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making a world of difference

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NEWS BRIEFS



United Way/Combined Federal Campaign 2003

CrossLink International has been approved for the 2003 United Way/Combined Federal Campaign. The designation number for CrossLink is #8295. The ministry has also been approved for the 2003 Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign. The designation number for that campaign is #8017.

USAID Registration

In August, CrossLink was notified that the ministry had been approved as a registered Private Voluntary Organization under the United States Agency for International Development. This registration allows CrossLink the opportunity to apply

for assistance such as shipping reimbursement for humanitarian aid.

Conventions and Meetings

Representatives of CrossLink International will be at the following meetings this fall to share information about the ministry:

<i>INOVA Health System Vendor Fair</i>	<i>Sept. 19, 2003</i>
<i>TECH Semi-Annual Meeting, Kingsport, TN</i>	<i>Sept. 18-19, 2003</i>
<i>AERDO Annual Meeting, Chevy Chase, MD</i>	<i>Oct. 16-19, 2003</i>
<i>North Carolina Baptist Medical/Dental Meeting</i>	<i>Nov. 7-8, 2003</i>
<i>Global Health Missions Conference, Louisville, KY</i>	<i>Nov. 7-8, 2003</i>
<i>National Missionary Convention, Cincinnati, OH</i>	<i>Nov. 20-23, 2003</i>

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CROSSLINK INTERNATIONAL
MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

Changing the World One Life At A Time
Through Christ-like Missions

September 2003

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Paraguay- "Following God's Flow"

(Created in 1999 to assist the Centro Medico Bautista in Ascensio, Paraguay, the Paraguay Baptist Medical Center Foundation organized volunteer mission trips in 2002 and 2003. Marlin Harris, president of the Foundation, compared the trip to the river of 'the water of life'.)

Founded by the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, Centro Medico Bautista, is owned and operated by Paraguayan Baptists and holds high the banner of Christ before this South American region. The mission of the hospital is "Offering care to the whole person with the love of Jesus Christ."

This 88-bed hospital has treated over 2.5 million patients since it opened its doors. Centro Medico Bautista is a full service hospital, and the ONLY hospital in Paraguay that treats the patient first and settles the bill later.

Returning from his recent trip, Marlin Harris wrote, "Twelve days in Paraguay! As I gazed down from 36,000 feet upon a spectacular view of the Mississippi River, trying to contemplate its series of twists and turns, I reflected that life is like a river. Just as there are 'geographical causes' for the serpentine course of a river, there are 'spiritual features' in life's landscape that affect the course of our direction. Our challenge is to 'follow God's flow'.

"His 'flow' brought together 24 different, talented and uniquely prepared individuals to minister at Centre Medico Bautista. Together with almost forty additional local volunteers, two teams were sent out to conduct medical, dental and eye clinics at 13 different locations. All in all, over 3,700 patients were treated, \$5,000 of medicine dispensed, and numerous decisions made for Christ.



The Hospital in Paraguay.

"Just as a river trip offers unexpected panoramas, so did this spiritual outing. We were invited to an audience with the future First Lady of Paraguay. She is a very committed and active evangelical that spoke with us about the immense challenges awaiting Paraguay, and specifically requested ongoing prayer on behalf of her husband and the country.

"It is always exciting to anticipate what God has prepared for us just beyond the next 'bend' of His river of the water of Life."

"And He showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb."

-Rev. 22:1

The Executive Director's Corner..

“They remind us to pray... cause us to weep... cause us to rejoice.”

“We pray they will carry the gospel with them everywhere they go.”

I've never been on a cruise. (Perhaps being very prone to motion sickness has something to do with that.) I've traveled overseas, but I wouldn't call myself a world traveler. **However**, I do feel as though I have seen and heard much of the world, as I read the stories and pictures of medical mission teams partnering with CrossLink.

When the reports arrive in the mail, they are placed in a folder to be passed around among our staff. The stories are sad and funny; factual and emotional; scary and peaceful; heartbreaking and – most of all – hopeful.

These stories encourage us in our work. They remind us to pray for the teams and their ministry. They cause us to weep – they cause us to rejoice. They become a **window** through which we can view the world.

In this issue of the CrossLink newsletter I want to take you on a **mission cruise** to countries in Asia, Africa, Central and South America. Now don't expect gourmet meals, recreation around the pool or evening strolls on the Lido deck. Do expect, however, to hear stories of heartbreaking medical problems, of dedicated mission volunteers, and, most of all, of God's great love and care for His children.

I wish you **“Bon Voyage”** on your journey and pray that you will receive a “global view” of God's hand at work through His servants.

Linda Cook



The Philippines - “Fruitful Harvest”

(Fruitful Harvest aids mission groups in various countries, coordinating with local ministries to provide medical help, sponsorship of operations, radio broadcasts and other outreach tools. Their aim is to help the workers in the field gather a “fruitful harvest” for Jesus Christ. Upon their return, Charlie and Melba Sickles passed on some recollections of their trip.)



Melba Sickles with a very happy baby.

“Our fourth trip to the Philippines covered five towns on the Island of Cebu. The purpose was to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ to poverty-stricken people through medical ministry.

“PIIM, the Philippine Inland and Island Ministry, aided us in our work. This medical-dental-gospel outreach ministers to the families of poor Filipino pastors and to those that have physical and spiritual needs. As they work in their clinics, people from local churches share the gospel and many are won to the Lord.

“One of the highlights of this trip was being able to share the gospel with 108 national police cadets while conducting a clinic. Many of them made professions of faith. These men and women will be stationed all over the Philippines, and we pray they will carry the gospel with them everywhere they go.”

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.

CrossLink Yard Sale

Saturday morning, July 12th dawned bright and beautiful in Northern Virginia — quite the opposite of most weekends on the rainy East Coast. A prayer of thanksgiving was offered by CrossLink volunteers. After battling wet weather since the first weekend in May, they could finally hold the **Second Annual CrossLink International Yard Sale**.

Volunteers, dressed in CrossLink T-shirts, manned tables on the parking lot across from the office, selling donated clothes, furniture, housewares, collectibles and other “treasures”. Customers dined on hot dogs, hamburgers and sodas as well as coffee and breads donated by the local Starbucks and Panera Bread. CrossLink balloons could be seen all over the parking lot tied to the wrists of customers' children – as well as several floating towards the firmament.

When asked, “What is this yard sale for?”, staff and volunteers shared the CrossLink story with the many people that stopped by that day. A gentleman from Honduras bought his items early in the morning and asked more about the work. When told of CrossLink's mission and why the ministry was raising money, he went home and gathered up his whole family. They returned a short time later to do some “shopping” because he wanted to help the people in his homeland.

The CrossLink staff thanks all volunteers for the long, hard hours they spent on this event – especially Doug and Joyce Mussey, and John and Debbie Ziegler. Because of their love for the Lord and desire to share the Gospel through medical missions, over \$7800 was raised to help support CrossLink. God used them in a mighty way!!

Scenes from the Yard Sale.



Honduras - "Friends of Barnabas"

("Friends of Barnabas" sends varied types of mission teams to developing countries in the name of God. Recently a medical team from Messiah United Methodist Church in Springfield, VA, worked in Canaveral, Honduras. Denise Laux, a member of the team shared these memories.)

"We arrived in San Pedro and drove to Puerto Cortes. I had volunteered in that city with Mercy Ships. While in Puerto Cortes, I spent Sunday mornings at the city dump in a worship service for children who reside there. With great anticipation I looked forward to a return visit with them. Our team had prepared special activities for the children. It was such a joy to visit with them and see their faces.



Assessing a patient.

"Once we arrived in Canaveral, our 'home' for the week, we began preparing ourselves for the mission ahead. But there were things we would encounter during the week that flew in the face of all our preparation.

"Some of the encounters that are forever burned in my memory are of a six-year-old girl weighing 22 pounds; a beautiful

young girl with Marfan's Syndrome – in the US she would live after treatment; in Honduras she will die young; and a man with a baseball-sized abscess caused by a splinter that had been imbedded in his finger for 11 years. One of our doctors was able to remove the splinter, using minimal equipment but no anesthetic.

"Another team member treated a family of four orphans living on the streets whose parents had been killed by exploding land mines. She also treated a young boy with severe fungus from his toes to his knees; the consequence of wearing rubber boots of the *campasino* too many hours for too many years while he worked in the fields to help support his family.

"The accommodations for our clinics were typical of missions in developing countries – cinder block classrooms, the living room of a home, an open shed that houses a kindergarten class in its real life and a dark room that was the home of the school's teacher during the week.



Let's see how tall you are!

"With the help of our translators, we praise God that our team cared for 2,741 people in the village clinics. As a team, we thank God for the blessings in our lives that enabled our team to express His love to the many men, women and children we met in the mountains of Honduras."



Just one of the children hungry for the Word.

"We thank God for the blessings... that enabled our team to express His love..."

Just like Barnabas, the encourager, these Christian friends shared God's love and his healing power to a world in need.

Nigeria - "The Needs of My People"

by Linda Cook

Opening my mail one day last February, a very simple, yet moving letter appeared before me. A resident of a condominium complex in Washington, DC, had written to share the story of a Nigerian groundskeeper working at her building. She called him a "superb individual".

The letter stated that Usen Ubom was "a practicing Christian...He is smart, talented and hard-working. He works after hours helping many of the residents with many different kinds of tasks. When asked about the charge for his services, he always replies, 'whatever you want to give me'. Of the money paid him after hours, he wants to spend much of it to take medicines and eyeglasses to his people in Nigeria."



Unloading needed medicines for the village.

Shortly after this, we heard from Usen. He had heard about CrossLink on a local Christian radio broadcast, but didn't have a pencil at the time to write down the telephone number. Feeling that CrossLink could help his people in Nigeria, he listened and listened to the same station hoping to hear the number again. When he did, he called us right away.

Usen shared with staff members his desire to help people in the name of God. As a fairly new Christian, Usen felt a responsibility to aid those in need – especially in his country of Nigeria. In fact, when asked how his work reflected the mission of CrossLink – *Changing the world one life at a time through Christ-like missions* – he replied, "According to the Apostle James, 'Faith without works is dead.' By works, faith is made perfect."



Usen Ubom speaking with his people about Jesus.

As we began to work with Usen, we were touched by the demonstration of God's love through his life. He told us that he wanted to help the helpless – especially "those that don't have money to buy medicine." God was compelling him to be "his brother's keeper".

It was obvious that the needs were great, but many of the medicines that Usen needed would have to be purchased, and the cost was more than he had raised. Fortunately, a local civic group had contributed to the CrossLink Adopt-A-Mission program, and the remaining medicines were able to be procured. Usen headed to Nigeria with medicines, supplies and

eyeglasses to be distributed through a clinic run by The Lutheran Church of Nigeria.

Upon his return, Usen came to the CrossLink offices, excited to share his pictures and stories with the staff. In the picture album was a letter from a young Nigerian who wrote, "Sir, I am very grateful for the help I received. I received lenses and it has been very good to me and now I can read very well. Thank you very much and may God bless you. Amen."

I wondered, as I read that letter and looked at the pictures, how many lives had been touched – how many "seeds" had been planted – because this gentle man had taken the Great Commission seriously.

"Faith without works is dead."

James 2: 14 - 18