



# the LINK

Connecting to Medical Missions

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF CROSSLINK INTERNATIONAL ❖ AUTUMN 2010

## From the Executive Director

Sometimes, I am amazed at who God sends through our doors. Deliverymen bringing medicines regularly, and daily, the UPS man picks up outgoing project orders. Staff, visitors, and volunteers are in and out each day, and those wanting to donate money, equipment, or supplies come by most every week.

Just the other morning, a pastor from Liberia stopped by. He is here in the States for a few months, hoping to raise support for his church and community as they struggle for food, employment and health care. So much of the world has so little. I was sad that I couldn't offer him the funding he was seeking. But we shared what the Lord is doing, and we prayed together for guidance, protection and God's blessings.

*You, God, created everything, and it is for your pleasure that they exist and were created. Revelation 4.11*

Someday, in the not too distant future, we'll all be together with all the saints rejoicing in the glory of God! "What a day of rejoicing that will be!" Until then, so that their needs may be met, pray for those who are in want, and give as you are able.

## A Snapshot of Serving in Sudan

Sudan has been full of political, religious, and spiritual conflict, suffering through approximately a half century of civil wars: the North versus the South, Muslims against Christians, and militants against cattle herders.

Our group headed to Werkok in southern Sudan, a short distance from the Nile River. In the dry season, the drive is about 30 minutes, but on post-rain days, where deep sucking mud holes have been created, the drive can take up to two hours. It was hot and muggy.

The Memorial Christian Hospital (MCH) and compound in Werkok have been works-in-progress since construction began in 2006. The main building is approximately 3000 sq. ft. of concrete foundation with walls of corrugated aluminum and a veranda used as a patient waiting area. Two operating theaters are planned with one now running. Two huge containers serve as storage areas. Overall, this is one of the cleanest hospitals I've ever seen in the developing world.

The compound is surrounded by wire fencing to keep out predators, man and animal alike, though I doubt that during a raid the barrier would be very difficult to penetrate. It is definitely not impervious to the scorpions and baby snakes that invade some of the buildings on a daily basis. The air invasion by flying insects, including mosquitoes grown from the recent rains, biting flies, mud wasps and beetles, as well as bats are a constant nuisance.

Dr. Ajak is the sole physician at MCH. He enlisted at the age of nine-and-a-half as a soldier in the Sudan People's Liberation Army. Years later, he was sent to Cuba to train, but found Christ while there. Fidel Castro deported him and 650 other Sudanese boys to Canada instead of sending them back to Sudan, where they probably would have faced death at the hands of the northern militia. After earning his medical degree in Canada, Dr. Ajak later returned to Sudan to help rebuild the country.

Raised as a Muslim, Peter Kuchkon was jailed when he gave his life to Jesus. His wife was given to another man, and his child was sent elsewhere, probably into

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## The Miracle of the Fish Net

This report is from Baptist International Missions about a trip to Cote d'Ivoire.

Nikeze brought his wife Michele to the clinic for a check up on her pregnancy. While waiting, Nikeze revealed some of the difficulties he had been having. Recently, there had been some deaths in his family, he had lost his job as a fisherman, and he was feeling depressed. We were able to share the Gospel with him that day, and, in the weeks following, we often saw him at our church. One Sunday, his wife Michele accepted Christ.



As she began nearing her delivery date, Michele asked if we would pray with her that she might deliver her baby in the hospital in town, rather than in their village hut. She did not know how this could happen as Nikeze was still without a job. So, we prayed.

A few days later, an older man asked Nikeze if he could buy a fishing net from him. Nikeze replied that he didn't have one. Subsequently, while out walking, Nikeze found a fishing net lying in some tall grass. He was able to sell it for \$20.

It was then possible for Michele to have her baby (a little boy named Wyliss) in the hospital. Her faith brought Nikeze to salvation on the day of the delivery—Of course, it was the Lord who planted the fishing net in the grass!



## Ready to Go Again

MHSAA-Atlantic Chapter reports on a trip to the Philippines.

Working in a local school, we checked patients for diabetes, high blood pressure, heart problems, high cholesterol, pediatric and geriatric concerns, malnourishment and dental needs. The medical resources from CrossLink enabled us to reach out to impoverished residents who otherwise would not have been able to receive much-needed health care. By providing these services we were able to share the Gospel and touch the lives of the poor.

God intervened on our behalf by sending us many volunteers and supporters to help us help others. The few doctors, nurses, dentists and other health professionals in the area came to assist us with the large number of patients. People were happier and healthier after getting

the help they needed, showing the spiritual intervention that took place via our medical work.

Families with young children came to us hopeful of being helped, and came out smiling and very thankful. One mother came with a list of medications and vitamins that she and her young child needed. We were able to give her all the vitamins she requested and two of the four medicines she needed, and she left with a grateful smile on her face.

Our mission concluded Easter week. After we saw the last patient, everyone on our team and all the local volunteers said they wanted to help again in future medical missions. It was a fulfilling experience for all. That Monday after Holy Week, people were still so much in the Easter mood!

## Linked in with Memphis

Dr. David C. Lewis, CrossLink's Regional Director—Memphis, writes:

We at CrossLink—Memphis are excited about the growth in numbers we have seen, both in the groups using our services and in volunteers. We are amazed by so many who generously give of their time and talents for the good of persons they may never meet. The task seems overwhelming and the need impossible to meet, but the miracle of it all is how our absolute dependence on God necessary to succeed. A ministry we can do on our own would be ordinary and unrewarding; those that truly glorify God require our dependence on Him to succeed.

Last month, we had nearly 200 attendees at an new fundraiser, our first annual Ladies Luncheon and Fashion Show. Bellevue Baptist Church provided the facility, and Coldwater Creek supplied the outfits. Thanks to so many who came, who served as models, who presented information about their ministries, and to all who worked behind the scenes to help make this a success. Thank you!

Now, our attention shifts to our second annual CrossLink Invitational Golf Classic. The tournament

is Monday, October 4, 2010, once again at the Germantown Country Club. If you are in the Memphis area, come join us and enjoy the day. It should prove to be a wonderful event again this year. To register to play or to be a sponsor, or for more information, please contact Jan Lewis or Alicia Hahn in the Memphis office at 901-323-8477. You can download a copy of the information brochure by following the link on the CrossLink International website at [www.crosslinkinternational.net](http://www.crosslinkinternational.net).

Finally, during these strained economic times, we continue to give thanks for the growing support we receive from so many. We are very grateful to all of you. But most of all, we ask that you join with us in prayer as we meet the challenges before us. Your ongoing and increased financial support is vital for our continued work, and especially as we grow, will allow us to expand into a larger space. We believe God has led us to a potential future home for CrossLink-Memphis, and so now we are praying that God will provide a donor who will help make this possible. Having a larger space will allow CrossLink—Memphis to provide even more supplies to serve the least, the last, and the lost of the world. Please join us as we pray for God's guidance.

Coming this fall. . .

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SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 2011

Hilton McLean Tysons Corner

Elegant dinner with live and silent auctions!

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slavery. Multiple attempts to kill him have been thwarted. For example, Peter was put into a weighted burlap bag to be thrown in the river to drown, but he escaped. Another time, he was confined in a container, but he lived. He is now living in Werkok working as a preacher, Bible teacher, and translator for the hospital.

By faith and conviction, Dr. Ajak returned to Sudan as a physician to help his country. Hopefully, people in southern Sudan flock to MCH seeking medical care, hearing of the Christian workers there. Meeting deep spiritual needs, Peter Kuchkon brings to the people of Werkok the peace and security of knowing Jesus Christ. Our group came with needed medical supplies and medicines to help as we could. There is still so much to do! Pray for the people of Sudan!





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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



## Summer Blessing of Help

Summertime often brings blessings to CrossLink through church youth groups who arrive to learn about our mission and to lend a hand. This summer has been no exception. McLean Presbyterian, Vienna Presbyterian, St. Andrew Lutheran of Centreville, and Columbia Baptist (all of Virginia) each brought very active and willing teams of young people. They toured the warehouse, processed medicines, sorted medical supplies, and had fun as they experienced the joy of sharing time and talent at a mission project. Some of the groups this summer served at the Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center in Arlington, our partners in equipping mission teams with glasses.

Even more groups are scheduled to volunteer over the next few months, some of which will be having

over-the-counter drives for supplies prior to their arrival. Currently, CrossLink is low on some of the most basic of supplies (band aids, toothbrushes, toothpaste, pain medicine, and antihistamines) so, these drives are tremendous blessings. We send a huge thanks to all the youth leaders who organized groups!

Additionally, CrossLink is seeking volunteers for some special needs at our headquarters. We are looking for Reception Desk help on Tuesdays and Fridays and for a few more adults to help us process medicine donations on Tuesday evenings. If you would like some details about these opportunities to serve, please call Ruth Anderson at 703-534-5465 or email [Ruth@crosslinkinternational.net](mailto:Ruth@crosslinkinternational.net).

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