

December 2004

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#8295



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

Christmas Shopping

I love to shop for gifts for family and friends. I really don't even mind the crowds – they are a part of the experience.

I like to take time to look for that “unique” gift for each person – something that tells them they are special to me. I think about the person and their tastes – their likes and dislikes. The gift should be something that really fits them.

Believe it or not, I also enjoy wrapping the gifts. It may be midnight when I'm doing it, but it's fun as I attempt to hide the tape and make square corners. And they have to have ribbon. Oh, I'm a whiz with wired ribbon! I can really make those packages look great!

Of course as I watch my grandchildren and others open these presents, I see all that work ripped to shreds and flying all over the living room. But my hope is that as they open the box or bag or whatever container surrounds the gift, they will see that I've given great thought to their gift – that it is something I've chosen especially for them.

That's what God did when He sent his Son as a small baby. He gave us a gift chosen especially for us! Jesus didn't come wrapped in paper and ribbon – He came wrapped in love and grace and joy. He came and infused our lives with the greatest gift ever given – the gift of life with Him.

Our mission at CrossLink International is to share that special gift through medical missions. Every medicine, piece of gauze, hospital bed, wheelchair or pair of eyeglasses is given in His name, and given in the hope that the one receiving it will hear and accept His love.

It is a high privilege to know that many around the world are opening this wonderful gift all year round and that we played a part in the giving.

God bless you and your family in this Christmas season.

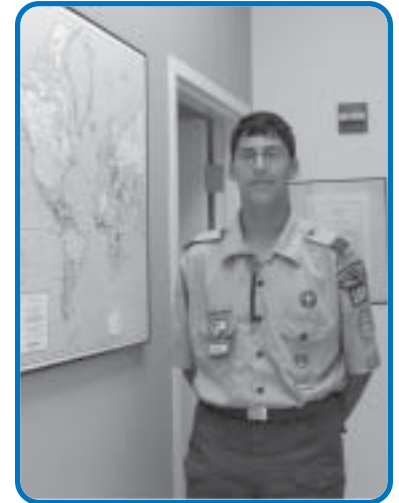
Linda Cook

A Young Man's Gift

What can a teenage boy possibly do to make a positive difference in the world? At 13, Joe Wolf was filled with purpose. He wanted to earn his Eagle Scouting badge and he wanted to put the principles he'd learned from his family, his church and scouting to work. Joe felt that in helping CrossLink he would be filling a personal mission to serve God. And he knew the wonderful feeling that only helping people can bring.

Joe's efforts on behalf of CrossLink were innovative and incredibly successful. He handed out flyers at local shopping centers and school and solicited individuals and corporations. He led other boys in his troop to work through their churches. Their combined energies filled an entire garage with crutches, canes, walkers and wheelchairs. Not only did Joe generate significant donations for CrossLink but he has also created new awareness for our mission in over 10,000 households in Fairfax County.

On one blessed day, Joe's initiative caught the attention of a Property Disposal Specialist at the Armed Forces Retirement Home. Seeing one of Joe's flyers at the Giant, this gentleman realized that CrossLink could find a good use for the excess wheelchairs and other equipment that the Army no longer needed and was planning to throw away! Joe and his father, Mike were able to collect over 60 wheelchairs, 100 pairs of crutches, 7 canes, 20 walkers, and other miscellany.



Joe Wolf -- a young man with a mission from God.



Loading the container for Honduras.

We are happy to report that Joe's "Make a Difference" project has helped him achieve his goal of becoming an Eagle Scout. At 14, Joe is a freshman at Oakton High School. He attends Southview Baptist Church in Reston, VA with his younger brother, Pete, and proud parents Mike and Jane.

The contributions that Joe generated have already made an extraordinary difference to the success of Dr. Byer's recent mission to the Honduras. But, those benefits are just the beginning. There is a multiplier effect to Joe's hard work. Joe has brought new

people to join in our mission. We have another Eagle Scout who will be working with CrossLink and we expect that Joe's efforts to build awareness for our ministry will continue to bear fruit for months and years to come. We are so glad to have had Joe as part of the CrossLink family and we expect to continue to see him accomplish great things.

"Joe felt that in helping CrossLink he would be filling a personal mission to serve God."

Giving for the Sake of Others!

Each year students from the College of Nursing and Allied Health Professions at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette provide health care, health counseling and health education to the needy of the Piedras Negras area of Mexico. The number of students attending each year increases, with more than 60 people serving on this year's team.



Children visit the Piedras Negras Clinic.

Dr. Gary Arnold, physician-director of the mission, reported, "About 4-5 months before our mission, the community of Piedras Negras suffered a devastating flood in which many people died. Many homes were destroyed and citizens displaced. As a result we saw a variety of emotional and anxiety-depressive conditions as well as many cases of fungal infections. Although not equipped to treat mental problems, we did what we could to ease their suffering and provide encouragement and a brief period of comfort for them.

"In no small measure the assistance that CrossLink has provided to us is a tremendous help in the accomplishment of our missionary work. The donations and provision of medicine that you offered to our mission this year so far exceeded our expectations that words cannot express my gratitude. I was literally stunned with excitement and humility at the sheer quantity and the quality of the medicines and supplies from CrossLink. After opening the boxes and praising God for these great gifts, I began planning all of the additional assistance we were going to be able to provide with these donations. Our efforts for these people would be significantly different without your generosity and your willingness to partner with us in carrying out the plan that God has for them.



Checking the meds.

"Each year we try to bring a new group of students with us to introduce them to the joy of medical service in another culture and to the truly most needy of God's children. We and our students come away with a sense that the people of Mexico have given us more than we have given them."



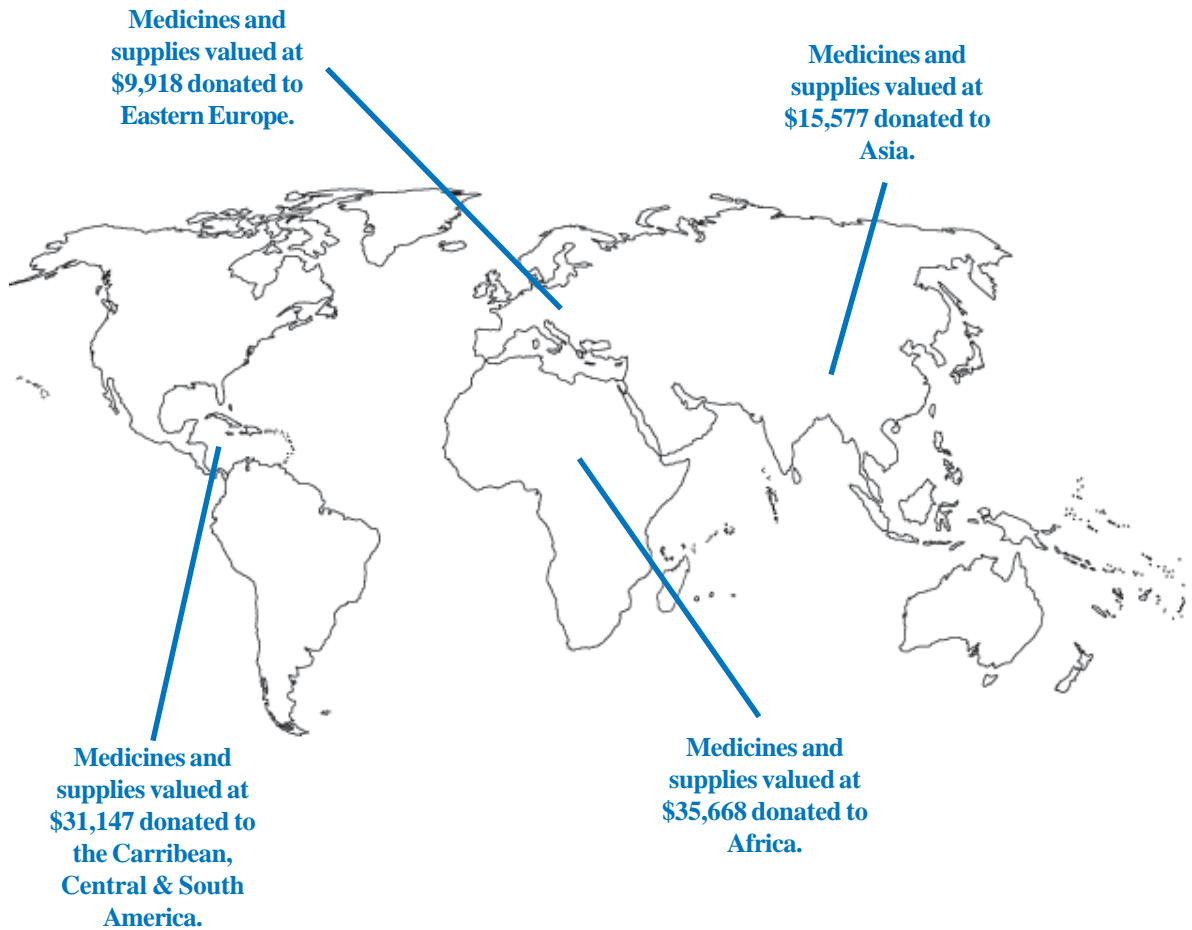
***"...the
assistance
CrossLink
has provided
us is a
tremendous
help..."***



Your “band aid ball” Money at Work



“Your ‘band aid ball’ gifts continue to bring healing and hope around the world.”



Multiply Your Gift to CrossLink

“Thank you for helping CrossLink multiply resources in one more way!”

Many companies offer programs that multiply the value of the contributions of money and time made to charitable organizations by their employees. These programs enable companies to recognize the specific interests and commitments of their employees.

The most common of these programs is the matching gift programs through which employers match donations made to charitable organizations. Often companies will make a cash contribution to organizations at which employees volunteer. Some companies have grant programs that are available only to organizations for which its employees (and or spouses) volunteer.

We are grateful to those CrossLink volunteers and donors who already multiply their gifts in this way. If you have not already explored these options, please help us by looking into these options today. Information about such programs is often found on company websites or employee handbooks, and it is always available through the corporate Human Resources Office.

Thank you for helping CrossLink multiply resources in one more way!

Will you help us be a supply chain of healing and hope?

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.

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 Gift of Sight

by D. Catherine Pate, MD

It was a very difficult week in Haiti. Patients came to the clinic thinking that the “doctor from America” would be able to work miracles. Many needed surgery—none of whom would go to the local hospitals because of financial reasons or not trusting Haitian-trained doctors. When they realized that I wasn’t a surgeon, their disappointment was visible and hard for me witness.

But my frustration was replaced with joy each day as I saw the delight on the faces of those who received glasses from our eyeglass team. We used a focometer from CrossLink International to determine what strength eyeglasses folks needed.

Each day I would hear screaming and shouting and think there must be a major emergency, only to find folks expressing their happiness because they could see – even read their Bibles again. One of the most excited people was a tailor who supports a family on his ability to thread a needle and do close work.

A girl of about 18 came to the clinic with a severe vision problem. As far as I can tell, she has congenital cataracts and a previous surgery by a Haitian doctor had left her blind in one eye. Her remaining eye had only limited vision. Using the focometer, the team found a strong enough lens, but it was for the wrong eye. Her disappointment was palpable.

Happily, team members Toby and Dan were able to “make” her a pair of glasses. Using a pair of donated glasses with flexible frames, they switched the lens to the opposite side. I think she was most thrilled to be able to read the Bible before her. All of us felt blessed to be part of giving her the precious gift of sight.



Team members use the focometer in the eyeglass clinic.



CrossLink International
427 North Maple Avenue
Falls Church, VA 22046

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

Non Profit
US Postage
PAID
Permit #2042
Merrifield, VA

Tel: 703-534-5465

Fax: 703-536-8349

info@crosslinkinternational.net

www.crosslinkinternational.net



NEWS BRIEFS



2004 Mission Efforts YTD

- 386 projects accepted
- 336 projects completed
- more than \$3 million in medical resources shipped

More Supplies to Hope Hospital in Kabul

Seventeen large packages containing emergency medical supplies have been shipped to Hope Hospital outside Kabul. Working from a list supplied by the hospital, CrossLink International prepared boxes containing bandages, catheters, gauze, exam gloves, needles, splints, sutures and other items critically needed to care for patients at the hospital.

With the success of these first deliveries, CrossLink now plans ongoing deliveries of surgical supplies and basic diagnostic tools to assist the people of Afghanistan. Donations from the public are welcome to assist in buying materials and underwriting the cost of shipment.

Containers

- 40-ft container to Bolivia for a medical-dental clinic at a Presbyterian Mission School in Santa Cruz
- 20-ft container to Kenya to be shipped in December

2nd Annual “band aid ball”

Reserve the date! CrossLink International will host it's second “**band aid ball**” on Saturday, April 9, 2005. The “ball” will be held at the Fairview Park Marriott in Falls Church, VA, and will again feature a silent auction. The proceeds from this fun event will aid CrossLink in the supply and delivery of medical resources. Plan now to attend!

