south of the border. Brad is a member of the Lynden Lions club, so he asked the president of the club (John Edmunds) if he might have a solution. Yes, indeed he did. He has the equipment and said he would be more than glad to pick it up. John has now transported two loads from Chilliwack to a Peninsula Truck Lines pick-up point so they can move it (as a donation to the Trinity Project) to the Seattle area. Wow, we do indeed serve a divine and omniscient deity.



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 (RMD) 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.





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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](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.

