



As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee he saw two brothers, Simon (called Peter) and Andrew, his brother, casting a net into the sea (for they were fishermen). He said to them, "Follow me, and I will turn you into fishers of men." They left their nets immediately and followed him. (Matthew 4:18-20)

Dear Prayer Partners,

Fishing for men. I'm sure you are familiar with this picture that Jesus gives us for evangelism. Most of us are not literal fisherman, as were Simon Peter and Andrew; but as we know, God wants us all to be fishers of men. So let's think about fishing for a moment. And as we think of fishing, we might think of several kinds of fishing.

Fishing with large nets (large group setting). This is the kind of fishing that Simon Peter and Andrew were doing on the Sea of Galilee. When Jesus called, they immediately left their nets and followed Him to fish for men. Through your prayers and support, you have been a part of this kind of fishing.

Robert Messier's article tells of one recent example of this kind of fishing on his last mission trip to Nicaragua. On this trip, some of the members of the team took the gospel to several villages with good success. I was not involved in this trip but have made many such trips and have seen many come to faith in Christ in just such a large group setting.

Fishing with a rod and reel (individuals). You have also been a part of this kind of fishing. Gary Jones (our resident fly fishing expert) has written an article that tells of his successful fishing in Mongolia, with Daniel, using our Gift Cube. Allen Mann (our newest missionary) also tells of this kind of fishing. Wherever our missionaries and teams go, they have the privilege of sharing with the individuals that they meet the good news of God's free offer of eternal life by faith in Christ alone.

Surprise fishing. Not sure how this applies to literal fishing, but we'll let this one be a surprise to you, as it was to us (see page 2)! This unexpected fishing was also a result of your partnership.

Thank you for making it possible for us to go fishing among the lost and hurting of this world.

Your Fishing Buddy,

Dean Chollar

P.S. Please pray for many fish on my next trip leaving on September 17 when I go to oversee our new school start in Ben Town, Liberia.



Fishing in Mongolia

When I was invited to teach a conference in Mongolia, two things excited me about this opportunity. First of all this is a new country for CrossWay International. In the year and a half since I joined CrossWay, I've been working to train pastors for the churches in areas where CrossWay has been reaping a harvest of new believers in Christ. But none of our team have ever even been to Mongolia. Moreover, Mongolia has only been open to the gospel since the breakup of the Soviet Union about 20 years ago.



As an avid fly fisherman, the other thing that thrilled me about Mongolia is the fact that it is the home of the largest trout in the world: Mongolian Taimen, which reach up to 6 feet long. And by God's providence, the conference was planned for the city of Baganuur, located along the Kherlen River, a home for these river monsters. So with a case of CrossWay Gift Cubes and the largest fly rod I could borrow, I was on my way.

During three days of teaching about 35 adults, including how to use the Gift Cube to share the gospel, I gave an invitation for those who had never before clearly understood the gospel. Three of them indicated that they were ready to trust in Christ alone for the gift of eternal life. Afterwards I was asked to use the Gift Cube to present the Good News to about 40 youth at a retreat. Not only did two of them trust in

Christ, but when they had a skit competition, one of the youth used a Gift Cube to present the gospel. I think they've caught on to the idea that a picture is worth a thousand words.

The next day was my planned fishing trip. And one of the fishermen had a son named Daniel, who could speak English. So as his parents got our camping gear and supplies ready, I brought out my Gift Cube and showed it to Daniel. After going through the pictures on the cube, Daniel responded that he was ready to trust in Christ also. And as I was headed out the door, I took a photo of Daniel sharing the gospel with his younger brother. It's been said, "Give a man a fish and you'll feed him for a day. But teach him to fish and he'll feed himself for the rest of his life." My experience in Mongolia was: Share the gospel and you'll change lives. But teach them how to share the gospel, and you'll change a nation.

Gary Jones



Surprise Fishing

We recently received an email that was unexpected, and showed us how God sometimes works in surprising ways in our fishing. It said:

"I was traveling on vacation and on the last night of my stay I was putting away some travel brochures and came across this small white box shoved way in the back and bottom of the container. On the lid it had a picture of a gift and the words "Crossway Gift Cube". I opened the box and found the box and tried to figure out what it was and how it worked. I was puzzled, after more searching I found the "instructions" and was totally blown away. I went around and showed everyone else and they were amazed as well. I would really like to have one of these, but don't want to take the one from here (even though it was hidden). Here is my problem, I can't really afford to purchase one. Is there anyway to have one "donated" so I can show other people as well? If so, that would be great. If not I understand, and want to thank you anyway for the wonderful message."

How cool is that! We haven't yet figured out how the Cube ended up in that container in a cabin in Ellijay, Georgia. Let us know if you know!



Fishing on the Street in Nicaragua

I met Noel outside a quaint church in San Carlos, Nicaragua. He is a former gang leader and had only left that life-style after being nearly fatally wounded when a bullet severed an artery. He was told that if he lived, he would lose his leg. But there he stood before me, alive and on 2 good legs, questioning Christianity because of his past church experiences. Francisco, CrossWay's Nicaraguan Field Director and my very dear friend, stood with me and we shared the clear gospel of God's grace, apart from the "religion" that was keeping him from trusting in Christ. When his questions had been answered, he was ready, and that day he and the friend with him trusted Christ alone for salvation!



After taking us to his house, he asked if we would be willing to share this message of salvation to some members of his former gang, as well as some other at-risk boys. We were thrilled! The next morning could hardly come soon enough, but eventually it did, and Francisco, Noel and I arrived in front of an old, abandoned rail station. As we walked toward a large yellow building, we noticed several men sleeping on the concrete curb. Francisco and Noel awakened them, and it was apparent that these men were struggling with addictions. I began talking with them of God's love and grace, and as I did, 3 more men came to listen. They each told me they believed they had to be good to go to heaven, and even they realized that wouldn't work for them! But after seeing from Scripture that actions, good or bad, don't qualify anyone for eternal life, and that only by transferring their trust from themselves to Jesus Christ could they be certain of eternal life, they believed! That day, 6 men struggling with addictions became my brothers in Christ! I hugged them, prayed with them and assured them of their salvation. I reminded them that I would continue to pray for them and that I was very much looking forward to teaching them more on my next trip. Would you join me in praying for Eduardo, Geronimo, Noel, Jose, Julio, Alberto and Harrison?

Allen Mann

Fishing Trip to Nicaragua

This last trip to Nicaragua was very different than our previous ones. For Ann it was the very first women's conference that she has been able to coordinate. She was able to use her journey of grief with the passing of her mom as a teaching lesson with the ladies that attended. The conference started with praise and worship music, and they loved the Spanish praise and worship! Ann spoke about grief but the main topic was God's Grace in the midst of grief. The conference was very welcomed and Lord willing she will be able to do more.



Kat Petkoff (age 20) led the Children's Ministry this time and did an amazing job teaching over 350 children! We were in totally new places this time, mostly in and around Managua instead of our usual places around Masaya. As a result of her teaching (and using the Cross-Way Gift Cube) we saw 75 children and one mother put their trust in Christ alone for the first time! Please pray for their growth and desire to lead others to Jesus Christ's saving grace.

In addition, Allen Mann and I were looking at lining up the specific details for future mission trips to Nicaragua. One such mission trip is to host a Youth Sports Camp for teenagers. This is a great way to reach the youth of Nicaragua. Please keep in your prayers this type of Youth Sports Camp to see where God leads this desire to win many young men to Christ in our nets.

Robert Messier

Praise

- 1) Praise for the mission trip to Nicaragua--the successful Pastors' and Women's Conferences, and the many kids reached in our Children's Ministry.
- 2) Praise for our new missionary, Allen Mann, and his family.
- 3) Praise for the fruit (fish?) from the mission trips by Gary Jones to Nicaragua, Mongolia and China.
- 4) Praise and thanks for the wives and families of our missionaries who make their trips possible because of their loving support.

Prayer

- 1) Pray for Dean's upcoming trips in the fall/winter, starting with his trip to Liberia September 17.
- 2) Pray for the start of the new school this September in Ben Town, Liberia, and for the 60 kids enrolled.
- 3) Pray for the financial needs for the Water Well Ministry and the finishing of the Office/Training Center (Mission House) in Nicaragua.
- 4) Pray for blessings on our faithful and hard-working overseas coworkers.



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September 2013

Meet the CWI Team - Allen Mann

I trusted Jesus as my Savior when I was only 5 years old. Our family attended church regularly, but one particular Sunday, the message caught my mind and heart and I met the pastor in the aisle after the evening service. He and my father reminded me that Jesus had died to pay for my sins, and that I only needed to put my trust in Christ alone for eternal life, instead of depending on my own goodness. Though I was young, I clearly remember the moment I transferred my trust to Him!

As a young teen, I played the hypocrite at church. I helped in the children's programs and became a leader in our youth group, but away from church I was a different person to my family and friends. It wasn't until I met my future wife, Sheree, that I began to really allow God to have control of my life. I straightened up my life to impress her, but God used that time to grab my heart, and it wasn't long before my actions came from an earnest desire to serve my Savior.

I became the volunteer youth worker at my church and continued to be so through my years at Southwestern Bible College. After college, my wife and I moved to Apache Junction, Arizona, where I worked at Desert Bible Chapel as a full-time youth pastor and music minister. In 2006, God called us to Ponderosa Bible Church in Payson, Arizona, where I became the pastor of worship, families, college and young adults. During my time in Payson, I have traveled to Nicaragua with CrossWay a total of 6 different times to teach at the Pastors' Conferences, to street-witness and to share the gospel with all who will listen. It has become my deepest passion and I look forward to ministering with CrossWay in the coming years.

