

What you do to serve others not only provides for the needs of God's people, but also produces more and more prayers of thanksgiving to God. You will honor God through this genuine act of service because of your commitment to spread the Good News of Christ and because of your generosity in sharing with them and everyone else.
(2 Corinthians 9:12-13)

As we enjoy this time of Thanksgiving, we wanted to share with you how your gifts of prayer and support have resulted in more thanksgiving to God. In 2 Corinthians, Paul was encouraging the believers in their support of the church in Jerusalem, which was in great financial difficulty. He told them how their help would produce more and more prayers of thanksgiving to God. And so, we wanted to share with you how your partnership has also produced this increased thanksgiving.

As you will read in the inside of this prayer letter, your partnership has provided water projects, care for orphans and needy kids, the start of our 2 new schools and our various leadership conferences. Without exception, each community in these countries you have helped, through your prayers and support, has asked me to pass on to you their gratitude to God and to you. You have made a huge difference in the physical well-being of these communities.

But it goes much further than that. These physical acts of kindness have opened doors and provided us with the platform to meet spiritual needs. Let me share just a few examples:

Ken Gatithi, our Field Director in Kenya, has worked tirelessly on many water projects from drilling wells, to installing hydro-pumps and rain harvest tanks. He has also overseen the painting of some school buildings and distribution of goats. After each of these various projects, he has come back to share the gospel of God's grace. Using the CrossWay Gift Cube, Ken has seen hundreds this year come to faith in Christ alone.

And in Liberia, during the Easter weekend, Isaac Zoedah, our Field Director for this country, had 25 Gift cubes, which I had left behind on one of my mission trips. He was instructed to train 25 faithful people to use them, which he did. Later that weekend, they all came back together to report that over 700 of their friends and family members had made decisions to trust in Christ alone.

This same kind of experience could be shared by so many who are involved with CrossWay International, but space just won't allow it. But permit us to speak for them, in giving thanks to God and to you, for your partnership.

Your Partner,

Dean Chollar



**MORE AND MORE
PRAYERS OF
THANKSGIVING!**

November 2013

TO GIVE OR NOT TO GIVE?

One question that we are often asked is, "How do you decide on what the next project is, or which people to help?" When a need is brought to our attention, we prayerfully look first at the seriousness of the need and ask the question, "Is this truly a burden they cannot carry?" If it is, and if we have the resources to help, then the Scriptures are clear on this point. Galatians 6:2 says, "Carry one another's burdens".

As a result, orphans and needy kids remain one of our top priorities, as they obviously cannot carry the burden of feeding or educating themselves. But we do not make this an unending ongoing project. We are learning to provide means for the adults in the area to earn money to provide for these kids and for themselves. One such example are the ovens we plan to build in Nicaragua at several feeding centers. This will enable the adults in these areas to make bread, sell it, and also to provide food for the orphans and needy kids.

But there are two sides to this coin of helping people. The first part, which I mentioned above, is to carry one another's burdens. The second part is that each should carry his own load (Gal. 6:5). If all we do is give money to people, we rob them of so much, including their self-dignity and the joy of seeing God provide through their own labor and hands. Because of this, we work hard at drawing the line between helping those who really need help, and then encouraging ministries that can become self-sustaining.



A THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP IN LIBERIA

Just recently, I visited Ben Town, Liberia, where, through the prayers and support of you, our prayer partners, we have started a new school, that now has 120 attending. The temporary building consists of a simple concrete floor with a mat material for the walls and a tin roof. The older students have their own handmade school desks and the younger ones sit on long benches with a long table in front of them. These are "start up costs", which they simply don't have. Liberia continues to suffer from the devastating effects of the 15-year bloody civil war, so this represents a burden they cannot carry. But the children who have parents (or one parent), can give something

toward the tuition and uniform costs. Isaac Zoedah, our Field Director,

gives special consideration, of course, to those who are orphans. Then, as the community sees the value of the school we are providing, they will be asked to give more until we reach a self-sustaining position. In that way, we move them from dependency to a self-sustaining position by encouraging each to carry their own load. Even at this date, they are providing 50% of these costs.

A THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP IN ETHIOPIA

This is the second year for our school in Meki, Ethiopia. We now have 101 students in our kindergarten and first grade classes. 23 of these kids are on scholarship as they have no visible means of support. The other 78 have parents who are picking up a majority of the cost for the school. But they still face some challenges. Melaku Abebe, our Field Director, has informed me that books are still needed for the classroom assignments, and we would also like to get the library going. The library can also help pay for some costs as it is customary in Ethiopia to pay a membership fee. And if we could ever get the internet center set up in this library, we would be the only internet center in this area of around 60,000 people. This would more quickly move them to the self-sustaining position we are looking to achieve.





A THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP IN KENYA

Ken Gatithi, our Field Director in Kenya, continues his great ministry of providing safe drinking water through our various water projects, and helping in other ways such as the painting of the schools. Recently we started some innovative ways to accomplish this clean water ministry by providing a hydro-pump in Gathaka and large rain harvest tanks in Kihuti. We allow these communities to charge a very small fee (to those who can pay it) to maintain all this and even help cover other needed expenses for the children.

A THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP IN NICARAGUA

Francisco Caldera, our Field Director in Nicaragua, continues to move our ministries in this country forward with the help of Robert and Ann Messier. Just this past month, I was informed that the well we drilled in Las Velasquez is not only covering the costs for its maintenance, but also providing help to many of the destitute widows. Can you imagine what a boost this is to their self-esteem and dignity? And the sign in front of the water well clearly presents the gospel of God's grace.



And what has all this effort on all our parts accomplished? The bottom line is that we continue to move our ministries to self-sustaining positions and at the same time, are seeing thousands come to faith in Christ. So as you enjoy your Thanksgiving holiday this year, know that your prayers and support are having the desired effect of helping the lost and hurting, and producing more and more prayers of thanksgiving to God.

**MORE AND MORE
PRAYERS OF
THANKSGIVING!**

Praise

- 1) Praise for the recovery of many of our team who have suffered from various ailments including gall-bladder surgery, malaria, dengue fever, and other conditions.
- 2) Praise for our many coworkers (Field Directors, missionaries, and staff workers) who labor tirelessly for the gospel.
- 3) Praise for safe travels to many parts of the world this year by our team including our four active countries plus China, Mongolia, Mexico and the Philippines.



**CrossWay
International**

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Prayer

- 1) Pray for Dean and the team and their upcoming year of travel to our mission fields.
- 2) Pray that we would remain clear on presenting the gospel of salvation by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone.
- 3) Pray for the support needs for all of our existing and planned projects to reach out to the lost and hurting.

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November 2013

Meet the CWI Team - Robert Messier

I was brought up in a Christian home and was in church every time the church doors were open. I didn't truly understand what God was asking me to do in order to have my sins forgiven until I was about 15 years old. It took me a while before coming to the realization that what Jesus did was enough. I couldn't work for salvation, I couldn't lose salvation, it was a free gift by faith alone or else His dying on the cross for me was of no value. It was then around that age that I trusted in Christ alone for my salvation, realizing it was a free gift as we read in Ephesians 2:8,9 – "For by grace you are saved through faith and not of yourselves. It is the gift of God, not by works lest anyone should boast."

My decision to serve him came years later after my salvation experience. This happened when I had turned 24 and had come home on leave from the Navy. At that point I dedicated my life to serve the Lord. Since then I have done motorcycle ministry with bikers, and now, as a missionary with CrossWay International, I have been to Nicaragua 10 times leading short-term mission teams.

If you would like to join me in Nicaragua, please let me know and I will be happy to explain how you can share in this ministry. Please pray that I continue to walk WITH God and not in front of or behind Him.

