

September 2012

Dear Friends,

I just returned from a trip to Liberia. And the one thing that always strikes me when I visit Liberia, is their childlike faith. Liberia is a country devastated by civil war in recent times (1989-2003). My first trip to Liberia occurred shortly after this period, and the U.N. soldiers were still patrolling the area with their AK-47s and heavy presence. It was a long and bloody civil war that damaged most of their infrastructure.

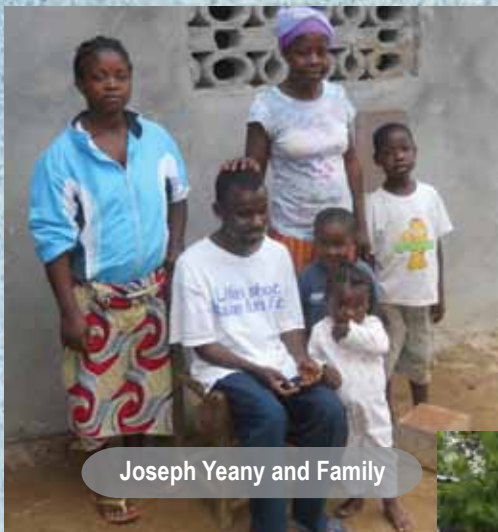
They are just now beginning to recover from this traumatic time. Most still don't have electricity, running water or adequate sanitary systems, but they get by the best they can. And as a result of this civil war and difficult living conditions, many did not have the opportunity to go to school. Even today, it is a struggle for many children to attend school and pay the tuition required.

For that reason, we are engaged in this country to assist where we can and then to use this assistance as a platform to share God's message of grace. We have to this date, provided 5 wells, cared for 50 orphans and needy kids and started one clinic. These are all being used effectively for God's kingdom and we have seen hundreds come to faith in Christ in the past year through these means.



Dean and the kids at the Monrovia Orphanage

Some of the needy kids we help are the children of Joseph Yeany. He is blind and, of course, this pulls hard at my heart. His job involves going to a rock quarry with a hammer and buckets, breaking up the rock by hand into gravel and then selling these buckets of gravel for 50 cents a bucket to the builders in the area. He is also the lead singer of his church and without musical instruments, he leads the congregation in choruses of praise songs to the Lord. His job does not bring in enough support to feed his 5 kids let alone the tuition needed for their schooling, so we assist where we can. In spite of this true hardship, Joseph praises God and serves his family and church with great joy and a positive attitude. I wonder ... would I be able to do that? Do I have childlike faith?



Joseph Yeany and Family

Dean Chollar



Clean water for the Monrovia Orphanage

From Liberian Field Director Isaac Zoedah

The first trip to Bong for the well repair project was a great success. The trip was successful both from the well repair works and spreading the good news of God's grace. We did repair four wells in two different towns: Manakporloy and Boepa. Both towns have about one thousand population each. They received the wells from a UN funded project in 2005. This was a great relief from drinking unsafe water that has claimed a lot of lives. To their disappointment those wells did not serve them long when they went down. Now that Crossway is restoring those wells, lives and hope are being restored. The men, women and children of the communities helped to restore the wells.

During the trip, I met the Development Superintendent of the district, Mr. Whyee, who expressed his heartfelt thanks for the restoration of safe drinking water for his people and asked if we could reach this help to the rest of his district. I am also receiving same calls from Nimba and Lofa in the north of the country as well as Cape Mount in the west. Some of the calls are from government officials and churches.

(continued on page 3)



GOD AT WORK IN NICARAGUA

From Missionary and Member Care Director Bruce McIntosh:

Over 400 saved in Nicaragua! What amazing responses we saw to the gospel in the six days we were there! CrossWay put together a group of 11 Americans, 4 Nicaraguans, and a group of Mexican students from Rio Grande Bible Institute, which made up two ministry teams.

My team headed up a pastors conference that was attended by over 50 Nicaraguan pastors (and a few of their wives). I was one of 3 teachers, and together we trained them in methods of evangelism, Biblical counseling, and verse-by-verse through the 23rd Psalm. I also had the opportunity to preach in 2 of the churches of pastors who attended the conference – 4 people received Christ in one of them, and there were a half dozen in the other church who said they would dedicate themselves to share the gospel in their daily lives! Through those churches, personal opportunities to witness, and those in the conference, 28 adults received Christ through the efforts of our team!

Children, children everywhere! The rest of our group made up a children's ministry team. They went out every day into different areas of the country doing songs, skits and puppet shows for children. They ministered to various groups that our Nicaraguan contacts had arranged (a school for special needs children, a feeding program for hungry children, etc.), and did street witnessing as well. By the end of our stay, 375 children had said they were putting their trust in Christ for the first time in their lives – isn't that fantastic!



Fun and Games - "You put your right arm in..."

From Team Member Jamil Calero:

This summer I was with a missionary group in Nicaragua, sharing the gospel in Managua, Masaya and Estelí; coordinating a conference for pastors in the capital; and giving youth conferences, and seminars on discipleship and evangelism.

Tipitapa is a very poor community located 30 miles from the capital. Gloria's sister's church invited me to lunch. Her house is plastic due to five days before having been destroyed by wind. She lives under a tent. It is striking that in the midst of poverty they have joy. It was a time to share the gospel with their daughters and talk of forgiveness.



Nicaragua Team July 2012

GOD AT WORK IN LIBERIA

Our evangelism also was successful during the just ended trip. It started while we were going; we got to a security check point where one of the agents wanted money from me as they usually do. He indirectly asked for my driver's license. But I gave him the tract with the riddle. It was a surprise to get that kind of riddle. He said " Thank you pastor, you can go." I also gave him my business card. A day later, he called to tell me that he had shared this riddle with his friends but none of them could answer. But whenever he answered the riddle, his friends were all happy about God's love. The police officer has become an evangelist.

In addition to the use of the tract, I had the opportunities to meet with town leaders to share with them the grace of God. About twenty-five of them put their trust in Christ for their salvation. Among the town leaders was Pastor Kerkulah, who is the head of group of churches in the Kokoya District. When he listened to me during the Gift cube presentation, he got to understand that salvation is a free gift of God. I later gave some of the Gift Cubes and James Chapter 2 booklets to him. Pastor Kerkulah wants me to go back to his home to teach him and his church leaders. (from Isaac Zoedah)



From Missionary and International Training Director Gary Jones:

As I have trained pastors on how to clearly present the Gospel, my goal has been limited to helping them more effectively lead people to trust in Christ. I had also hoped that what I taught might be transferred to members of their churches, so that they too might become better witnesses. But prior to the last Nicaraguan Pastor's Conference, I had no idea that God had an even more exciting application for my teaching.

At Dean's prompting, I included an invitation to trust in Christ at the conclusion of the conference. To my amazement, eight responded that they were trusting in Christ for the gift of eternal life for the very first time! They left that day, not with just some ministry tools to help them become better pastors, but with the Holy Spirit indwelling and empowering them. Talk about transforming someone's ministry!

From Missionary Robert Messier:

While doing door to door ministry in Las Cortezas while Ann was doing women's ministry, I had the chance to work with the Rio Grande Bible Institute students that had come down. We presented the gift cube to several families and discovered that the families had a hard time understanding salvation is a FREE gift. The RGBI team explained to me that in their culture (Hispanic), people feel obligated to earn a gift, even birthday or Christmas gifts. I pray that God will open their minds and hearts to understand what His Son did is absolutely free for us, we can't earn it and we can't work for it or be good enough to get it on our own.

From Team Member and Pastor Michael Bannon:

Speaking at the recent pastors conference, I was saddened to learn that many Nicaraguan pastors are illiterate. Pray that God moves on hearts to provide the funds for audio Bibles.

From Missionary Ann Messier:

I met this beautiful, Godly woman, Adrianna after my first visit to Nicaragua. We immediately became friends for life! Adrianna has a feeding center for over 60 kids! She does not receive money from the families. She has taken care of these kids for years!!! She lost the feeding center because the rent went up. We are praying finances will be available so we can provide her a feeding center again. She has taken the kids and moved them to her small home which is about 8 x 12 ft. Pray God will take care of this need through our prayer partners.



Sierra presents the Gift Cube at Adrianna's Feeding Center



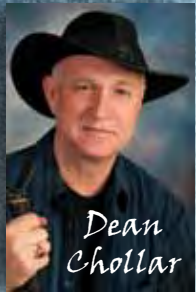
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September 2012

Meet the People of CrossWay



Dean
Chollar

At the age of 20, after being involved in drugs and studying various cults and religions, I was still seeking God. Then I was invited to a youth meeting in San Antonio. There, I understood for the first time that salvation was a free gift through the following verse in the Bible – Ephesians 2:8.9: “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast.” The idea that God wanted to give me eternal life with Him in heaven as a free gift – this really struck me. God could offer me this free gift because Jesus Christ had died on the cross to pay for my sins, and rose again. I understood that if I would make the decision to trust in the sacrifice of Christ alone for my salvation, and not trust in any good works, I could have eternal life.

This decision to trust in Christ alone motivated me to go on to Florida Bible College and then to Capital Bible Seminary to study the Word of God. After this period, I served in a local church in San Antonio for two years, then moved to the greater Dallas area to pursue a doctorate at Dallas Theological Seminary, and ended up with my first eye problem, a detached retina. Once this retina issue was treated, I went into the home-building business for 4 years before God called me to serve as a missionary in Belgium for 13 years with Greater Europe Mission. After that time in Belgium, and when my present eye affliction began to set in (Retinitis Pigmentosa), God called us to start CrossWay International (15 years ago in March of 1997). I’ve been totally blind now for most of those 15 years, and yet God has allowed me to visit more than 50 countries and “see” more than I could ever imagine or hope to see. We are so thankful to God for allowing us to have a part in his work around the world and to see so many understand for the first time that salvation is a free gift, by faith in Christ alone.

PRAISE



Praise the Lord for the many who are trusting in Christ alone for their salvation in the countries where we are working.



Praise the Lord for His gracious provision of property for the ministry in Nicaragua and support for many of our national coworkers and missionaries.



Praise the Lord for the advances among the leadership of our (national) Field Directors as they learn their jobs and grow in Christ - Francisco Caldera (Nicaragua), Isaac Zoedah (Liberia), Melaku Abebe (Ethiopia), and Ken Gatithi (Kenya).

PRAYER



Pray for Robert and Ann Messier as they continue to lead our work in Nicaragua as missionaries and oversee the many ongoing projects there.



Pray for Isaac Zoedah, our Field Director in Liberia, and Francisco Caldera, our Field Director in Nicaragua, and for the completion of the office/guest houses there.



Pray for Gary Jones, Bruce McIntosh and Merle Admire as they look to God to increase their support so they can be more fully involved in their missionary work with CrossWay International.