



# Tri-Kin Trailways



June 2023  
Volume X Number 2  
(Our 53rd issue since  
December 2009)



## Nigeria ~ A Country with two Distinct Faces

**We'll start first with the "pretty" part.**

- Polio is on the decrease with only 10 new cases in the last 10 years. That's fantastic since there were over 4500 new cases in the prior 10 years. The WHO says that Nigeria's battle with poliomyelitis has been a huge success! There has been no recorded case of wild polio virus since 2016. The last case was recorded in Borno State, north-east Nigeria. To sustain Nigeria's polio-free status, over 270 million vaccines are administered yearly in the country.

- Nigeria has the largest economy of any other African country and is expected to rank among the world's top 10 economies in the world by 2050.
- Population is currently just over 224,000,000 (compared to the USA of 340,000,000) and is expected to have the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest population in the world by 2050. (Only India and China will be more populated by then). U.S. will be 4<sup>th</sup> with 375,000,000 to Nigeria's 377,000,000 according to National Geographic Magazine.



- The majority of people are happy. Nigeria broke from colonial rule in 1960. They are quick to celebrate and have a good time.
- Agriculture contributes more to Nigeria's GDP than petroleum, with 30% of people employed in various aspects of agriculture, primarily agrarian.
- Size-wise, Nigeria is only about 10% of the USA. Alaska is larger than all of Nigeria, but Texas has only about 74% of Nigeria's land mass, and California less than half.
- Rainfall is plentiful with 61% more than we get in the US.
- Nigeria is the world's largest producer of Cassava and Yams. (Yams, sweet potatoes, and cassava are all classed as tuberous root vegetables that come from a flowering plant but are not related and do not have much in common.) Nigeria is also Africa's largest producer of maize and rice.

As you can see, Nigeria is bordered by numerous countries, some friendly, and some not so. The north part is mostly arid, desert like, and the south much better suited for agricultural products. The capitol is Lagos in the south west.



Religions in Nigeria consist of Muslim (mostly Sunni) ~ 51%, Christian (independent, & Protestant ~ 34%), Roman Catholic (14%) with the rest classified as “other”.

Those living in rural and urban areas are about equal in number. The general population is much younger than in the US; Nigeria has about 3 times as many under 14 as we do, and only 1/6th as many over 65.

Wedding traditions are interesting to observe.



- Older siblings are married first; the younger ones must wait.
- Grooms are given 100 lashes by the bride’s family to prove their love for the bride. If a man winces, cries, or shows any signs of pain, the wedding does not go on.
- The groom, and his friends, must lie prostrate on the ground 4 times during the wedding ceremony to show respect for the bride’s family.
- Two separate weddings are performed; one traditional and the other a religious ceremony, usually several days, or weeks apart.
- After the wedding, the groom carries the bride to the dance

floor to show he has enough strength to care for her.

- During the wedding dance, guests rain money on the bride. Bridesmaids collect the money for safekeeping, give it to the couple later; much food is served during reception as food is a love language to the Nigerians.
- While guests enjoy non-stop food, drinks, and music, the couple slips away into the night.

Nigeria is a multinational state, as it is inhabited by over 250 ethnic groupings. These ethnic groups speak over 500 different languages, have diverse cultures, and each exhibits their own unique art. A rich array of cuisines, fashion styles and festivals exist across the different tribes.



The green on their flag represents their natural wealth, and the white, peace.

Nigeria has one of the world’s largest diversity of butterflies. There are over 1000 documented species, and new ones are still being discovered regularly.

***Now to the 2nd “face” of the country; the “not so pretty” side***

- Violent crime – such as armed robbery, assault, carjacking, kidnapping, hostage taking, banditry, and rape – is common throughout the country. Kidnappings for ransom occur frequently, often targeting dual national citizens who have returned to Nigeria for a visit, as well as U.S. citizens with perceived wealth. The US Department of State currently recommends US citizens reconsider travel to Nigeria due to crime, terrorism, civil unrest, kidnapping, and maritime crime.
- \$100 can be a significant amount of money in Nigeria, depending on the context and the person’s income level. Nigeria is a lower-middle-income country with a large income inequality gap, the average income varies widely across the country. The increasing cost of food in Nigeria has significantly affected the living standards of ordinary citizens and has become a serious cause for concern. For instance, the average price of one kilogram of beans rose on a year-to-year basis by 24.17% in June 2022.
- Life expectancy in Nigeria is 52 for males and 53 for females, whereas the US is 75 and 80.
- Contemporary social problems in Nigeria are: cheating on exams, cultism, counter-fitting, terrorism, HIV/AIDS, human trafficking, prostitution, drug abuse, rural killings, heavy traffic, speeding on other roads, and just plain dishonesty in all aspects of business and society.

• Even though polio is currently under control, and millions of dollars are spent each year (630 million last year) on its eradication, very little is spent on the several thousand people left with the results of polio who are being ignored by their families and by the government.

Fortunately there is an organization, headquartered in Seattle, who is doing something positive for those who are left to suffer through the results of their bout with polio. An article in the July 2020 issue of this newsletter described Dr. Ronald Rice and his organization; Wheelchairs for Nigeria (WC4N). In spite of the



difficulties and dangers of traveling, Dr. Ron (and his wife Sharon) and his crew manage to get to areas where they are needed. Wheel Chairs for Nigeria has built and donated over 18,500 wheelchairs in 33 of Nigeria's

36 states, mostly to polio survivors. Dr. Rice says if they could increase production to 10,000 wheelchairs a year, they would only be scratching the surface of their need.

One condition for receiving a wheelchair is that the kids have to go to school. He emphasized that while it is his hope that Muslims there convert to Christianity, there is no



“hard sell,” no Christian sermons given to Muslim wheelchair recipients.

We give Bibles to Christian recipients, but not to Muslims. A lot of Muslim communities have misconceptions about Christians, like they are a bunch of drunks who watch pornography. That's why it blows their mind that Christians give them the free wheelchairs. They are expensive items over there.”

WC4N accomplishes their construction and distribution a bit differently than we at Trinity. While we build our Freedom

Carts in Spokane and ship them to developing countries, WC4N has set up a shop in the city of Jos Nigeria where they build all of their hand-powered tricycles using Nigerians, several of them polio victims themselves. This eliminates all of the “hassles” we have to overcome with shipping, customs, and distribution once the



carts get to their intended country.

In addition to chairs for the leg disabled, WC4N also ministers to the blind and the deaf. They are just beginning to construct prosthetics for leg amputees. Where there is a need in Nigeria, it seems, WC4N is there. They have provided typewriters and a complete electrical system with a new generator for a school for the deaf.

Building a prosthetic

In 1999, Dr. Rice connected with a local polio victim, Ayuba Gufwan who is their on-site partner who travels about 50,000 miles per year. We need to pray for his continued safety on the dangerous Nigerian roads.



## Our Spotlights Volunteer for this Issue

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This volunteer is one busy guy who certainly does not let the grass grow under his feet. When he does something, he is “all-in” and does it well. He, his wife, and the Carpenters have been good friends for almost 24 years, so they have seen all phases of the Trinity Project.

Cliff Garrison grew up in Bellevue so the University of Washington was a natural choice for college, where he got his B.S. in biology. His next step was to attend O.C.S. (Officer Candidate School) in Newport Rhode Island, earning a commission as an ensign in the US Navy. His first assignment, in operations and engineering, was aboard a replenishment ship in San Francisco. Next it was the Naval Postgraduate School to earn a master’s degree in financial management. Back to Newport for more education followed by a weapons officer tour on a frigate in Pearl Harbor. Then to a communication ship as the senior deck officer home-ported in Yokosuka, Japan where he learned to drive on the wrong side of the road. Cliff had to learn to navigate to and from home reading kanji (a system of Japanese writing using Chinese characters), unfortunately, not always successfully!



Cliff completing a scout project

Cliff served as the senior deck officer aboard the USS Theodore Roosevelt, at the time, the navy’s newest aircraft carrier. He served his final sea-tour as executive officer of a tank landing ship in Norfolk, Virginia. His final tour, before retiring as a lieutenant commander, was serving as the budget officer for the Atlantic Fleet where budgets were measured in billions. His most impactful journey around the globe was to Israel where Cliff rededicated his life to Jesus Christ.

It was in Newport Beach that Cliff met Deborah where she was pursuing an AA degree in English Literature. It has now been 34 years since they were joined together at a formal military wedding.

Unsure of the future as a civilian, Cliff and Deb moved to State College Pennsylvania where Cliff earned an MBA at Penn State majoring in finance and supply chain management. Hired by Hewlett Packard, they moved to Liberty Lake as a manufacturing planner and senior buyer. After several years, his position was relocated to Malaysia, so Cliff shifted to Triumph Composite Systems in 2005 as a project manager building air control systems and floor panels for Boeing’s 787 Dreamliner and structural frame clips for Airbus’s A350XWB. When that position was relocated to Mexico, Cliff decided it was time to retire.

When Dick Carpenter started the PET Project, Cliff helped by dumpster diving for scrap material that could be used in the packing boxes we use for shipping carts overseas. From there, he moved on to building carts, but

found disassembling and packing them more to his liking. He says the most fulfilling part of the Trinity Project is the relationships forged with so many dedicated Tri-Kin.

Scouting played an important role in Cliff’s upbringing, earning his Eagle Scout Rank, Cliff also earned Quartermaster, the highest rank in Sea Scouts where he found his love for sailing. Cliff also joined a mountaineering Explorer Post where he climbed Mt. Rainier, Mt. Baker, Mt. Hood, Mt. St Helena, and Mt. Fuji while attending the 13th World Scout Jamboree in Japan. He remains actively



On top of Mt. Baldy at Philmont



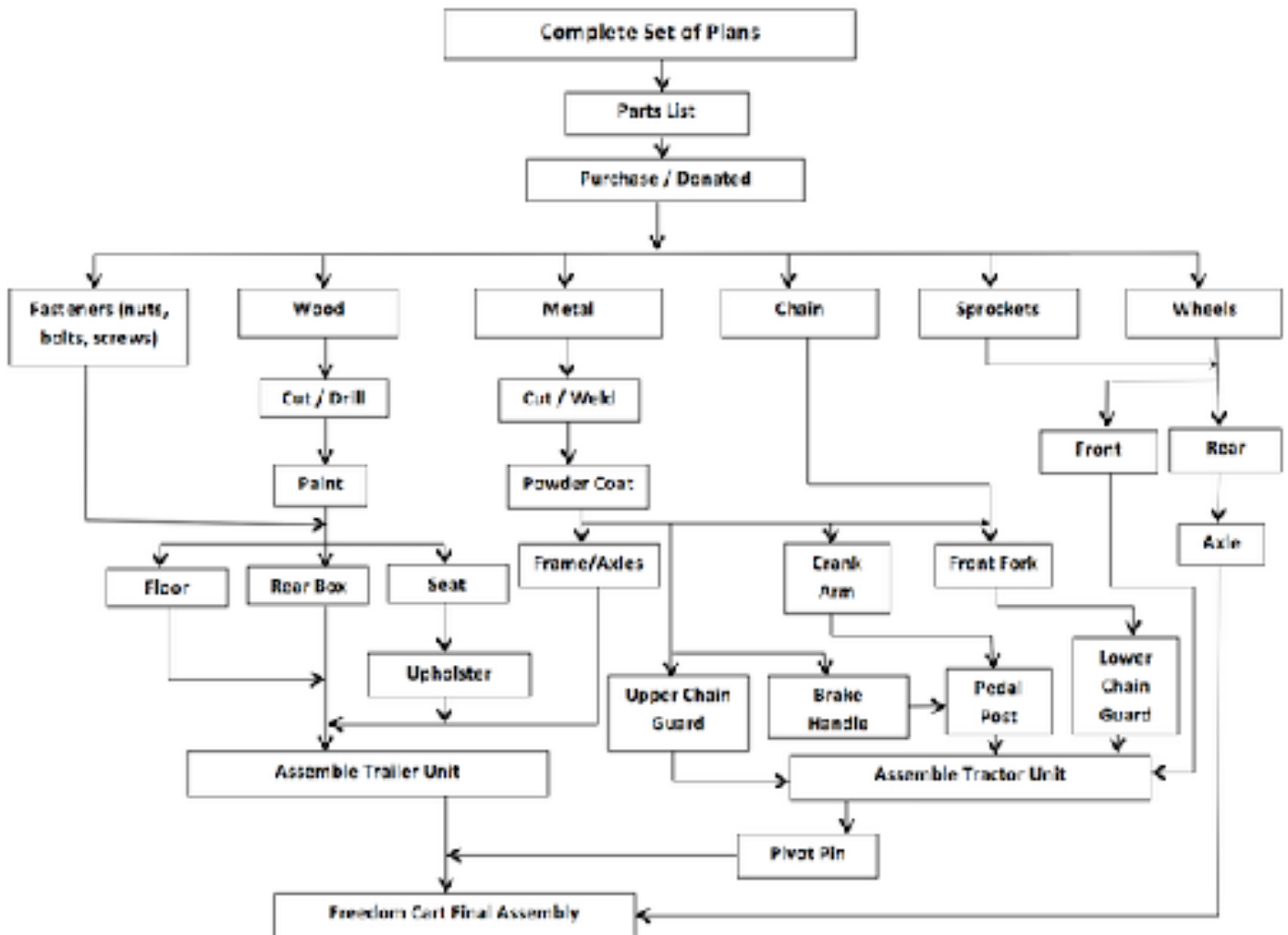
involved in scouting as a scoutmaster, assistant scout master, and teaching life skills to Scouts. In 2016, Cliff led a 12-man crew on a 75 mile trek at Philmont Scout Range in Northern New Mexico. Cliff joined Mt Spokane's Prime Timers this year spending as much time as possible on the ski slopes. Cliff and his wife Deborah enjoy camping, fishing, and traveling.

We all welcome Cliff and Deb to the list of Tri-Kin, they are a tremendous asset to our ministry and we look forward to their future contributions to the project.



**R** eal generosity is doing something nice for someone who will never find out. ~Frank A. Clark

**Some of the steps involved in the assembly of each Freedom Cart**



## *Volunteers Needed*

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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 treasurer and newsletter editor at 509-434-9133. By email; Maurice at mferyn@comcast.net, or Don at 8Trikin@gmail.com.



Dick Carpenter at one of his favorite places ~Home (the Trinity Shop would be the other)

## *Late Breaking News ~ one good and one not so good*

Due to the tenacity (as well as some divine direction) of Eldon Manteuffel and Jay Dupuis, we now have a local upholster who will not only donate all the material for our seats, and seat backs, but also the labor to build exactly what we need. Many thanks to Eldon and Jay.

For the last eight years Bill and Nancy Reeves have been vital volunteers for the Trinity Project. Bill found a much-much less stressful job at the Trinity shop than he had working as Spokane County prosecuting attorney for more than 30 years. Bill and Nancy have been vital in the final preparation of our newsletters for mailing (inserting envelopes and return donation cards, placing mailing labels, and tabbing to keep the newsletters closed while they go through the mail). Nancy is quick to tell you about their love for dogs, her love for East Texas, and her reputation of being a "feisty little red head" (that's her own words).

The bad news is that Bill and Nancy will be moving to Longview Texas (on the highway between Dallas and Shreveport LA) early this month. They will be sorely missed.

To make a difference in someone's life, you don't have to be brilliant, rich, beautiful, or perfect. You just have to care.

## *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](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.





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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.

