



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

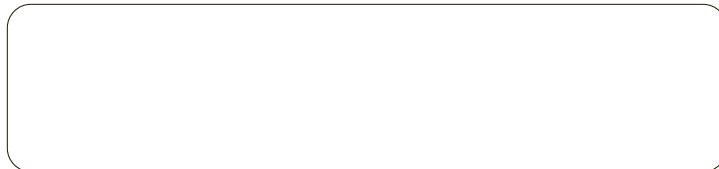
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#8295



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April/May 2006

MERCY! – Where Compassion Transforms Life!



The children of Lare.

Located in the Rift Valley, a natural disaster area due to drought, is the desperately poor village of Lare, Kenya. Lare and the surrounding countryside is home to roughly 28,000 people living in rural cluster communities without clean water or electricity. Approximately 500 families are literally starving to death. Malnutrition and dehydration of young infants, toddlers and the elderly have become commonplace health problems.

Located on a ridge overlooking several valleys, is an oasis of hope for these desperate Kenyans – the Mercy Center Lare. Here villagers receive treatment at a clinic as well as water from a well dug in 2003.

Members of Mercy Care Foundation USA visited Lare in February to conduct a health camp. Two doctors, two nurses, eighteen medical students, an evangelizing team and three Mercy Center Foundation board members shared their time, their abilities and their love with these gentle people.

Arriving at Lare, more than one hundred people were patiently waiting under brightly colored blue and white tents. Scrambling to offload the luggage, medical students quickly opened duffle bags of supplies from CrossLink International and began setting up a pharmacy.

As the team quickly opened the clinic for a four day health camp, they immediately began using a variety of supplies and medicines from CrossLink that were invaluable. Exam gloves in all sizes were needed for the medical staff. Many patients came to the site with infected and oozing wounds requiring cleaning and bandaging with sterile 4x4 pads, bandages and tape. Alcohol preps were used regularly with patients in exam areas. Paper micropore tape was quickly used up as the 4 days passed.



Jocelyn Bell, Pres. MCFUSA, Sister Rose, Founder of Mercy Center, and John Njoroge, Contractor

Every kind of analgesic and anti-inflammatory was provided to patients experiencing pain from infections and skin disorders. Anti-fungal creams and lotions were of particular need for patients. With typhoid, malaria and pneumonia running rampant, antibiotics such as Amoxicillin and Doxycycline were in constant need. In fact, Sister Rose Wangui, founder of Mercy Center Foundation, was treated with antibiotics and antihistamines to attack a lingering respiratory condition.

Patients of all ages with all types of medical problems were seen. A three week old infant was brought to the center by his mother. The baby was so weak and



Dr. Joseph Cacioppo with patient & mother

Continued on page 6.

Welcome!

Several weeks ago my pastor preached a sermon on a story from the third chapter of Acts. Perhaps you remember it.

Peter and John were going to the temple when they passed by a man being carried to the Beautiful Gate of the Temple. Having been lame from birth, the man was taken there each day to beg.

When he saw Peter and John about to enter the temple he asked for money. Peter spoke to him and said he had no money, but he would give the beggar something else.

Peter called out for the man to walk in the name of Jesus. And walk, he did!

The man then went into the temple rejoicing. In fact, he carried on. He shouted and danced for joy. He praised God for this wonderful gift he had been given.

That's a great story right there. BUT, my pastor said there was another important point we need to recognize.

The temple was rather exclusive, being divided into sections for the women, the men and the High Priest. The lame man had never been able to enter into any section of the temple. His condition kept him from the inner courts where he could worship the Lord.

When Peter called out to him to get up and walk, not only was he healed that day, he was also transformed. The lame man was deemed worthy to enter into worship.

I thought about that and a light bulb came on in my head — that's what CrossLink is about!

Linking with Christian medical volunteers, hospitals, clinics and a host of donors and supporters, CrossLink is not only healing, but also transforming lives. Through this ministry men, women and children are hearing that God made them for a full relationship with Him – that they have worth and value. They are understanding that all are welcome by God for full inclusion and complete access into His Kingdom.

There are so many people that need to hear this word of Hope. Just like the lame man they need to be healed, transformed and welcomed into God's family.

Will you join us as we reach out to welcome His children?

Linda Cook

Upcoming Events

May 19-21, 2006 MissionFest - Southern CA
Convention Center, Ontario, CA

June 14, 2006 - Baccalaureate
Annandale High School, Annandale, VA

June 1, 2006 - Mission Director's Luncheon
Bay Leaf Baptist Church, Raleigh, NC

June 15 - 17, 2006 - CMDA Meeting
Irving, CA

June 4, 2006 - Truro Episcopal Church
Fairfax, VA

June 22 - 23, 2006 - CBF Assembly
Atlanta, GA

*“...not only
was he
healed that
day, he was
transformed.”*

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

You Can Help the World!

We need you — the world needs you — to become a “link” in the supply chain.

Over-the-Counter Club: Engage youth, children, seniors or any group in “hands-on” missions by providing OTC medicines and supplies for use in medical work. (Contact CrossLink for brochures. Great for VBS.)

Clinic Packs: A \$25 gift purchases a stethoscope, blood pressure cuff and a digital thermometer, vital diagnostic tools, to be donated to Third World clinics and hospitals.

Adopt-A-Mission: Your donation of \$500+ adopts an entire mission project, enabling CrossLink to purchase necessary medicines and supplies to treat those in need.

Vessels of Hope: You or your church can provide essential equipment and resources to struggling hospitals by funding ocean-containerized shipping. A gift of \$2500 - \$5000 will purchase a 20' or 40' container for CrossLink to fill with medical resources.

CrossLink Partners: The needs are tremendous! There is so much more that CrossLink International can do with your help. Placing CrossLink in your mission giving enables the ministry to supply tools of healing and open doors for the Gospel of Jesus Christ to be presented to a desperate world.

“In as much as you have done it unto one of the least of these, my brother, you have done it unto me.” Matthew 25: 40

“What is so unique to our center is that the land is dedicated to Jesus Christ...”

“It is a privilege to partner with God in this movement. Thank you CrossLink for helping...”

Mercy, cont.

dehydrated that a suitable vein could not be found for an I.V. drip. One of the doctors devised an emergency procedure and saline solution was introduced immediately into the baby's body. Within fifteen minutes the child's gray parched lips changed to pink and the child began to be more responsive. Had the team not moved quickly, the infant would have died that day.

The evangelization team presented Scriptural skits for children, adolescents and adults. In the clinic one room was dedicated for prayer healing. An 81-year old member of the team has an unusual gift. Traveling all around the world, Reese Hurley prays with patients for voluntary spiritual healing. A number of students participating in the prayer room were able to see marked change in those patients that came for prayer.

Jocelyn Bell, President of Mercy Center Foundation USA, was with the team. She commented, “As volunteers to the Mercy Center, both in Washington and in Kenya, we experience God's power on a regular basis. What is so unique to our center is that the land is dedicated to Jesus Christ... We have experienced in our own lives God's miraculous hand in people and events that surround this mission. The blessings that we have received as volunteers keep all of us moving relentlessly to fulfill the mission and vision that God has set before us. Thank you, CrossLink, for helping us carry out God's work.”



Reese Hurley with Sister Rose.



Bringing Hope to the Poor

(All names and references have been omitted for safety reasons.)

The generous donation of medicines from CrossLink International has touched the lives of some of the most neglected persons in our world in a small town of nomadic people. The medical clinic was established to serve the poor in this land where men and women live a “hand to mouth” existence.

Although it is not without difficulty Christian medical volunteers play a significant role in the work of this clinic. They continue to volunteer their medical and logistical abilities to conduct health clinics for these suffering people.

Thanks to medicines donated by CrossLink for a recent medical trip, the clinic was able to treat 250 patients, primarily women and children. Among the conditions treated were asthma, upper respiratory infections, hypertension, diabetes and various heart conditions. Also seen were a number of pregnant women and disabled children

This community is thrilled for the simple gift of Tylenol for their children. They live in harsh conditions and are frequently subject to viruses and secondary infections. Before the arrival of the medical clinic, antibiotics were simply out of their reach economically. Being connected to this clinic has taken an edge off the harshness of their lives, and they are grateful. So are the medical volunteers!

The medical teams are convinced that God is moving in the community. Working with the women and their families, the teams have seen folks who previously were resigned to their lot in life find hope for a better future. The teams say, “It is a privilege to be a partner with God in this movement. Thank you CrossLink for helping make that possible. Pray for these people that they may come to know God's love.”

Dan Watkins Servant Leadership Award

Named after the first Executive Director of CrossLink International, the Dan Watkins Servant Leadership Award is presented each year to a member of the Baptist Medical Dental Fellowship exemplifying that special quality of leadership.

The 2006 award was given to Dr. Walter Cooper Sandusky, Jr., a Memphis orthodontist.

Dr. Sandusky was born in Holly Springs, Mississippi. He did his undergraduate work at the University of Mississippi, and received his D.D.S. degree from the University of Tennessee School of Dentistry.

Dr. Sandusky continues to practice orthodontia with his son, Dr. Cooper Sandusky, in Memphis, and serves as a professor of orthodontics at the Graduate Orthodontic Department of the University of Tennessee. He has been a member of that faculty continuously since 1951.



Dr. Walter Cooper Sandusky with his wife, Lois, accepts the Dan Watkins Servant Leadership Award

Dr. Sandusky has called the First Baptist Church of Memphis, TN, his home church since 1951. He has served as a teacher, a deacon, a choir member and as chairman of various committees. Recently Dr. Sandusky and his wife, Lois, have been active in the start up of the CrossLink Memphis office.

But Dr. Sandusky's biggest passion is for missions. Once or twice a year he dons his safari hat and heads off to foreign lands to assist medical mission teams. Throughout the years he has served in Venezuela, Cuba, Nicaragua, The Dominican Republic, Romania, Ukraine and Ladakh, India in the Himalayas.

He has made six mission trips to Ladakh; the first and most difficult was in 1993 when his team hiked the Markha Trail, some 80 miles to the villages of Markha and Hankow. Dr. Sandusky ascended a 17,000 foot pass on his way to the mission site and another pass of 18,300 ft before returning -- quite a feat for someone in his seventh decade!

Dr. Sandusky's love for people and his desire to share God's love for them, pushes him to continually be on mission. He and his wife, Lois, are constantly reaching out and giving of themselves so that others might know His love.

CrossLink International is delighted to present the Dan Watkins Award to this very special servant.



“But Dr. Sandusky's biggest passion is for missions.”

The Band Aid Ball Goes to Africa



Drums of Africa welcomes guests to the Band Aid Ball.

The drums of Africa greeted guests as they filled the ballroom of the Fairview Park Marriott to celebrate the Band Aid Ball Goes to Africa. Surrounded by beautiful African textiles, carvings and plants, 320 friends bid on an array of silent auction gifts before dinner.

Fred Barnes of Fox News Channel welcomed the guests, and encouraged them to be supportive of the ministry of CrossLink. As dinner was served, the room was filled with the beautiful music of Danielle Westphal and her trio.

Executive Director, Linda Cook, shared with the audience about the beauty, but also the poverty of Africa. She talked about the great need for physical and spiritual help on that continent, sharing stories of individuals aided by the work of CrossLink. In addition, she stated that we are so blessed to live in this country and that it is time we go about the business of caring about the physical and spiritual needs of our brothers and sisters around the world.



Fred Barnes of Fox News emceed the Band Aid Ball.

Honored at the Band Aid Ball were three donors whose contributions assisted CrossLink in the rebuilding and refurbishing of the Hancock Medical Center in Kiln, Mississippi. Executive Director Cook presented Mrs. Hubert N. Hoffman, Mr. & Mrs. Herbert N. Morgan, and the INOVA Health System Foundation with crystal globes. A plaque was displayed that will be sent to the clinic for permanent exhibit honoring these individuals.

The ballroom then became a sea of beautiful colors as fashions from Africa were modeled. Many guests for the evening wore outfits designed by African American designer, Falika, demonstrating the color and vibrancy of the African continent. All of a sudden drums could be heard once again as Soul in Motion Players brought their authentic and dynamic African drumming and dancing to close out the evening.

The Band Aid Ball Goes to Africa raised more than \$153,000 to assist CrossLink International with its delivery of medical resources to the "forgotten" of our world. It could not have been done without the help of many people, especially the Band Aid Ball Committee. CrossLink International wishes to thank each and every person that made this event so successful.*



Accepting awards were: Mrs. Charlotte Benjamin for Mrs. Hubert N. Hoffman, Rev. Neal Jones for Mr. & Mrs. Herbert N. Morgan, and Mr. John Fay, Chairman of the INOVA Health System Foundation.



Falika's Fashions

* If you would like to help with next year's Band Aid Ball, please contact the CrossLink International office at 703-534-5465 or info@crosslinkinternational.net.

Thank you!

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Thank you to each and every individual/group that donated items for our Band Aid Ball Silent Auction.

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Scenes from the Band Aid Ball Silent Auction



Soul in Motion Players

