

December 2005

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#8295



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

The Giving Becomes the Gift

Giving is interesting. Sometimes we do it out of guilt. Time and again it's because we are expected to do it. Often we give what is easiest, most convenient and painless.

But I don't think convenience and lack of pain is what giving is all about! Words such as "intentional," "sacrificial" and "without fanfare" come to my mind.

In the Gospel of Mark we read about the widow that came to the temple with her offering. Many people gave large amounts of money; she gave a few coins. But those few coins were **all** that she had – a sacrifice of unbelievable proportions.

For nine years now I have witnessed, through CrossLink the sacrificial, intentional and quiet giving of many people in countless ways. I am awed at the men and women that hop on planes and fly to difficult places, treating and loving people they do not know and may never see again. Giving up vacations and time with their families, they live and sleep in tough conditions; eat food that often makes them sick; face political obstacles, and, at times, live in dangerous conditions. But they "give" to others out of the love of the Lord. They cannot stop going!

I've watched another style of this giving through the staff and volunteers that work here at CrossLink. They don't see the pain; the bloated stomachs; the sickly children; the hopeless faces – but they know they are there. And because of that, they make sacrifices of time and talents to share His love through medical missions.

And I've seen great love in those that have supported CrossLink. Without knowing the ones in need or even hearing their stories on a regular basis, a commitment and dedication has been made to supply healing and hope in God's name.

There is one other thing I know about giving – when it is done from the heart, it is a gift to the soul. The giving becomes a gift to the giver.

My prayer for each of us during this season is that we each receive a very special gift – the gift of giving of ourselves that others might know and love Him.

Linda Cook



Zambia Medical Mission 2005

(Recently CrossLink received a report for Star Ferguson of the Zambia Medical Mission. Her pictures and words, as presented below, captured the story of Christian medical missions.)



Zambians walked through remote, rural areas to receive medical care and treatment freely given in Jesus' name by 75 medical personnel and assistants. Families seem to appear from the 'bush' as they walk to the clinics. Thank you for helping to heal the hurt and relieve the pain for 17,145 needy Zambians.



***“Thank you
for helping to
heal the hurt
and relieve
the pain...”***

Thousands of men, women and children gather in line to register according to their medical needs. The banners were designed with symbols and words in the Tonga language to help ensure that each person who has made the journey for treatment is seen by a medical person.



The "red cross" banner is for the patients seeking wound care. The "woman" banner indicates the line for the women and children. The "tooth" is for dental care and the "eye" is for optical care. There is also a separate line for men.

Looks of complacency, anticipation and hopelessness are a few of the typical expressions we see in patients arriving for aid. Since there is a constant shortage of water, most children are covered in layers of dirt and dust and have infections and diseases which are directly related to the lack of available and pure water.



Continued on page 3.

Zambia, cont.



Diedre, a Zambian nurse, dispenses medicines prescribed by the doctor. As each medicine is distributed, communication in Tonga ensures that the patients understand what the medicine is and how it is to be taken.

A woman is shown being baptized in the portable baptistery. Hanging on the clothes line in the background are the wet baptismal garments worn by the recently baptized believers. We go to Zambia to share the good news of Jesus Christ and to strengthen the church.



*“ We go to
Zambia to
share the
good news...”*



Thank you, CrossLink International, for helping us reflect the light of Jesus to the precious, humble people of Zambia.



The Plan Came Together

Many years ago there was a rather silly TV program called “The A Team.” The members of the team were covert operators used to rescue people from difficult situations. Each team member played a special part in the effort. One of the characters always said, “I love it when a plan comes together.”



Exterior view of the clinic.

In a way, that is how we feel at CrossLink as we assist a clinic in Kiln, MS, devastated by Hurricane Katrina. We see God’s plan being worked out in amazing ways. Many groups and individuals have come together to help people in a difficult situation in His name.

The clinic was destroyed. Walls were still standing, but five feet of water does a great deal of damage. Everything was ruined, as was most of the town of Kiln. Clinic staff carefully went through cabinets and drawers filled with stagnant water, watching for snakes and other lurking dangers.

A generous CrossLink donor wanted to do something to help Katrina victims. When she learned of this clinic, she responded immediately, funding the rebuilding of this healthcare facility – a facility that was meeting critical medical needs in the community.

Soon work began. The sheet rock was torn out; decontamination procedures were completed; new sheet rock was added; and the final touches on the construction were completed Thanksgiving week.

Knowing that this clinic had been rebuilt was a real blessing. But God had a bigger plan. A local Virginia hospital that partners with CrossLink heard about the project. Hospital employees had raised funds for Katrina victims and gave a substantial financial donation to refurbish the clinic. Another donor read about this effort in the CrossLink newsletter and contributed generously to help.

Priority lists of needs were obtained. Hospitals, clinics, doctor’s offices, churches and individuals were contacted regarding in-kind donations. Purchases of new office and medical equipment were made, and before long the warehouses of both CrossLink offices were filling up with precious cargo for the Kiln clinic.

As CrossLink prepared the goods for shipping one more part of the plan “came together.” A Virginia moving and storage company volunteered to take this special cargo to Kiln for simply the price of gas.



Clinic debris.



With new sheetrock, the clinic begins to take shape.

In early December the trucks started rolling from Memphis and Falls Church towards Mississippi. Helping to unload the Memphis truck, the clinic administrator was beyond words. She was overcome by joy.

We have seen God’s hand at work as people from all walks of life have worked together as a part of His plan. CrossLink is just thrilled that it can be the conduit for this special gift at Christmas.

**“We have
seen God’s
hand at
work...”**

How will you help?

Please detach and return with your response to:

CrossLink International, 427 North Maple Avenue, Falls Church, VA 22046

www.crosslinkinternational.net



1. Enclosed is my gift of \$50 \$100 \$200 \$500 \$1,000 Other \$ _____
2. I/We pledge a yearly gift of \$ _____ to be paid \$ _____ monthly or \$ _____ quarterly.
3. Please send me more information about CrossLink International.
4. I/We will donate frequent flyer miles.
5. Please send more information about:
OTC Club Clinic Packs Adopt-A-Mission Vessels of Hope CrossLink Partners

Name (s) _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Home Phone _____ FAX _____ E-mail _____

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.

The Band Aid Ball Goes to Africa March 25, 2006

Mark your calendars for an elegant evening at our annual Band Aid Ball supporting CrossLink International. This year's dinner and entertainment will be March 25, at the Fairview Park Marriott in Falls Church, VA, and will feature African themes throughout the evening. The evening will begin with a reception and silent auction, progress into a fabulous meal, and conclude with special entertainment.

As you do your holiday shopping, remember to invite your merchants to contribute items for the Silent Auction, which provides a significant portion of the CrossLink International budget. Again, our committee is available to assist you with picking up merchandise, providing contribution receipts, etc. If you, or your church or civic organization would like to make a contribution, please let us know by January 10, so we can list it in the program.

If you live in the area, we encourage you to reserve a table for with your group of friends and family. Call the CrossLink International office to request Save the Date cards that you can send, or have sent on your behalf by furnishing the names and addresses. Band Aid Ball Committee members are available to assist you with promotion announcements at your church or civic group meetings in December, January, and February.



This is certain to be an evening you will not want to miss.



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

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NEWS BRIEFS



Board Member Receives Award

Carl Biggs, Vice Chairman of the CrossLink International Board, was honored by the Fairfax County Branch of the NAACP for outstanding Community Service. The award was present on October 22, 2005 at the 61st Annual Freedom Fund and Awards Banquet. We congratulate Carl and thank him for his service to his community and for all that he does for the Christian Mission of Pignon, in Haiti.

Container Shipped to the Congo

CrossLink International shipped a 40-ft container to the Democratic Republic of the Congo for the Jatukik Providence Foundation. Father Jean-Claude Atusameso, President of the Foundation blessed the container, praying that the contents would be used to help people of the Congo.

Around the Table...Around the World

What a wonderful time was had by more than two hundred ladies – and a few men – as they shared an international luncheon, shopped at a mission marketplace and learned about the work of CrossLink International. As beautiful music cascaded from the Potomack Flutes, attendees visited the marketplace to purchase items made by indigenous people groups. Lunch was served around tables individually decorated by their hostesses, and CrossLink was presented to many new friends. Our thanks to Event Chair, Amy Hammer, the table hostesses, ImpactRaisers, Nyambani, Potomack Flutes, Doug Cook Catering, Sandy Stait and all that helped plan our special day.

*Visit the CrossLink website (www.crosslinkinternational.net) to view pictures of *Around the Table...Around the World*.*