

April 2004

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**Changing the world
one life at a time
through Christ-like
missions.**

The Ministry of Medical Missions

As I walked into the sanctuary where I was to speak I could feel that this was going to be a “tough crowd.” Where I usually saw smiles and warmth, I was met with set jaws and skepticism.

I asked God to guide my words and began my talk, changing some things I had planned to say right on the spot. Only the pastor said, “Amen” to cogent points or laughed, albeit slightly, at my feeble attempts at humor.

My talk lasted less than fifteen minutes – seeming more like fifteen years. With great hesitation I launched into a question and answer period, fearing what might ensue. Immediately a question was asked from the rather stern-looking gentleman close to the front. Through the entire talk he sat with a scowl on his face and his arms tightly crossed in front of him. Having noticed his countenance while speaking, I wasn’t sure what to expect.

“I have a question! How does CrossLink International win people to the Lord? All you do is send humanitarian aid.”

With what I hoped was an invisible sigh of relief, I thanked God for that question because it could be answered.

“Sir, CrossLink doesn’t win people to the Lord – that’s God’s job. What we do is help plant seeds of His love. When CrossLink International provides medical resources for Christian teams, we are providing tools for the Gospel to be proclaimed. These teams minister to the physical needs of the hurting just as Jesus did, and in that process they share His love and His salvation.”

I proceeded to communicate stories from teams – stories that demonstrate how God has used resources from CrossLink to change hearts. Slowly the spirit in that room changed. And before my eyes I witnessed a small miracle as their skepticism turned to a thirst for knowledge of how they, too, could help.

Miracles still happen – big and small! All we have to do is what we are asked – then stand back and watch God as He works. It is my prayer that some of the “miracles” you read about in these pages will bless your life.

Linda Cook

Fredericksburg Christian Health Center

(CrossLink International works with a number of clinics in the Commonwealth of Virginia. One of these, The Fredericksburg Christian Health Center, grew out of a vision God placed in the heart of a doctor to meet more than just physical needs.)

Growing up in the suburbs of Washington, DC, Dr. Tim Powell began his search for God when high



The Fredericksburg Christian Health Center in Fredericksburg, VA.

school friends challenged him with the idea that God was alive and desired a relationship with him. Intrigued by this information, Tim attended a Christian camping event, where he surrendered his life to Jesus.

Feeling the Lord steering him towards medicine, Tim graduated from the Medical College of Virginia in Richmond, and took a residency at Vanderbilt in Nashville, TN. There he met and married his wife, Laura.

After finishing his residency in Internal Medicine and Pediatrics in 1993, Tim and Laura moved to Fredericksburg, VA, about an hour south of Wash-

ington, DC. While working with a busy practice, he started to hear again a call to missions that he had first felt in college. "As Laura and I prayed where the Lord would have us serve, it became clear He was saying Fredericksburg, VA. He had called us here for a reason." Although he was in an ideal practice which was growing rapidly, Tim felt dissatisfied in having to see 30 patients a day to pay the overhead expenses of the clinic. "I didn't very often have the time to talk with patients about their faith or to share my own faith. It was some of this discontentment that drove me to find a different way to minister to patients."

"In August of 2001, I began to share with a few people how the Lord was impressing on my heart to start a mission clinic in Fredericksburg that would reach out to those who had no insurance and could not afford medical care. While doing so, I could share my faith with them and encourage their walk with God." As he shared his vision with one of the church elders, the gentleman, a developer/builder, caught the vision and pledged to provide the space for the facility rent-free. In January, 2003, the doors of the clinic opened.

Dr. Powell doesn't have a set way to minister to patients in the clinic. He does have a history form that all patients fill out, including several spiritual questions: How important is God/spirituality to you? Do you pray? Would you like your doctor to pray with you? "I sometimes use these as a springboard to other questions about their relationship with God."

"I have seen God work in the lives of many of my patients. There was a lonely man from New York who came to the Health Center. His heart was failing. And to make matters worse, he had no family in Virginia. Tears came to his eyes when he would talk about Michelle, our office manager, and how she cared for him during his visits to the clinic. When he had to go from our office to the hospital and needed a ride, Michelle drove him. When he got out of the hospital, she gave him a ride home. He asked why she was so good to him, and we told him it was because of Jesus."

"The gentleman went back to New York to live out his remaining days with his daughter. Just last

**"I have seen
God work in
the lives of
many of my
patients..."**

Fredricksburg Christian Health Center, Cont.

month I heard he had passed away. I was glad that I had the opportunity to share a little of Christ's love with him and even pray with him several times."

"Not uncommonly I will have patients check on our history form that God is not important to them and they do not want a doctor to pray with them. I respect their wishes, but still look for opportunities to raise 'faith flags,' little questions or stories that might indicate someone has more of an interest in God than they did before."

Dr. Powell writes that the clinic has several current needs; among them are another medical provider, some administrative help and the always present need for supplies and medicines. But most importantly, "We always need prayer. Pray that we would be more diligent in sharing God's truth with people. Too often I let the momentary afflictions crowd out the time to look for eternal issues in the hearts of my patients." *"When did we see you ill or in prison, and come to visit you?" And the king will answer, "I tell you this: anything you did for one of my brothers here, however humble, you did for me."*
(Matthew 25:40-41NEB)

Dan Watkins Servanthood Award

Citing his extensive work with medical missions, CrossLink International presented the 2004 Dan Watkins Servanthood Leadership Award to Dr. Timothy Pennell on Saturday, April 3, at the annual meeting of the Baptist Medical Dental Fellowship.

Dr. Pennell received his medical degree from Bowman Gray School of Medicine and went on to his general and thoracic surgical residency at the North Carolina Baptist Hospital. He served at North Carolina Baptist as a surgeon, professor of surgical science, director of the Office of International Health Affairs and Chief of Professional Services. Among his many memberships, Dr. Pennell is a Diplomate of the American Board of Surgery, a member of the American College of Surgeons, the American Thoracic Society and the American Medical Association. He has received many honors, and in 1999 was presented with the "Honored Surgeon Award" from the North Carolina chapter of the American College of Surgeons.

Dr. Pennell is married to the former Jacque Clay. He has three married children and 9 grandchildren.

Missions, and particularly Nigeria, had always been on his heart. Instead, he felt God calling him to a medical practice and teaching, through which he worked to encourage others to go into missions. In 1968 the Foreign Mission Board asked him to go to, of all places, Nigeria for a short term medical mission. Since that time he has worked in over 100 countries, pioneering causes and founding mission hospitals and clinics. According to Dr. Pennell, "You can't reach out about a loving and caring God to people who are hurting, hungry, broke and struggling for survival. You've got to meet human needs first."

It is an extreme pleasure for CrossLink International to honor Dr. Pennell with this award.

*"I still look
for
opportunities
to raise 'faith
flags'..."*



*"You can't
reach out
about a
loving and
caring God to
people...
struggling for
survival.
You've got to
meet human
needs first."*



Dr. Pennell & his wife gladly accepting the Dan Watkins Award.



“the band aid ball”

By Linda Cook



Invocation by
Brig. Gen. Charles Baldwin

With the number of annual projects increasing, and the amount of donated medicines dwindling, members of the Board of Directors decided to turn a planned CrossLink banquet into a gala event – something that had not been done before.

How do you plan a gala? What would happen if you planned one and nobody came? How can this event be different from all the many galas held in this area? How do we make sure that our message of “changing the world one life at a time through Christ-like missions” is made known? These were just a few of the thoughts that penetrated my mind and heart as we began to plan this event.

With only 2 ½ months to prepare, the CrossLink office was a scene of frenetic activity as committees met, invitations were printed, addressed and sent, decorations were decided upon, silent auction gifts were obtained, and all sorts of plans were made. Everywhere we turned people said, “You can’t plan and pull off a gala in that short amount of time!” But, God seemed to have other ideas.

Saturday evening, March 20, more than 230 guests filled the ballroom of the Hyatt Fair Lakes for “**the band aid ball.**” Thanks to the help of many wonderful and talented people, both the silent auction room and the ballroom were beautifully decorated. Guests chatted with old and new friends, and browsed through the many items available at the auction.



Chairman Jim Frank and friends
enjoying the evening.

Emceeding the event with great style, wit and important facts about CrossLink International was Molly Henneberg, a FOX News correspondent. She cheerfully welcomed the guests, constantly reminding them that this was a great cause to support. It was my privilege to present a brand new six-minute video depicting the life-changing work of CrossLink International. Guests enjoyed a wonderful meal while running back and forth to bid on great silent auction items.

After dinner, Congressman Frank Wolf of Virginia gave stirring comments about doing Christ’s work for those in need around the world. A dedicated Christian and well-known as an advocate for humanitarian aid, Congressman Wolf shared some personal events from his own travels, and reminded the audience that God calls us to be His emissaries in this broken world.

As the evening came to an end, I was powerfully aware of the blessings God had showered on CrossLink through “**the band aid ball.**” It was a wonderful evening, netting approximately \$90,000 for CrossLink International to help purchase and deliver medicines and supplies. God’s hand was surely evident.

As we praise and give thanks to Him for this blessing, I’d like to also thank those listed on page 5 for their time and gifts to “**the band aid ball.**”



Molly Henneberg,
Mistress of Ceremony



Thank you!

Special Guests

The Honorable Frank R. Wolf
Ms. Molly Henneburg

"band aid ball" Committee

Mrs. Charlotte Benjamin
Ms. Amy Hammer
Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Letham
Ms. Betty Morrison
Mr. Lin Peacock
Mrs. Cindy Steenfott
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Linda Cook, Executive Director of CrossLink International.



Our Guest of Honor, Rep. Frank Wolf, spoke straight from the heart.



Dinner was a 'ball'!



Many items were generously donated for the Silent Auction.

A Good Samaritan Experience

(Sénégal is located in Western Africa. The country, slightly smaller than South Dakota, was the destination of a medical mission team from Arkansas led by Dr. Brian Bishop. The team witnessed God's visible hand at work.)

“As it is when you go to Africa, the ministry opportunities are numerous and often present themselves when you least expect it.”

“Our destination in Senegal was the village of Kaolack where our team would hold its clinic. We called it the ‘Tabernacle Clinic’ because it sort of reminded us of the Tabernacle in the wilderness. Each family of the Chief’s village made grass partitions which were put together to form a wall. Within this wall two big tents had been erected. The people would enter on one side of the compound and exit the other side. As they exited, they entered a waiting area for prayer. The people waited outside under another tent before their names were called for the clinic where they heard Bible stories. However, our trip began long before we arrived in Kaolack.



Administering IV to rehydrate patient.

“As it is when you go to Africa, the ministry opportunities are numerous and often present themselves when you least expect it. In other words, our ministry actually began on the road from Dakar to Kaolack.



Meeting medical needs along the road.

“We were driving in three vehicles when we noticed a young man lying by the side of the road. Attempting to return to his home in Guinea, he had been walking for 2 ½ days from Dakar in temperatures of 100 degrees in the shade. He had gone to Dakar to look for work, but was unable to find any. Not speaking the native language, he was afraid to stop in the villages to ask for food and water. So, he just walked until he couldn’t walk any further.”

The team unloaded supplies from their vehicles and began administering IV solutions to the young man. After 1 ½ liters, he improved significantly.

“When we stopped to help the young man, all of the children in the village came out to see what was happening. So, while we were starting an IV, the children received coloring books about Jesus. By the time we finished, the whole village was upon us and we were able to treat many of them as well. But, what really made this a divine appointment was the fact that several of the people wanted Bibles. And, one of the women was actually a Christian evangelist who had been witnessing to this village about Jesus, without a Bible.

“Jesus enabled the young man from Guinea to be able to walk as far as this village just as we were passing with the IV fluids, Bibles, and crayons. Basically, this was the parable of the Good Samaritan playing itself out before our very eyes.”

Thank you for taking time to respond to CrossLink International

Please detach and return with your response to: CrossLink International, 427 North Maple Avenue, Falls Church, VA 22046

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Gifts of cash and/or goods to CrossLink International, Ltd., a 501 (c) (3) non-profit, nondenominational humanitarian aid ministry are tax deductible. CrossLink is audited annually by an independent public accounting firm and our audit is available upon request.

Medicines Provide an Open Door

(East-West Ministries International often sends humanitarian teams to help these churches model Christ's example of meeting basic physical and spiritual needs. Cindy DeHaan shared with us how God gave evidence of ways in which He works through medical missions.)

"The medical needs in Cuba range from Tylenol™ to the treatment of parasites to insulin syringes and other supplies for diabetic patients. The doctors at the churches are very happy to receive these gifts. There is such need.

"We delivered medications to physicians in the churches in Santa Clara and Jatibonico. They were so appreciative. The pastor in Jatibonico shared about a resident of his town. The man was a member of the Communist party. He became very ill and the church physicians provided him with medications he badly needed. The love the church members showed him through the gift of the medications was instrumental in leading him to Christ. He and his wife have now joined the church.

"When we opened up the boxes of medications to distribute to the church physicians and I saw all the bottles and bottles of medicine, I kept thinking of the phrase 'an embarrassment of riches.' It was embarrassing to see how much we had, especially when you see how little they have. But, it was such a blessing to be able to share with our Cuban brothers and sisters. I had to remind myself that God has blessed us abundantly in our country, and *'...from everyone who has been given much, shall much be required.'*"
(Luke 12:48b)



Cuban mother and baby.

To learn more: www.eastwest.org



CrossLink International
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through Christ-like missions.**

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NEWS BRIEFS



Welcome to New Employee

Brad Tomas, a recent graduate of Samford University, joined the CrossLink staff in February. He is responsible for assisting the operations manager with the supply warehouse, and helping the project coordinator with the preparation of projects. Brad feels that God is calling him to the ministry, and plans to enter seminary next year. We welcome Brad to the staff.

Exhibitions and Conventions

CrossLink International representatives will be attending or exhibiting at the following meetings:

- Christian Medical Dental Association Annual Meeting, Grapevine, TX – June 9-12, 2004
- CBF Annual Meeting, Birmingham, AL – June 24-26, 2004

Containers

CrossLink International is working with various faith groups to send containers to the following countries:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Truro Episcopal Church | Part of a 40-ft container to Uganda |
| Village of Hope | Half of a 40-ft container to Liberia |
| Missionhurst | A 20-ft container to the Congo |
| Our Little Roses | Six pallets of medical supplies to Honduras |

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