

August 2004

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United Way-CFC
#8295



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

Perhaps!

Summer in the Washington, DC area has been a bit unusual this year. Normally it is hot and humid. Rapidly moving, fierce thunderstorms usually hit late in the afternoon, snarling the already gridlocked traffic with heavy downpours and streaks of lightning.

This summer has seen temperatures below normal and far less humid. There has been some rain, but not the typical pattern.

What has been typical about summertime for CrossLink, as with all non-profits, is the seasonal decrease in giving. People are thinking about trips to the beach or the mountains – opportunities to get away from the normal pace of life.

What we ask you to remember is that the physical and spiritual needs of men, women and children in places such as Afghanistan, Nicaragua, Haiti and the Sudan exist regardless of the season, and CrossLink is committed to helping them.

The end of summer and the end of CrossLink's fiscal year are close together. As we finish up this fiscal year:

perhaps you would be willing to send a special gift.
perhaps you would be willing to support CrossLink on a monthly basis
perhaps your employer would match your donation, thereby doubling your gift
perhaps your church would be willing to add CrossLink to its mission budget

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you have given recently, we thank you.

One thing is for sure, there is no "perhaps" about the fact that your gifts will be used to heal in the name of Jesus.

Linda Cook



The Best Vacation She Ever Had

(The Kaihara family, father Gary – a dentist, mother Shelly – a hygienist, and their three children, Cameron, Jordan and Tyler, traveled to Nicaragua to work in a small town 3 hours northeast of Managua. They were able to minister to more than 100 villagers, but the trip had a lasting impact on their children. — It is never too early to begin involvement in Christian mission work.)

“Our children were the greatest testimony of the heart of the mission.”

“It was wonderful to see God’s plan for our trip. Everything just fell into place. We were able to serve more than 100 patients even though we had antiquated equipment, no water or suction, and old dental chairs. The people were so thankful and we were the ones walking away feeling blessed. The only thing that made our hearts heavy was the fact that so many came forward to have teeth fixed and we were incapable of doing so. The villagers were amazing in spirit and patience.

“A great thing happened to my eldest son last summer. At the last minute while packing we decided to take his old jerseys, hats and cleats to Jinotega. We also packed two suit cases of tennis balls. *(We live behind tennis courts and have buckets of them!)* When the patients were being given their injections, we would give them a tennis ball to squeeze. Most of the villagers had never had anesthesia before and it was frightening for all.

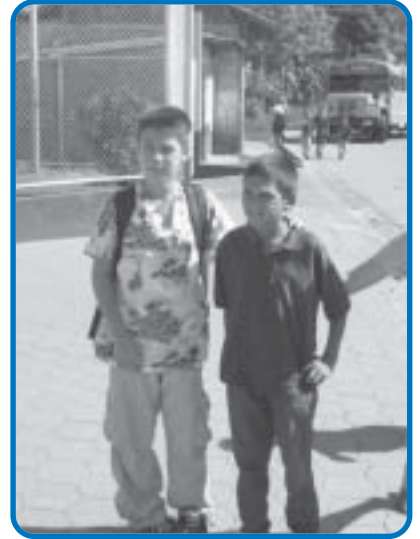
“One little boy, Alex, came in to be injected because he wanted a tennis ball. When he found out we weren’t going to inject him he was truly disappointed. He just sat there. He got the ball anyway, but, Cameron, my son, really connected with him. He asked me if he could give Alex a baseball hat. Alex was thrilled. Cameron also felt sorry for him because he had no shoes.

“The next day Alex shows up at the clinic again. He is sporting a pair of shoes with the toes cut out and his buddy has the baseball hat on! You don’t have to say a word to your children on how blessed they are – they just get it!!

“Our children were the greatest testimony of the heart of the mission. We needed them to be the assistants. We had no one else, and they rose to the challenge. They truly enjoyed helping others and my daughter said it was the best vacation she has ever had.

“It is just awesome to see what can be done with the support of people and the love of the Lord. It is amazing to see so many people supporting these missions and spreading God’s love. We hope we are creating a foundation for our children. You never know what the Lord has put on their hearts.”

“Don’t forget to be kind to strangers. For some who have done this have entertained angels without realizing it.” Hebrews 13:2.



Cameron Kaihara and “Alex”.



Waiting to see the dentist.



They Know Now That Christians Care

CrossLink International began in 1993 as a mission project of a Sunday school class through a sister relationship with Central Baptist Church in Moscow, Russia, and Columbia Baptist Church in Falls Church, VA. At that time, Dr. Vasili Logvinenko was pastor of the Central Baptist Church. Now residing in Odessa, Ukraine, Dr. Logvinenko has continued a wonderful relationship with John & K.J. Proctor from Columbia Baptist.

In preparation for a visit the Proctors asked CrossLink to provide some special medical supplies for Dr. Yura Oceptchuck, Dr. Logvinenko's grandson by marriage. A dedicated Christian, Dr. Oceptchuck had asked for items that were needed in the hospital where he works – items such as bandages, blood pressure cuffs, and sutures – mainly “basics.”

Packing the boxes for Dr. Oceptchuck and countless other recipients of CrossLink medical supplies, it is sometimes hard to understand why the requests are for such “**ordinary**” items. Our Western mentality leads us to believe that the need should be for more and more sophisticated diagnostic tools and equipment. But listen to Yura as he shares his heart.

“I cannot begin to say in words what the gift of supplies means to my heart, and to my patients. They mean a chance to live. For my patients the Prolene mesh and vicryl sutures are life. This mesh does not allow infection to move from one area of the stomach to the liver or kidneys. People heal faster.

“It may sound odd to people in the West, but I am very happy to see the pediatric BP cuffs. We have many young children brought to us with childhood disease and we have to try to use an adult cuff on them. On a ward of 38 patients, we have **one** BP cuff that is so old it can take up to **5 minutes to inflate** and take a reading. When a patient is in crisis or arrest this can mean life or death. This sounds so simple, but to a patient it is an unbelievable gift.”



K.J. looking over the supplies.

Yura works in a government-sponsored hospital in Odessa. Because of him, ministers and deacons from his church are allowed to go into this state-owned hospital and have Bible study, prayer groups and Christian music one afternoon a week. Because of these precious medical resources, another witness has been shown not only to his patients, but also his colleagues.

“As a Christian doctor I can say these gifts are a testimony to the other doctors at the hospital. When they see these precious items that we desperately need given to us, it teaches them an important lesson. **They now know that Christians around the world do care about them and are praying for them.**”



K.J. Proctor, Dr. Yura Oceptchuck, Dr. Vasili Logvinenko & Dr. John Proctor.

“...but to a patient it is an unbelievable gift.”





The DOMINION B r a s s

In the beautiful sanctuary of The Falls Church Episcopal, the Dominion Brass will present a concert for the benefit of CrossLink International on Saturday, September 25th, at 7:30 pm.

The Dominion Brass, a music ministry in the Washington, D.C. area, seeks to bring praise to God through music. An ensemble of professional and highly skilled amateur musicians use their concerts of classical, jazz and worship music to bring glory to God and to help those in need.

This group presents a wonderfully varied and exciting program. In past concerts, they have featured original works by members of the group.

The concert is free, but an offering will be taken that evening for the benefit of CrossLink International.

The Falls Church Episcopal is located at 115 East Fairfax Street, Falls Church, Virginia 22046. For more information, please contact CrossLink International.

“the band aid ball” at Work



In March CrossLink held its first annual ***“band aid ball”*** in order to raise funds to help with the purchase of medicines and supplies that are not donated to the ministry, and to assist with overseas shipping costs. It is the desire of the ministry to keep you up to date on the countries that are being aided by these funds.

Medicines Purchased

<u>Country</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Retail Value</u>
Sudan	\$351	\$4,740
Nicaragua	\$510	\$2,718
Philippines	\$415	\$4,880
Bolivia	\$129	\$2,596
Ghana	\$166	\$2,202
Cuba	\$100	\$1,334
India	\$102	\$ 834

Shipping

Afghanistan \$98 to ship donated supplies valued at \$6,310

We want to thank everyone that supported ***“the band aid ball.”*** As you can see your contributions are helping to send critically needed medical supplies around the world.

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

I / We are pleased to partner with CrossLink International in the following way:

1. Enclosed is our gift of \$50 \$100 \$200 \$500 \$1,000 Other \$ _____
2. We pledge a yearly gift of \$ _____ to be paid \$ _____ monthly or \$ _____ quarterly.
3. Our firm/medical facility/professional practice will provide donated goods and/or medicines. Please contact me.
4. Our church will partner with CrossLink. Please contact me.
5. We want to participate in the "Adopt-A-Mission" program. Please contact me.
6. We want to participate in the Over-The-Counter (OTC) program. Please contact me.
7. We are interested in volunteer opportunities. Please contact me.

Name (s) _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Home Phone _____ FAX _____ E-mail _____

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.

The Difference

(At a recent medical missions meeting representatives of The Medical Centers of West Africa in Cameroon stopped by the CrossLink booth. They shared the story of their ministry and pressing need for surgical supplies. CrossLink donated items to the medical center. They sent us a thank you with the following story. You need to hear it.)

"The man came from a mountain village on the border with Nigeria two weeks after a serious accident in his mill. His right leg had been broken both above the knee and below as well as other serious injuries. He had been first taken to a hospital in Nigeria and when he finally got here his right foot was dead from gangrene and he had gas gangrene in his leg right up to his groin. He was a mess.

"We took him to the operating theatre and I amputated his whole leg from the hip. We dressed his wounds. We prayed. Day by day we saw him slowly getting better. Intravenous antibiotics, sitz baths and dressings – three times a day. And prayer.

"Last Friday he went home – a very different man from the one who came. And the difference was not simply that his body had been healed. No – his soul had been healed as well. He came here a non-believer. He left knowing the Lord."

***"...the
difference
was not
simply that
his body had
been healed."***





CrossLink International
427 North Maple Avenue

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

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NEWS BRIEFS



Thank You!

Listed below are some of the hospitals and groups that help support CrossLink International through the donation of medical supplies and equipment. We are very grateful for their generosity.

Apria
Caldwell General Hospital, KY
Carroll County General Hospital, MD
Falcon's Landing Social Services
Food for Others
Georgetown University Hospital
George Washington University Hospital
HCA Reston Hospital INOVA Fairfax
Holy Cross Hospital
Hospice of Northern Virginia
INOVA Alexandria Hospital
INOVA Fairfax Hospital

INOVA Fair Lakes Hospital
INOVA Mt. Vernon Hospital
Kaiser Permanente
Montgomery General Hospital
Northern Virginia Doctor's Hospital
Northern Virginia Heart Association
Red Cross
Sedona
Sunrise Assisted Living
Virginia Hospital Center – Arlington
Woodburn Surgical Center

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