

February 2004



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

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CrossLink at Work - 2003

Beautiful Feet

Do you know that there are people that are paid because they have beautiful feet? Scan through a magazine, a newspaper or look at a television ad for products for the feet – there they are – foot models. They are chosen because they have “beautiful feet”.

Paul speaks of “beautiful feet” in Romans, although I doubt that Revlon or Dr. Scholl’s would be rushing to hire them. In Romans 10:15, Paul is quoting from Isaiah. “And how can anyone tell them without being sent by the Lord? The Scriptures say it is a beautiful sight to see even the feet of someone coming to preach the good news.” (CEV)

I’ve read this passage many times. But for some reason, it really had a new and exciting meaning for me the last time I read it.

Feet aren’t particularly beautiful. They can be rough. They can be calloused. They can have corns. They can have misshapen toes. And yet we are told that even the feet of those that bring the Good News are a sight to behold.

This past year, hundreds of feet have gone to far corners of our globe to bring that Good News. Many have shared His love through means other than the spoken word. They have bandaged wounds – washed feverish brows – performed surgery – tended to the physical needs of sisters and brothers in difficult places. They’ve done this because their faith has commanded them to go.

As our world has become increasingly more treacherous, they have walked into villages and towns in high and low places – and, it has been CrossLink International’s privilege to partner with them. Just as sandals provide the feet a way to traverse the rough and rocky roads, CrossLink provides medical tools for these doctors and nurses so that they might heal in His name.

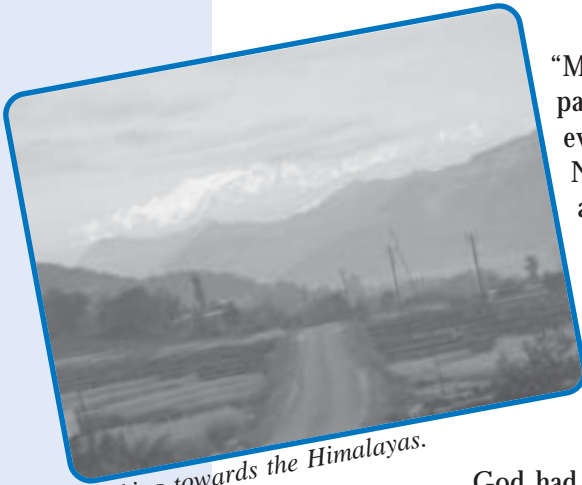
In these pages we share some “beautiful feet” stories and an overview of this work. As you read through, take a look at your own feet. How “beautiful” are they?

Linda Cook



Trekking the Mountains of Nepal

(Carl Bottorf, a nurse, recently journeyed to Nepal as a member of Bridging the World Medical Missions. His team of thirty-four volunteers worked in a remote medical camp. Many amazing things happened during this trip, but Carl shared this very touching story that follows. It is told in his own words.)



Looking towards the Himalayas.

“Many people came to our camp on the first day while we were still unpacking our supplies and trying to develop our ‘system’ for running everything. About ninety minutes after opening for operations, a young Nepali woman arrived with a three-week-old infant. It was immediately apparent that the boy was gravely ill. The mother told our volunteers through the interpreter that she had taken her son to a doctor at another clinic location miles away only to be told that the baby would soon die and that there was no hope.

“On assessment, the baby was experiencing respiratory distress, was severely dehydrated, and very weak. Medical people call this condition ‘septic shock,’ and without aggressive treatment, death is certain.

God had blessed our medical team with many highly skilled medical providers.

Many of these were summoned to provide care. The condition of the baby had deteriorated to the point that multiple attempts to start an IV were not successful. This baby needed IV fluids and antibiotics...I decided to attempt a technique called IO, or intraosseous infusion, based on my training in Advanced Pediatric Life Support. This involved driving a special needle directly into a leg bone, into the soft spongy part of the bone and allowing the infusion of the antibiotics and fluids into the system. Unfortunately, we did not have any of these special needles, but I elected to go ahead and use a large steel needle instead, in lieu of the impending outcome. The first attempt failed. I took another regular needle and began working on the left leg. This one worked, praise God. The team began to infuse fluids and antibiotics in the bone cortex. All of this care was occurring on the floor of a school classroom made of rough broken old bricks. No bright lights, no biomedical monitors, and most certainly, no existence of sterile conditions.

“Despite the successes in treatment, the condition of the baby continued to deteriorate. I asked immediately for a pastor to come in and pray for the infant. ‘Git’, a pastor, entered and immediately placed his small hands on the baby while beginning to pray fervently. Tears were streaming down his face. I could hear and see him praying, but all I knew was that this baby was dying in spite of everything that we could do for him. Soon, the baby had stopped breathing and his heart stopped. A physician began breathing into the baby’s mouth and another nurse began CPR...The mother was brought back into the room and immediately Pastor Git began praying with her...The baby was now cool to the touch, pale and non-responsive. The resuscitation



The pharmacy in the camp.

“... a pastor immediately placed his small hands on the baby while beginning to pray fervently.”



Trekking, Cont.



"Miracle baby".

approached the bottom of this formidable hill, he was coming back up the hill to meet me. Looking puzzled, he said, 'Carl, are you sure that baby was dead?' He related to me that when he got to the village, people told him that the baby was alive. When the mother got to the road while walking home, the baby began to cry. The driver of my hired van then took the baby and the mother about twenty miles into a territory controlled by the rebels and delivered them both to a rural hospital.

"That is impossible, I thought. I know when someone has died. At the same time, other medical team volunteers had been treating another small baby that was quite ill in the same room at the camp. Surely, the baby that was taken to the hospital had been confused with the dead infant. Yes, witnesses and bystanders were confused...Some of the national pastors and missionaries were starting to call this a 'miracle'. No way! I am a Christian and I should know a miracle if one had occurred...

"The next day I taught one of the national missionaries to use our digital camcorder. I instructed him to return to the hospital and to videotape the baby, including the face and legs. Soon he returned, holding the camera. He said, 'Brother Carl, it is the same baby and doing better.' I looked at the recording. It was that of a baby receiving a breathing treatment, and crying strongly. The face revealed that it was the same baby, and my need for proof further supported by the bandages to both legs.

"Mark 16:17-18 commands us to go into the entire world preaching the good news to everyone. 'And signs will accompany those who believe...they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.' I have found it to be amazing that I should have been blessed to witness the application of this scripture."

efforts electively stopped, and the baby was wrapped in a cloth and carefully handed back to the expectant mother. With great emotion, the mother took her baby and heart-wrenchingly walked down the hill and away into the distance...

"The close of this day came quickly. The camp was closed and everything was packed away and prepared for the next day. We had to be out of the area soon and through the last army checkpoint before the road closed for the night. The team made its way down the hill from the medical campsite to the village below. Our medical director had gone down the hill in a group ahead of me. As I ap-



Bringing the sick to the medical camp.

"...Some of the national pastors and missionaries were starting to call this a 'miracle'."



"I have found it to be amazing that I should have been blessed to witness the application of this scripture."



Crisscrossing Romania

(Having met a Baptist couple in Romania that had worked with CrossLink International, Adriana Henderson contacted the ministry for assistance with medical resources. She was shipping a container of medical supplies and other items to Romania and asked if CrossLink might have some resources to donate. Her trip didn't go quite as planned.)

“...I felt the presence of God...paving the road...”

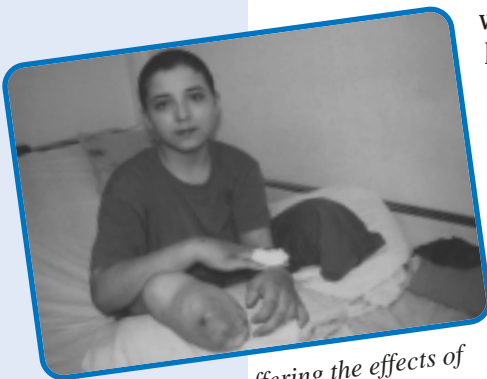
“Two years ago, while on a Habitat for Humanity trip to Romania, I took a group of American volunteers to a mountain village to deliver much needed medical supplies that one of the volunteers brought with her. We were all shocked by the conditions of the clinic and the lack of basic medical supplies and equipment. Two years later, after taking several trips to Romania to talk to local officials, politicians and builders, I embarked on the trip of my life. With no experience, no expertise, and no knowledge, I left my family and my country for 3 months to do what I believed needed to be done: rebuild the clinic. I had only one request; that of a written guarantee assuring me that the clinic would not be sold. Imagine my shock when I arrived and was told that the government was in the process of privatizing all clinics. I knew I did not want do a project that would be sold for profit and I started thinking fast about what else I could do with my time and the donated funds and materials. “



Looking over the medicines at the hospital.

Adriana worked to help reconstruct a school. She donated the medical supplies in the container to the local hospital, which lacked everything, and gave the toys and clothes to people in the village. But, she also participated in another ministry – the hemophilia project.

Adriana writes, “Helping people with hemophilia is and will always be a priority of our humanitarian work. In developed countries this blood disorder is treated, and people who suffer from hemophilia lead a normal, fulfilling life. It is a much different situation in Romania, as in other developing countries, where the lack of factor (clotting abilities in the blood) and proper treatment cause limb deformities, amputations, and even the loss of life. I have crisscrossed the country meeting patients at home and in hospitals delivering much needed donated factor and witnessed miraculous improvement. I also met several cases in such desperate need that their life was literally in jeopardy. Luckily I had donated factor with me, and in one case, a man's life was saved. I was touched by this young man who was wasting away in the hospital where they did not even have plasma to administer to him. He could barely walk, but somehow managed to get dressed and wait in the doorway. He told me he had the feeling that something was going to happen; he did not know I was coming, but somehow sensed it. He received the donated factor and is now doing well.



Romanian boy suffering the effects of hemophilia.

“Throughout this trip I felt the presence of God guiding me, paving the road, opening doors, and lifting me out of self-doubt, insecurity, and uncertainty. It is to Him I want to give thanks.”



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.
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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) _____

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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 band aid ball"



Saturday, March 20th, 2004, CrossLink International will hold its first annual gala, "**the band aid ball**", at 7:00 pm. The event, to be held at the Hyatt Fair Lakes in Fairfax, VA, will also feature a silent auction. Proceeds from the ball and the silent auction will aid CrossLink International in the purchase and delivery of medical resources that are not donated to the ministry.

The Honorable Frank R. Wolf, (R.-VA 10th), well known for his humanitarian work around the world, will be the special guest that evening. Rep. Wolf will share some personal reflections from his trips abroad.

Mistress of Ceremonies for the evening is Molly Henneberg, national correspondent for Fox News, and daughter of CrossLink board member, Dan Henneberg.

If you are interested in attending, offering an item for the silent auction, or providing a donation in support, please contact CrossLink at info@crosslinkinternational.net and reference "**the band aid ball**" in the subject line.





CrossLink International
427 North Maple Avenue

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

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Merrifield, VA

Falls Church, VA 22046
Tel: 703-534-5465
Fax: 703-536-8349
info@crosslinkinternational.net
www.crosslinkinternational.net



NEWS BRIEFS



Doctors Needed for Trip to Sudan

CrossLink does not put together personnel for medical mission trips. However, we have had a request to help locate some doctors from a Sudanese native the ministry has worked with for several years. He is particularly interested in general practitioners, dentists and ophthalmologists that might be willing to accompany him in late May or early June. If you are interested, please contact CrossLink at info@crosslinkinternational.net and reference 'Sudan' in the subject line.

Email Blasts

If you are interested in email updates and information from CrossLink, please forward your information to info@crosslinkinternational.net and reference 'Email Blasts' in the subject line. Thanks to those that have already replied.

Exhibitions and Conventions

CrossLink representatives will be attending or exhibiting at the following meetings:

Vienna Presbyterian Church, Vienna, VA– February 28-29, 2004

CBFVA – First Baptist Church, Manassas, VA— March 5-6, 2004

TECH, Asheville, NC – March

B MDF Annual Meeting, Calloway Gardens, GA – April 1-4, 2004

CrossLink Staff:

Linda Cook
Executive Director
linda@crosslinkinternational.net

Bruce Geoffrion
Operations Manager
bruce@crosslinkinternational.net

Melinda Matzen
Project Coordinator
melinda@crosslinkinternational.net

Nancy Shields
Pharmacy Coordinator
nancys@crosslinkinternational.net

Becky Mancuso
Administrative Assistant
beckym@crosslinkinternational.net