

**October 2004**

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**#8295**



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

## Consider the Ant!

Recently my pastor preached a sermon on ants. An entomologist turned man of the cloth, you ask. No! He thought it fitting to preach about these industrious little critters before Labor Day.

Ants work without being told what to do. They do whatever it takes to care for their family. Ants are not lazy!

There are different types of ants – foragers, hunters, nesters. Each has a different task. But, as my pastor said, “If something breaks down in the nest and no nester is available, a hunter ant doesn’t respond by saying, ‘I’m sorry I can’t do that. It isn’t my spiritual gift.’” No, they all pitch in to do what is necessary to take care of the “family.”

I’ve met a lot of “ants” through CrossLink – people of all professions and ages that offer their time to do what is needed. Lawyers, accountants, administrators – all walks of life – sort supplies, process medicines, pick up donations, pack containers or whatever is needed so that CrossLink can equip medical mission teams to bring physical and spiritual healing to our tumultuous world.

The teams themselves are good examples. Doctors and nurses put aside “specialties” and practice basic medicine as they reach out to the “forgotten” in our world. They work long, hard hours in very difficult situations. They simply want to do what needs to be done for all of God’s children, and share His love.

I wonder what our world would be like today if each of us did what God needs us to do?

**Linda Cook**



# Light for Africa

*(Solar Light for Africa works with churches and NGO's in Africa to provide light and energy sources using the natural power of the sun. A recent trip to Uganda included a medical team equipped by CrossLink International.)*



***“The antibiotics, vitamins and pain relievers from CrossLink were an absolute necessity...”***



At the foothills of the Rwenzori mountains lies the Rakai District of Uganda – a rural area of grassy plains, banana tree groves, and many small, scattered villages of mud-brick. The people of the region do subsistence farming, and supplement their meager incomes with rug weaving. While many team members installed solar energy panels to a local hospital and clinic, the medical team was presented with some real challenges.

According to Dr. Lindsey Marcellin, “Rakai has been devastated with HIV/AIDS. Many orphaned children have malaria, markedly enlarged livers and spleens, anemia and malnutrition. The adults suffer from tuberculosis, AIDS, malaria, respiratory infections, sexually transmitted disease and the complications they cause.”

Dr. Marcellin found that the hospital's pharmacy was basically empty. The antibiotics, vitamins and pain relievers from CrossLink were an absolute necessity for the team to be able to treat the hundreds of patients they saw. She especially appreciated the multivitamins since so many children and adults have obvious vitamin deficiencies.

Dr. Marcellin recounts, “I remember the older lady with crippling arthritis who became so excited that 400mg of Ibuprofen relieved her pain. I remember the two infants with severe cerebral malaria – one baby responded to drugs and recovered. The other tiny infant continued to worsen and was close to death on the day I left. That was heart-breaking. I remember the man with a disfiguring growth on his nose who underwent a quick surgical procedure (using lidocaine from CrossLink as a local anesthesia), and left with a big smile!”



*Dr. Marcellin treating a “small” patient.*

“I saw God at work everywhere. I saw Him in the gracious, accepting and loving spirits of the Ugandan people who live through daily adversity with equanimity. I saw God as he opened the hearts of our American team. I saw God in the two Ugandan college students traveling with us, as they made the decision to go to medical school to become doctors and help their own people. I saw God as He gave me strength to keep going each day.”

God provided light for this Ugandan village. Through medical resources to ease physical pain and suffering, men and women of faith witnessed to God's eternal light.



# Axley

*(Nothing hurts more than to see a child suffer. Recently CrossLink equipped a team of doctors from the Christian Medical Dental Association for their work in two slum areas of Nairobi, Kenya. One of the doctors shared this story – an example of how God uses CrossLink medical resources and Christian medical teams to bring healing and hope.)*

“Our team of 30 worked in the slums of Nairobi, Kenya. Mathare, which is home to several hundred thousand people living in tin shacks, is a settlement ignored by the government and lacking the most basic services. It was there that I met Axley.”

Eighteen months old, Axley lives like most children of Mathare with many extended family members in a crowded shack. The family lives, sleeps and cooks in one room.



*Axley*

While Axley’s mother hurried to buy an ingredient for the family meal, Axley wandered too close to the cooking pot and was severely scalded. His burns covered 10% of his small body, including both arms and the left side of his face. Rushed to the local hospital, all that could be provided was an application of burn ointment.

Dr. Craig said, “By God’s grace, we opened our clinic only 4 days after

Axley’s accident. Our first day, Axley was brought to us in great pain and running a fever. His burns were crusted and obviously infected. We feared for his life.”

“Nurses from our team debrided Axley’s burns and applied dressings. Because of the medical resources CrossLink had supplied, we were able to give Axley antibiotics and pain medicine. Many of us prayed for this little boy as the family returned Axley daily for more antibiotic treatments and dressing changes. It is devastating to think what would have happened if those antibiotics had not been available. “Each visit, Axley looked better and better.” Dr. Craig stated.

“Although he will bear some scars for the rest of his life, he was spared. His young mother, overwhelmed by her son’s injury, saw first hand the intervention of the Lord. She will testify to Axley about the people that cared for him and the Lord who saved his life in this world, and we pray that his salvation will become an eternal one.”



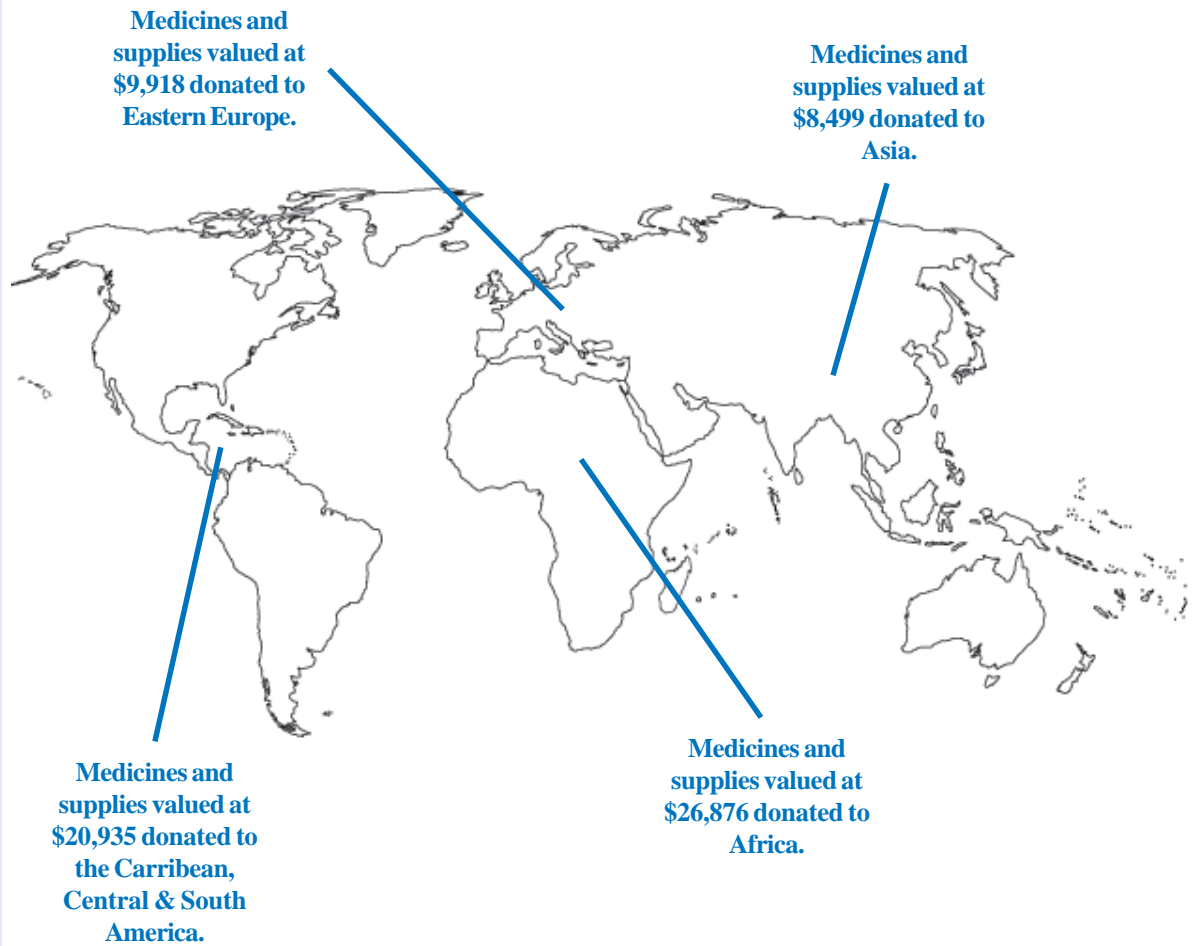
***“Each visit,  
Axley looked  
better and  
better.”***



# Your “band aid ball” Money at Work



*“CrossLink’s buying power multiplies your ‘band aid ball’ dollars tenfold.”*



## CrossLink International Participates in Combined Federal Campaign/ United Way

*“Each dollar you give is used to heal lives around the world.”*

Government and private sector employees! The fall is campaign time for the CFC and United Way. Between Labor Day and Thanksgiving you have an opportunity to give to your favorite charity.

CrossLink International is a CFC/UW participant. Share this with your friends and neighbors. Pass on the good word about CrossLink’s work.

Don’t forget! Our number is #8295. Each dollar you give is used to heal lives around the world.



#8295

## Won't you help us help the "Axleys" of this world?

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.

## CrossLink International Sends Supplies to Afghanistan

Recently CrossLink sent emergency medical supplies valued at more than \$6000 to faith-based Hope Hospital outside of Kabul, Afghanistan. This former eye-clinic, was partially destroyed during the Afghan civil war.

CrossLink received a list of basic supplies and equipment needed at the hospital. Ten boxes, weighing between 30 and 40 pounds, were filled with these items and sent on their way. "When the last boxes arrived, we didn't even bother opening them. The hospital had run out of tongue depressors and microscope slides – items contained in the final packages." said Lt. Col. Paul Gruzlewski who accepted the shipments in Kabul. "I was humbled to be a conduit of God's work."

In a recent phone call, Lt. Gruzlewski said that Hope Hospital is gearing up to be a full service hospital, including ophthalmic surgery. He felt that CrossLink could play a significant part in helping the hospital with medical resources.

CrossLink is currently preparing to send more supplies to Hope Hospital. Stethoscopes, blood pressure cuffs and thermometers and other items may have to be purchased. Your donations can help CrossLink and Hope Hospital bring healing and hope to the people of this war-torn land. Will you consider helping CrossLink meet this critical need?

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

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## NEWS BRIEFS



### 2004 Mission Projects YTD

- 328 projects accepted
- 281 projects completed
- more than \$2 million in medical resources shipped

### Containers

- 40-ft container to La Ceiba, Honduras in September for medical mission team led by CrossLink's Dr. Barry Byer
- 20-ft container to Ghana to be shipped in November for church clinics

### Haitian Clinic

For several years, CrossLink has assisted the Central Beraca Clinic near Gonaives, the site of recent major mudslides. Dr. Paul Eckhoff, chief surgeon at the clinic reports that the Central Beraca is okay. A number of helpers at the clinic lost multiple family members in the floods. Dr. Eckhoff is assessing needs at this time. CrossLink International will be working to send critical medicines and supplies.

### CrossLink International Acts As Collection Site for Florida Hurricane Relief

In response to a plea from denominational groups working in Florida, CrossLink was designated as a collection site for personal care kit items. Members of local churches and the community brought soap, razors, toothpaste, toothbrushes, combs and other items to CrossLink. Sixty-five shoe boxes were packed with items and sent to some of the hardest hit counties in Florida. More boxes are being prepared to be sent in the wake of the latest hurricanes.