

**June 2004**

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

## Answering the Call

Opening my email I saw a note from a young friend. He had been in a singles Sunday school class my husband and I led. Our young friend had come to the Washington, DC area to work on a Master's degree, and found our church in suburban Virginia.

There was just something special about this young man that drew Malcolm and me to him. He was smart, articulate, self-effacing and extremely mission-minded. On the many occasions that I regaled the class with stories from CrossLink (and I did a lot of that), I noticed a particular sparkle in his eyes.

With degree in hand, he left DC, and I soon lost track of him. Until one day, an international air mail letter was delivered to CrossLink. Inside was a check from someone with the same name. Indeed, it was from my young friend. And over the past few years a donation would arrive from him, no matter where he was living – and always at a special time of need.

I was glad to hear from him again, and opened the email quickly. He wanted to know if I knew of work being done in Nigeria. God had placed that country on his heart and he wanted to heed that call.

Thinking he wanted to work with a permanent mission in Nigeria, I emailed back that I would gladly look into other groups with ongoing work. He quickly replied, "No, I want to help CrossLink with some medical missions in Nigeria." That was music to my ears.

At the same time, Nancy Shields, our pharmacy coordinator, was attempting to fill a medicine order for – you guessed it – a trip to Nigeria. The team needed lots of medicines. We had very little to donate due to increased project requests and decreasing donations of medicines. Even though CrossLink can purchase medicines at reduced rates, the team had no funding. Nancy's face lit up when she heard about the donation. Her eyes welled up with tears of joy knowing CrossLink would be able to enhance this order with purchased medicine because of this generous gift.

My young friend's check was there just when it was needed — because he listened to that calling he received.

Throughout this newsletter you will read of some people that have answered the call and how they have helped. I hope they will touch your heart as they have touched mine – reminding me not only to answer the call I've been given, but to listen.

**Linda Cook**

# You Are Beautiful!

*(Dr. Rodrigo Estonilo, a neurosurgeon, travels around the world sharing his God-given talents and his love for the Lord. On a recent visit to CrossLink he shared this deeply compelling story with the staff.)*



*Dr. Estonilo praying over Anka before surgery.*

“When she was three years old, a cow kicked Anka in the face while she was playing on her family’s farm. A tumor grew and created a proptotic (protruding) eye. She lacked access to both medicine and money. ‘The pain behind the eye was excruciating,’ said Anka. She had been condemned to a life of loneliness and anger, ostracized for her hideous appearance. She grew accustomed to the sneers and uncomfortable sympathy others showed to her, but she could not have imagined the pain that was to come.

“At the age of 25 Anka married a farmer. Her new husband spent his days drinking in the fields and viciously beating her each night. She feared looking into a mirror and seeing her grotesque eye bulging out of its socket. A monster peered back.

“In time an all-consuming depression settled over her spirit. Anka did not have pain medication and had barely any desire to continue

living.

“Despite the stigma of divorce, Anka begged her husband to leave her. She believed that her ugliness shamed him and triggered his alcohol binges. Through most of her marriage, anger and despair were her constant companions and though her neighbors looked with pure disdain at a divorced woman, Anka could not fathom a worse fate than hers.

“After nearly forty years of pain, Anka gathered her life savings and paid for medical attention. A local eye doctor operated twice to remove the tumor behind the proptotic eye. Both surgeries failed, affecting the vision of her uninjured eye. The hospitalization exhausted her financially. In order to continue working, she hyper-extended her neck to favor her good eye that protruded down her face.

“During a visit by an international medical team, Anka joined the long line of people in her town desperate for medical attention. But the news from the doctors was devastating to her. ‘Nothing can be done!’ The words overwhelmed Anka. She testified later to our team that though she lived in a communist country, she suspected that there was a God and that He could help her.

“On a return visit to the village by the medical team in 2003, I was asked to see the patient. We discussed the complications involved in her surgery. I had multiple concerns about operating. Not only had her tumor advanced, I would have to operate in a dilapidated operating room with limited supplies. The proposed surgery would have been a challenge in the most advanced Western hospital. The chance of success in this small Moldovan village was improbable.



*Anka, the beautiful, with Dr. Estonilo and her husband after her surgery.*

**“...she  
suspected  
that there  
was a God  
and that He  
could help  
her...”**

# I Am Burdened for Them

She walked into my office, this petite woman from India with her beautiful orange sari. Leena had come to CrossLink to ask for vitamins. All types! Vitamins for adults, vitamins for children, prenatal vitamins. She needed them for the people she served – the “gutter” people of India whose plight God has laid on her heart.

Sitting down she reached into her purse and pulled out a thick stack of pictures. With big, compassionate brown eyes and a soft voice, she began to share the stories and pictures of her work for God. “This is the home for HIV patients. There are 160 adults and over 200 children. They are rejected by everyone. I built a home for them.”

Again, she leafed through the stack of photographs, pausing at a picture of a building under construction. “This is the home I’m building for 15 leper families.” She continued to leaf through the photographs, stopping to tell me stories about the sewing school for former prostitutes, the school for poor children, the evangelistic services, and now an activity center for senior adults.



*Leena Lavanya.*



*Leena meets with one in need.*

In 1993 Leena Lavanya listened to the words of a pastor at a Christian conference in Harare, Zimbabwe. He said that when many people sing “All to Jesus I Surrender,” they often give very little. Leena determined at that moment that she was going to give all that she could to serve Christ and the neediest in India. She returned to her home and began seeking ways to “surrender.”

On a bus trip, she sat next to a young woman and began sharing her faith. Leena discovered that the woman had been abandoned by her husband and was living a life of prostitution. When Leena encouraged her to leave that lifestyle,

the woman asked Leena how she was supposed to feed her children. This troubled Leena’s heart. Sharing it with her family, they decided to forgo breakfast for three months and purchase a sewing machine with the money they saved. That began the ministry of the sewing school.

As we were talking about the vitamins a look of frustration came over her face. She said she wished she could do more medically for “her people,” but without a doctor it was impossible. Leena looked at me and stated, “Linda, just think what could be done if some doctors from the United States would come to Andrah Pradesh and help my people.”

This quiet, unassuming “dynamo” gives all that she has to help the poor and share the Gospel. Leena lives in simple surroundings. Her funds are very limited, her health is often affected, her life has been threatened — yet she continues to “surrender.”

Would that each of us would “surrender our all.” How different our world would be!

***“Would that  
each of us  
would  
‘surrender  
our all.’”***



*Upon returning from a medical mission trip to Afghanistan, several members of Germantown Baptist Church felt God calling them to a deeper commitment to the people of that country. Out of that call Concerned Christians for Afghanistan was born. CrossLink International has worked with Germantown Baptist in the past and would like to share this opportunity for service with each of you. Once again, a call was issued and someone answered.*

**Concerned Christians for Afghanistan  
Second Annual International Conference  
August 13-14, 2004  
Germantown Baptist Church  
Germantown, Tennessee**

Dear Friends of Afghanistan:

You are cordially invited to join us for Concerned Christians for Afghanistan's (CCA's) Second Annual International Conference on August 13-14, 2004 at Germantown Baptist Church in Germantown, Tennessee (outside of Memphis). The conference will commence at 8:00 a.m. on August 13 and adjourn at 5:00 p.m. on August 14.

Concerned Christians for Afghanistan (CCA) is a global outreach ministry dedicated to mobilizing and equipping the body of Christ to declare God's glory among the Afghan people. This year's two-day conference will be a premier networking event for local churches, concerned Christians, field workers, missions advocates, and Christian NGOs and professional organizations interested in ministry among Afghans.

The conference program will feature panel presentations, open forums, exchange of ideas and strategy discussions, guest speakers and loads of networking opportunities. The program will highlight how a growing number of local churches are engaging in significant and strategic ministry among Afghans and how vibrant partnerships are being forged between local churches and established field initiatives.

Registration Details:

Advance registration is required. **The conference registration fee is \$100 per participant and must be received by August 6, 2004.**

You may register via CCA's website by visiting us at [www.ccafghan.org](http://www.ccafghan.org). Or, the registration form and payment can be mailed to: Concerned Christians for Afghanistan, 9450 Poplar Avenue, Germantown, TN 38139 USA or faxed to CCA at (901) 260-5775. Payment must be received at time of registration. CCA has reserved a special bloc of hotel rooms near the church. Hotel information is available at CCA's website at [www.ccafghan.org](http://www.ccafghan.org). **The conference will begin at 8:00 a.m. on Friday, August 13 and end at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 14.**

Hall of Opportunity:

A new addition to CCA's Second Annual International Conference is our Hall of Opportunity, a central gathering place allowing participants to feature their work among the Afghan people. **Table displays are available for organizations and individuals interested in promoting their ministry opportunities. The cost for reserving half of a table is \$50. The cost for reserving a full table is \$100. Reservations and payment must be received no later than August 6, 2004.**

Contact Information:

For more conference information, please visit CCA's website at [www.ccafghan.org](http://www.ccafghan.org) or contact Steve Moses, CCA's conference coordinator, at (901) 260-5712 or at [stevem@germantownbaptist.org](mailto:stevem@germantownbaptist.org)

## 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.

## Beautiful, Cont.

"With few words to offer, we prayed with Anka and agreed to move forward with a 10 hour surgery with the barest of surgical instrumentation and magnification. Losing the vision was my utmost concern. I am ever grateful that God allowed me to perform the operation despite the potential complications.

"Six months later, I revisited Anka. She said, 'I thank God everyday on my knees and I tell everyone how wonderful God is. Now I can't wait to see my face in the mirror everyday. It's a miracle. My greatest gift is that my husband doesn't hurt me anymore. He stopped drinking alcohol and in his own words he told me 'You are beautiful!'"



## A CrossLink Prayer Request

The ever-increasing number of project requests received by CrossLink is reducing the amount of medicine available for donation. While we have the ability to purchase medicines for teams at reduced prices, not all teams have funding. The CrossLink staff would appreciate your prayers that God would open doors to more donations of prescription medicines.

You can also help! As a member of the CrossLink Over the Counter Club, your donation of OTC medicines greatly increases our ability to help medical teams as they minister around the world.

Will you answer this call?

For more information on the OTC Club, contact CrossLink at [info@crosslinkinternational.net](mailto:info@crosslinkinternational.net) or 703-534-5465. **Thank you!**

***"I thank God  
everyday on  
my knees and  
I tell  
everyone how  
wonderful  
God is..."***



**CrossLink International**  
427 North Maple Avenue

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

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Permit #2042  
Merrifield, VA

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



## NEWS BRIEFS



### Save the Date

CrossLink Benefit Concert featuring *Dominion Brass*  
at The Falls Church Episcopal, Falls Church, VA

**Saturday, September 25, 2004**

### Additions

The following were omitted from the silent auction donor list for **“the band aid ball”** in CrossLink International’s last newsletter. We regret this omission and thank these individuals and companies for their generous donations.

Mrs. Julie Utz	Sutton Place Gourmet
La Cote D’Or Café	Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Yost
2941 Restaurant	Nordstrom
Ms. Beckie Hallinger	Ketterman’s Jewelers
Anthony’s Restaurant	Das Anwesen B&B
	Morton’s Steakhouse

### Congratulations!

The Board and staff of CrossLink International wishes to extend its congratulations to Board Member Charles Baldwin on his promotion to Major General and his appointment as Chief of Chaplains for the United States Air Force.

### Exhibitions and Conventions

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

Christian Medical Dental Association – **June 9-12, 2004**  
Gaylord Texan, Grapevine, TX

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Assembly– **June 24-26, 2004**  
Birmingham Convention Center, Birmingham, AL

### CrossLink Staff:

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