



Tri-Kin Trailways



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World Vision and the Horn of Africa

We first got acquainted with World Vision in late 2019 and wrote about the vital work they were doing for the “down and out” in various countries around the world. We were pretty sure at least a partial load of our Trinity carts had gone to the very Northeastern part of Africa, countries located around the “Horn of Africa”.

Probably the most well-known of these countries is Somalia, which is also one of the most dangerous countries in all of Africa. World Vision’s website has some good pictures of the desperate needs and their work there. As we looked further into Somalia, we discovered several interesting facts. A Siad Barre regime was ousted in January 1991; turmoil, factional fighting, and anarchy followed for nine years. In May 1991, northern clans declared an independent Republic of Somaliland West of Somalia. Although not recognized by any government, this entity has maintained a stable existence, aided by the overwhelming dominance of the ruling clan and economic infrastructure left behind by British, Russian, and American military assistance programs.

An NPR reporter has this to say about the current situation in Somaliland. Their Foreign Minister says lack of recognition is impeding what has already been a slow international response to



Tents housing displaced people on the outskirts of Baidoa, Somalia

the food crisis in Somaliland. Aid from international agencies is being coordinated and routed through war-ravaged Mogadishu — the Somali capital 900 miles to the south.



Mothers with their infants at a center for malnourished children run by World Vision in Baidoa, Somalia.

“It is affecting us in many ways. We are not present in the forums in which these [aid efforts] are discussed. We cannot

access bilateral aid. We cannot get loans. We cannot attract international investors.”

Because it’s not officially a country, Somaliland isn’t eligible for loans the World Bank makes to poor nations. It can’t get in on other assistance programs that are traditionally delivered to governments. Ongoing drought in Somaliland has resulted in many thousands of people losing their livelihoods and move to crowded camps for internally displaced. World Vision and partners have come up with innovative ways to improve their situation with access to water, healthcare, education and jobs. Somaliland is beautiful and scary, friendly and hostile and I stand in awe of the people who live this dusty, hot and harsh existence every day.

So, frustration reigns: The Prime Minister continues while pleading with the US government. “We have a functioning democracy. We have our own army. We have our own police. We have our own coast guard.

You know, we have our own border police. We have fulfilled all the conditions of a sovereign state,” He says as he ticks through why Somaliland is its own nation. And there’s more.

Somaliland has its own currency. It regularly holds elections.

“The only thing that’s missing is the sovereign recognition,” he says. Excuses are legion and as the director of programs and studies at the Africa Center at the Atlantic Council, says the international community has been uninterested in recognizing Somaliland as a new nation for several reasons. Quite frankly, she says, the first is apathy. Somaliland doesn’t have oil or other resources to make other players on the international stage care about it. Second, she explains, is the belief that recognizing Somaliland would undermine international efforts to get a functioning government in Mogadishu, which Somaliland broke away from.

“The international community led by the United States and Britain has put a lot of time and effort into trying to build a government in Mogadishu, and it’s perceived that if Somaliland were to be granted its separation it would reflect poorly on the fledging government of Somalia.”

Finally the African Union doesn’t want to encourage independence movements in other restive regions around the continent.

Now enters another complication: Puntland is a region in northeastern Somalia, bordering Somaliland in west. Puntland’s leaders declared in 1998 Puntland to be an autonomous state, but again they have similar issues as Somaliland.

Actually, Puntland forms the actual Horn of Africa as you can see from the map. Our apologies for not having more in-country pictures and maps, but finding those without copyrights are difficult to get.



What a TEAM

When it comes to getting a job done, there is nothing like having a great group of volunteers, from all walks of life, come together to accomplish what may look like a simple task. When you realize all of the pieces that need to come together, each at the right time, and each at the right place, things can get exciting. A recent example of this occurred when 70 Trinity carts had been completed and needed to get from our shop in Colbert to the World Vision warehouse in Fife. As each cart is completed, which in itself takes a great team of volunteers, it needs to be boxed for overseas shipment, then moved from the assembly shop to our 55 foot storage container. Once the 70 carts are nearing completion, the coordination between us, Peninsula, and World Vision begins. Since this was the first time the coordination would have to be done without Dick Carpenter’s help, the process was quite a “nail-biter”. We’re happy to announce that the job got done, the truck loaded in almost record time, without any glitches, and they are on their way to help those who cannot help themselves. From this point on, World Vision takes over and does a superb job of getting the carts where they are needed most. The picture shows the hard working, crew of volunteers who did the heavy lifting.



Painted wood ready to be assembled



Our Spotlighthted Volunteer

A faithful, long term, volunteer we haven't featured previously. He is from the West-side of the state, so we don't see him in person frequently.

Bill Gray has been working for PET/Trinity for about 11 years. He got interested when someone from Trinity presented the project at the Kent United Methodist Church Men's Group, and the extremely great need for what we can give to those downtrodden in our society. Bill and Ted Ripley jumped at the chance to use their wood-working skills to make a difference in the lives of others. He and Ted have not only made and delivered cart parts, but have also transported wood from Canada for the project.

Bill has enjoyed woodworking since high school shop class, although he took some time off while his children were growing up. But as the kids left home, and when he retired, he got back into it with gusto!

Before retiring, Bill worked for the Boeing Company in the Traffic Department, including facilitating airplane deliveries for foreign countries, and coordinating the Boeing rail-cars that bring in airplane parts to the Puget Sound area from other manufacturing areas in the U.S. Before that, he worked for Delta Airlines and the various airlines that merged into Delta. As you can see from his experience in the area of "transportation" he is a natural for what needs to be done for those who aren't able to transport themselves.

Bill has been married to his high school sweetheart, Pat, for 58 years. They have 2 children, Todd, who is a web developer for Go Daddy, and Christine, an administrator in the Highline School District in Seattle. They have 3 grandchildren.

Bill has made beautiful and functional wood furniture for their home, their children's homes, and for friends and relatives. He is the go-to woodworker at his church and has resized and remade a historic pulpit, a welcome desk for the entrance, a wood facade for the sanctuary, and wooden crosses for an auction fund-raiser.



He and Ted Ripley (that's Bill on the left and Ted. They both look pretty serious, but they are a great team) have made a video called Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure, which they show in church once a year to raise funds for Trinity. Money raised so far totals several thousand dollars. Their video name comes from the 1989 American science fiction comedy film; "a supremely silly story" one critic says. Even after watching several scenes from the movie, your newsletter editor says the Bill and Ted video they show in their church is Much-Much better. A link to it is: <https://kentmethodist.com/mens-group>.

Bill's wife says that his happy place is his shop and he gets a huge amount of joy from his Trinity work,

knowing that what he does changes the lives of many throughout the world. He may be quiet, but his work is extremely vital for us to keep helping the down-and-out of society. We appreciate him so much.



We've all missed Dick's presence in the paint shop. Back finally with Karen Tollackson and John Fechner.

Beautifully cut and painted wood waiting for an assembly crew to make it into usable Trinity carts for those who desperately need them.



Just a few days after the last newsletter went into the mail, a familiar name appeared in the obituary column of the Spokane newspaper. That of our own Rockey Mosley.



A former boxer, Rockey was not only an interesting guy, but he was eager to help in the Trinity Project wherever we needed him. His specialty was painting, but he could be stubborn. His favorite color was royal purple, and that's the only color he wanted to paint every piece. When Dick Carpenter discovered all of the purple pieces, he demanded Rockey be put on something else. Flowering (sprinkling corn starch

to keep the newly painted pieces from sticking together) became his favorite.

Rockey got hit in the back of his head while sparring a newbie and when he fell, his head hit the canvas hard. It caused a brain



hemorrhage which was not discovered until the next week when he was knocked out in the first round, and a mandatory hospital visit revealed it.



We miss our old friend and helper. He was always smiling and in good humor. One of his serious faults though was that he loved “junk food”; perhaps a bit unusual for one who needs to keep fit for the boxing ring. In spite of his unhealthy diet, he never seemed to gain weight.

“Coincidence”



In the December newsletter, we mentioned several things that happened, just at the right time, the right place, and were unexpected. Our conclusion was “Wow, we do indeed serve a divine and omniscient deity.”

We are so glad to let you know these “things” keep happening, unexpectedly. Our newsletters are printed in California so they are mailed to the newsletter editor’s house after they are printed, stapled, and folded. Our address is 7127 and when the 3-25 pound boxes came, the address our printer used was 7027, which is not even a legitimate address. The UPS driver left them at 7019. Fortunately the 7019 residents thought

they might know where they should have gone and called us.

When we went to pick them up, the residents wanted to know what they were and why the boxes were so heavy. When all of this was explained, Stan Smith, who lives at 7019, said he had just retired and was looking for a good organization where he might be a useful volunteer.

One can call it “coincidence” if they chose, but we prefer to recognize it as “divine guidance”. Stan is now building carts, packing carts, and transporting wood shipped to us from the West-side of the State, to our paint shop. He also has an interest in the metal working shop, where welding, cutting, and drilling are accomplished.

Where Oh Where Has Our Leader Gone?

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For those who live here in the Spokane area, I'm sure you've heard that Dick Carpenter hasn't been at the Trinity Shop for over six weeks. We've all missed him and his direction, but a bad, stubborn, infection has kept him out of circulation all this time. Dick is home now, but you can imagine after being cooped up on your back for all this time, he doesn't have either the energy nor the stamina he is so used to having.



It's bad enough to have to spend Christmas day in a hospital bed, so being able to visit with at least a part of his family to help him "celebrate" Christmas day (left picture) was a real treat. That's



son-in-law Peter, daughter Kristi and their children, Ellie, Blaise, and Vivi. Then, to add insult to injury, Dick was still in the hospital on his wife's birthday (right picture). This time their son (Ken), and his daughter (Clara), drove over from Bellevue to be with them on Lois' special day.

Dick finally got to do what he loves best; come to the Trinity assembly shop and to be with at least part of the hard working volunteers. Here he is with part of the crew who helped load 70 boxes of

Trinity carts, January 26, into the semi headed for World Vision in Fife. We haven't heard where World Vision will send them, but we do know they will get them to people who desperately need them.

Volunteers Needed

Most people who are at retirement age don't have any desire to "sit in the rocker" all day and just wait patiently to die. Statistics show that 100% of retirees will die, but they also say that keeping active helps prolong that eventual day. Unfortunately, time seems to go in only one direction, but keeping active helps slow that process down. As our faithful Trinity Project volunteers age, they need to be replaced. Just as a specific example, we have one extremely active volunteer who can no longer stand. He needs to be replaced since his participation is vital to the project.

Our current needs are: **assembly and packing carts** for shipment, **metal working**, **accounting** (someone who knows accounting terms and is familiar with QuickBooks).

If you know someone (men and women) who has a desire to stay active by helping those who cannot walk, please have them contact either Maurice Feryn, our chief engineer, at 509-710-2047 or Don Mattocks, our newsletter editor at 509-434-9133. By email; Maurice at mferyn@comcast.net, or Don at 8Trikin@gmail.com.

It's really neat when a group of non TriKin come to share their abilities and talents with us. We wrote about the Colbert Presbyterian Church youth group, who assembled two carts for us, in the December newsletter. On a cold and cloudy January Friday, Don Mortenson brought 4 from his Bible study group to help paint. From



all outward appearances they were all enjoying themselves, and how we do appreciate



their willingness to share with us. Don and 4 others: Dick, Ken, and Dr. Dan (l to r) did a wonderful job painting while Gail did two other important parts of the painting process, putting the cup hooks in the boards, before any painting can begin, and then removing them after they have dried. Many thanks and kudos go to Don and his group for their help.

What People Will Do to Help Others Who are in Need

While we realize this picture has nothing to do with Trinity Carts, it does touch one's heart to see what these people have to go through to help others who have lost nearly everything. These are people in Ukraine, without heat or light, putting Christmas gifts together for Ukrainian children who, without their help, would have a pretty bleak Christmas. And from all appearances, they appear to be more than happy to give their time and resources to other people in this desperate time.



Can you imagine what it means to a man or woman if, after 30 years of crawling in the dirt, when someone walks up to you, lifts you up from the dirt, brushes off your clothes, and sets you on a brand new colorful Trinity Freedom Cart, and then . . . you hear the words of Jesus: “I say, get up and walk!” As you tentatively begin to turn the hand-crank, you feel yourself moving forward under your own power. You feel forward motion while sitting on a seat, when for much, if not all, of your life the only thing you felt associated with forward motion was rocks cutting your hands, your elbows, and your knees as you pulled yourself forward, inch by inch! Then you look for the first time at the people around you, eye to eye, sharing the dignity of being human like them, instead of straining to look up at them from the ground!

Alie doesn't become truth, wrong doesn't become right,
and evil doesn't become good, just because it's accepted
by a majority. Booker T. Washington

Ways you can make a direct impact on the Trinity Project



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 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.





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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.

