

December 2003



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

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The Spirit of Giving Executive Director's Corner...

Recently I have been doing some reading on "the body of Christ". Of particular interest to me has been what I believe is the task of those of Christians – the task of being sent out to minister.

According to New Testament Greek the word "apostle" means "one who is sent out". As apostles we should be ready and willing to be sent out wherever He calls, whether it is behind a desk in an American office, or across the seas in developing countries. Our job is to reach out and to share the gift of His love. John 20:21 says, "As the Father has sent me, so send I you."

I think it is easier at this time of the year to think about this task – giving/ministering to others. This is the season of giving. But should it not be a lifestyle? Shouldn't the spirit of giving be something that permeates our lives constantly? He has given us so much – everything, in fact. Why are we often so reluctant to give it back?

Many of us think we have nothing to give. But the Father has blessed us each with special gifts – gifts that can be used to touch lives.

I'm helping with the Christmas music at church. It is a musical about a group of homeless people that minister to a young runaway. In one scene the homeless folks are taking on the parts of the Nativity. The leader of the group tells a young man playing the part of a Magi to go find something he can use for a gift. The young man replies, "I got zip, nada, nothing." "You got you," the leader says. "Give him yourself."¹ That's our task – to give of ourselves.

This issue of our newsletter shares how ordinary people have given of themselves to share His love.

What is your gift?

Linda Cook



¹ "Room in the Inn" by Ragan Courtney, pg. 61

Pignon, Haiti: Each of Us Had a Special Way to Contribute

by Bruce Geoffrion

CrossLink Operations Manger

For several years now members of my church have partnered with another area church to help Hospital Bienfaisance in Pignon, Haiti, a hospital serving about 15,000 Haitians. People from all walks of life have brought their talents together to assist the work headed by Dr. Guy Theodore. A very special man, Dr. Theodore carries out the work of this hospital that serves about 15,000 people from the town and the surrounding area.

When asked to be a part of this trip, I really felt it was a special opportunity for me. This medical mission team is very close to my heart. You see, I feel the Lord blesses us all with certain talents. How we choose to use these talents plays a large role in how we live our lives. Some people are always too busy to use the skills and abilities they have. Others find countless ways to put their God-given gifts to work in unique ways.

This particular team consisted of a shock-trauma surgeon and his wife, a retired airline pilot and his wife, a pastor, an engineer, a consultant, a photographer, an OR nurse, an insurance executive, a CPA, a police officer and me. Each of us had a special way to contribute to the success of the mission that was to provide a witness of God's love as we addressed the medical needs of the Haitian people.



Bruce teaching Hospital Bienfaisance staff.

My background is in materials management. For years I had worked in retail, managing hardware stores. After that, I spent several years as a materials manager in a hospital. The acquisition, sorting, boxing and shipping of medical supplies makes sense to me. I have discovered, through God's grace, that this is my talent, and it is my privilege to do this as my daily job at CrossLink International. Little did I know how God planned to use these skills.

I had been to Pignon for a short trip in May. While there I saw so many ways that better inventory storage and control could ease the jobs of the doctors, nurses, and technicians working in this clinic. That was my responsibility on this team. While others ministered to patients, helped develop the pharmacy, worked on the new water filtration system, or visited orphanages, I taught the staff how to warehouse and inventory their supplies. We talked about ways to organize their storage areas and OR so that needed materials could be readily accessible for a patient's need. And, the staff bought into these concepts. They could see how this could help them better serve their patients.

God gave me a skill and an opportunity to use it. I'm sure the people of Pignon appreciated our work, but I know we are the ones that benefited most.

“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure pressed down, shaken together and running over will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

Luke 6:39 (NIV)

“You see, I feel the Lord blesses us all with certain talents.”



“Little did I know how God planned to use these skills.”

Adopt-a-Mission – The Gift That Keeps on Giving

(Earlier we featured an article about Alma Lively, the great-grandmother with a heart for missions. She donated \$500 to CrossLink's Adopt-A-Mission program, enabling us to provide medicines for a very poor area of the Philippines. The following letter was received recently and shares how many lives were touched by the "giving" heart of this mission-minded lady, and how her giving has encouraged others to "give back" to their community.)

Dear Friends at CrossLink,

Greetings in the Lord from Cotabato City!

I received some couple of months back your February edition of CrossLink International through a friend in the States. It is through her that our mission to the Manobo People of Kulaman connected with CrossLink.

Our community was touched by the heart –warming story of Alma Lively and how her generosity is directly helping the people of our little mission in the mountains of Kulaman.

The medicines that Alma's gift purchased, were hand delivered to our Central House in Manila, then sent by plane to Cotabato City and by jeep to our Kulaman Mission! That box had quite a story to tell because our part of the country was in a state of emergency at the time. The good Lord was with us as we made the journey of some 200 km. through rebel-held territory to the relative safety of Kulaman.

What happiness that box brought! The people there are very poor and lack so much. It was great to have the **right kind** of medications. Thank you for this.

The people we work with are an extremely poor and dispossessed indigenous group, the Dulangan Manobo people. Only eight of the tribe (some 40,000 in all) have so far made it to college because this is the first generation having access to formal education. Thanks

to the goodness of people around the world, we are able to sponsor students for formal education. (The parents of these children have an average income US \$90 per year for a family averaging 6.)

Our first student of education and another young woman in her first year in the College of Health Sciences are both strongly motivated to help their own people. Both read Alma's story and were amazed and deeply moved by the **witness** of such a remarkable woman. That she would be 91 (*now 92*) was almost beyond belief!

May the blessing of God continue to enrich you and all those who participate...



Mrs. Lively and scenes from Kulaman.

Editors Note: With the \$500 Mrs. Lively donated CrossLink was able to purchase almost \$15,000 of critically needed medicines.

“It was great to have the right kind of medications.”



“Both read Alma’s story and were amazed and deeply moved by the witness of such a remarkable woman”

A Message from the Chairman of the Board

“...the most satisfying thing for me is to give what the Lord lays on my heart in His name...”

When someone asks you why do you give to CrossLink what is your response?

When I first started volunteering for CrossLink it was a church mission project and my heart was in doing mission work for my church. As I remember, the projects were for our sister church in Moscow, Russia. The first container we shipped was similar to what CrossLink does today. The contents for the next three or four containers we shipped to Moscow were stored in what is now the tool room at my business.



As the ministry grew in the following years, I had a tremendous urge to be a part of it. When the stories started coming back about people that we were helping I thought, “What a privilege God has given me to be a part of this ministry.”

He has continued to bless CrossLink in many ways through the years. I'm looking forward to the coming year working with the board, staff and volunteers of CrossLink to continue the world one life at a time through Christ-like missions.

I have found the most satisfying thing for me is to give what the Lord lays on my heart in His name, and then forget about it. Start praying for the next opportunity to help build His kingdom and glorify His name. Then just wait. I can assure you another opportunity will come soon.

Jim Frank

The Mission God Has Given Us

As this newsletter goes to print, CrossLink International has accepted 307 projects since January, 2003, and completed 285. A project can range from a small box of medicines to a 40-foot container filled with supplies and equipment. Each project is individualized according to the requests of the recipient.

The projects are precious to CrossLink because they represent an opportunity to share the love of Jesus through medical missions. We estimate that in partnership with these medical teams, approximately 150,000 people will have been touched this year.

As partners, we pray for the teams. Staff members choose teams and pray for them specifically from time of their departure until they return.

We thank God for this work that He has given us. It is a privilege for all of us to be a part of His bounty.

May you be blessed during this Christmas season.



Volunteers praying over a container.

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.

How Can You Help?

You may not be a doctor, a nurse or feel that God is calling you overseas, but you still want to help. Here are some ways that you can bring hope and healing to those in need - - or perhaps you could honor a loved one at Christmas with one of these gifts.

1. **Over-the-Counter Club** – Donate over-the-counter medicines or a designated financial gift. The OTC Club is a great way to help children participate in "hands-on" missions. Brochures and information are available at CrossLink.
2. **Adopt-A-Mission** – A gift of \$500 or more enables CrossLink International to equip a medical mission team with medicines that must be purchased. Written reports and pictures of the mission are forwarded to the "adoptive" donor upon completion of the mission. Information is available from CrossLink.
3. **Clinic Packs** – A gift of \$30 will purchase a stethoscope, blood pressure machine and a digital thermometer to be given to mission clinics and doctors.
4. **Monetary Donation** – An unrestricted gift to CrossLink to help defray ministry costs.





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

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NEWS BRIEFS



A New Logo

This issue of the CrossLink International newsletter introduces a new logo for the ministry. We feel that it expresses visually the mission of CrossLink as the three-pronged cross, representing the Trinity, reaches out across the world.

Coming Attraction: New Website

CrossLink will be introducing a new website soon. If you would like to see what is “under construction”, go to the present website at www.crosslinkinternational.net. At the end of the phrase, “Welcome to CrossLink.” click on the dot. Thanks to Dave Yarbrough for his work on our site.

CrossLink Banquet - Save the Date!

Mark your calendars for our upcoming banquet, March 20, 2003, at the Fair Lakes Hyatt Regency in Northern Virginia.

Email Blasts

If you are interested in email updates and information from CrossLink, please forward your information to info@crosslinkinternational.net. Thanks to those that have already replied.

Welcome New Board Members

CrossLink International introduced two new members to its Board of Directors at a luncheon on Sunday, October 26th, honoring retiring and incoming members. New members on the Board are Glenn Letham, a lawyer recently retired from private practice, and Gary Wagner, Vice-President of INOVA Health Systems. We welcome them to the Board.

Our deepest thanks go to retiring members, James Cole, Terry Havens and Dr. Winford Hendrix. We greatly appreciate the work they have done as members of the Board of Directors.

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