

# Annual Report for CrossWay International for 2015



by Dean Chollar

CEO, CrossWay International

**We are thankful** to the Lord for all the opportunities He has given us to minister in the past year. We are also thankful for our faithful team of prayer partners, whose prayer and financial support enable us to continue to proclaim the clear presentation of the Gospel of God's grace. (Mark 16:15; Colossians 4:3, 4) Our threefold approach continues to be an effective strategy.

### ***Opening Hearts for the Gospel***

First, we look for ways to "gain a hearing for the Gospel" for the lost in this world. We do this in a number of ways that will create a desire in the hearts of the unbeliever to look to God.



Providing clean water in Kenya

#### ***Water Projects***

Our Water Projects, which include drilling wells and installing hydro-pumps and rain harvest tanks, have provided clean safe drinking water for around 130,000 people to date in more than 30 communities in five different countries. Many of these wells and projects have been in smaller communities, but one of them, was a deep gusher of a well in Diriamba, Nicaragua. You can imagine how this captures the attention and heart of those who suffer from a lack of water. (Proverbs 29:7)

#### ***Care for Orphans and Needy Kids***

We are also attending to many orphans and needy kids in our four active countries of Kenya, Ethiopia, Liberia, and Nicaragua. Our care for orphans and a few blind kids are an ongoing ministry in Kenya, with work being done in 5 other existing orphanages. This opens the door and gains a hearing for the Gospel through evangelistic events and the showing of the Jesus film in many rural communities which has proven very effective.

In terms of the two schools which we started, they are both several years old now, and continue to grow. Our school in Liberia has grown from 150 to 174 students. And in Ethiopia the school had grown from 170 to near 200.



Schooling for kids at The Way School in Ethiopia



Helping the kids in Nicaragua

In Nicaragua we continue our 3 children's outreach programs for around 150 children, where the main method of attraction is food, both physical and spiritual. Many of these children are hungry both physically and spiritually and even just this one meal per week provides much relief. We have also been purchasing cows and milk goats to help feed and sustain these children in addition to helping widows in their times of distress. (James 1:27)

All of this is done to help move us to the second strategy, to share the Gospel of God's grace.

### ***Sharing the Gospel***

Second, we make sure they hear the gospel and have a chance to respond. So far it's been a good year with several thousand coming to faith in Christ, and many more who heard the Gospel of God's grace. (2 Timothy 4:5)

As we gain a hearing for the Gospel and the listener's hearts become more open to what we say and do (Strategy One), we then make clear that we are simply the servant or channel through which God is bringing this relief. And the reason is to share the greatest news anyone could ever hear. We share the Gospel in simple terms using qualified interpreters and implementing a variety of methods - tracts, our Gift Cube, and other well- tested approaches. We go wherever the Lord opens the door, such as to churches, hospitals, prisons, sports events, and special events at schools. Many of our listeners come from various religious and secular backgrounds. They have never clearly heard before that through simple faith in Jesus Christ, Who died for their sins and rose from the dead, they are guaranteed eternal life apart from their own goodness or works. This message is such a contrast to what is taught in the countries where we operate. And the response to this message regularly results in 30 to 40 percent of the listeners indicating that they are understanding for the first time this Gospel of grace, and coming to faith in Christ alone.



Dean Chollar and Francisco Caldera presenting the Gospel to a school in Nicaragua

### ***Training Others to Share the Gospel***



Teaching the teachers in Liberia

Third, after gaining a hearing for the Gospel (Strategy One) and sharing the Gospel (Strategy Two), we then hold seminars and conferences to teach others how to share the Gospel, which is our Strategy Three. (Matthew 28:19)

A prominent tool we use in these conferences to teach on the clarity of the Gospel is to teach them our Gift Cube, which uses graphics to lay out the plan of salvation. This tool includes a test to make sure they understand that our salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. And another tool is to teach or incorporate lessons from the seminar I wrote, the Make It Clear! Seminar.

One such example is the opportunity which Allen Mann had to teach this seminar to 95 public school teachers in Liberia this past September. These teachers will, in turn, teach this to their 3,000 students. And we now have another opportunity to teach another 250 public school teachers in the coming year, impacting their 7,000 students.

Gary Jones, our International Training Director, held a Pastor's Conference in Nicaragua. And Dean taught one in Tanzania.

## **Guidelines for Helping**

We have learned over the years that often well-intentioned people will provide for the less fortunate in a way that creates an unhealthy dependency. They can inadvertently encourage a dependency on the channel through which the help flows, rather than a healthy and robust trust in God, the Giver and true source of all help. Situations do arise where our target community is so destitute that little time is available to make this distinction clear - that it is God who is providing the help and relief, and not the American dollar or European Euro.

The situation in Liberia is a good example of this. Ebola devastated this country and left its economy in shatters. The Crossway Christian School, which we started a year before this crisis, was moving toward a self-supporting position, where those children who had parents were contributing to the costs of this school, trusting the Lord to provide through the work of their hands in a slowly recovering economy. But once the economy collapsed in Liberia from the Ebola crisis, the situation on the ground changed. They simply could not carry this burden. And as we read in Galatians 6:2, we are to "Carry each other's burdens". Right now, without the full support from CrossWay International and you, our prayer partners and donors, this school would not exist.

Now, once things change in Liberia and the economy begins to recover, however, a second principle is applied. In Galatians 6:5, the recipient is "to carry his own load". But this will take time. Until then, the teachers and staff must be paid and school supplies provided. There exists a delicate balancing act between "carrying one another's burden" and training others to "carry their own load". When that balance is achieved, the effectiveness of help to the hurting individual or community becomes an effective way of gaining a hearing and opening hearts for the Gospel of grace.

We follow the same basic approach in providing clean and safe drinking water for communities. Once we have decided on the needed location for such a project and funds are available, our Field Directors help set up the Water Project Committee in the community that will oversee and manage the well. These projects are placed on community property and not private property to avoid the misuse of such a project.

We are also moving towards a self-sustaining program in our children's ministry in Nicaragua in two ways. We are challenging the Christian parents in these communities to help us prepare the food and inviting the local churches to assist more and more.

In this way, we strive to achieve self-sustaining ministries with responsible indigenous management.

## **Final Thanks**

We are also thankful for our dedicated office staff, Danielle Ware, Rita Chapman, and Joan Chollar. And for our families, who make this possible with their loving support. But most of all we thank God for the prayers, support, strength, stamina, partnership, and opportunities that made this all possible.

*Dean R. Chollar, Jr.*



**For those who wish to see more details:**

**Missionary Trips and National Field Director Reports**

Dean Chollar, Missionary and CEO



- January to Kenya where I spoke at 8 events at some prisons, water projects, and help for widows. We had more than 900 come to faith in Christ. This 9 day mission trip was the most productive mission trip I had this year.
- January to Tanzania for a Pastors Conference
- February to Ethiopia to challenge them to plant a church and to visit our Christian Primary School
- March to Naples, Florida I preached at CrossRoads Community Church, and spoke at Weston Christian School and I was a guest on a radio program
- March to Nicaragua I preached and shared the Gospel in prisons, churches and visited with our baseball team
- April to Nicaragua again to preach in some prisons, visited the hospital with donation of fans, and visited with Senator Fernando
- May to Kenya again I preached the Gospel to communities where we had done water projects and taught a Pastors' Conference in neighboring Tanzania
- May to Seattle area where I preached at Cedarhome Baptist Church and met with the employees of a supporter, at Klesick Family Farm
- June to Nicaragua again I preached the Gospel at prisons, checked on livestock, and our current NGO status
- August to Nicaragua again I preached in some prisons, visited hospitals and met with 3 Senators
- September to Ethiopia I preached at their newly planted CrossWay church and taught a Pastors Conference in Meki
- September to Atlanta area I preached 3 times at Grace Community Fellowship
- October to Arlington, Texas I attended the FGA Conference and spoke at Park Springs Bible Church
- October to Amsterdam, the Netherlands where I lectured at Tyndale Theological Seminary

To date, this represents 10 trips to foreign countries in the first 10 months of 2015 and 3 plane trips to visit supporting churches. In addition, I made several trips to the San Antonio area to visit supporting churches and others in the Boerne area.

For more details, see our mission-wide prayer letters: [gocrossway.org/prayerletters](http://gocrossway.org/prayerletters)

Allen Mann, Missionary



- February to Camp Verde Christian Church in Arizona
- March to Fellowship Baptist Church in Kearny, Arizona
- May to the Philippines with 5 others for Pastors' Conference and Children's Ministry
- June to Nicaragua with team of 12 others for Sports Camp
- August to Boerne to visit office personnel
- September to Liberia he taught the Make It Clear seminar to 95 public school teachers and a Pastors' conference and checked on our school
- October to Clearwater, Kansas to visit one of our supporting churches

Allen also made several trips during the year with his family to visit other churches. He also decided to resign this November to be more available for his family. We thank the Lord for all Allen and his family have been able to do during their time with us, and wish him well as he serves full-time as the Worship Pastor of his home church in Arizona.

### Jason Chollar, Missionary

- April to our office in Boerne to help with our computer system
- August to Nicaragua to assist Dean with music in meetings, preach at a church, and visit a hospital and some prisons
- October to attend the FGA Conference and sing at Park Springs Bible Church in Arlington, Texas
- November 18 to 23 to San Antonio/Boerne to tweak our computer system, visit a supporting church and meet with leaders of His Hill Bible School
- December to Nicaragua again to handle various issues and line up mission trips for teams for 2016



Jason became a faith missionary with us near the end of September and is also visiting churches in his area north of Seattle where he served as a Worship Pastor for 18 years.

For more details, go to: [gocrossway.org/Jason](http://gocrossway.org/Jason)

### Bruce McIntosh, Missionary and International Training Specialist

- March to visit one of our supporting churches in Lantana, Florida
- April to speak at Frontier School of the Bible in Wyoming representing CWI
- August to Nicaragua with a Police Officer to teach at Training Seminar for Police



For more details, go to: [gocrossway.org/Bruce](http://gocrossway.org/Bruce)

### Gary Jones, Missionary and International Training Director

- March to Nicaragua for Pastor's Conference
- October to Arlington, Texas to attend the Free Grace Alliance Conference
- November to Tyler, Texas to visit potential Field Director from Tanzania and attend a Mission's Conference



Gary is currently pursuing his Doctorate of Ministry with Grace School of Theology.

For more details, go to: [gocrossway.org/Gary](http://gocrossway.org/Gary)

### Merle Admire, Missionary

- September to Kenya to install water tanks in the Gakima community - Merle and his wife, Lisa, both made this trip.

For more details, go to: [gocrossway.org/Merle](http://gocrossway.org/Merle)



### Robert and Ann Messier, Missionaries

- June to Nicaragua to assist with Youth Sports Camp

Robert and Ann are looking to become foster parents soon. This will not allow them to travel and we wish them well with their new focus in life.



### **Field Directors:**

#### Francisco Caldera, Field Director in Nicaragua

In spite of a great deal of illness in his family (his wife, Jasmina, was diagnosed with stage one cancer and he has high blood pressure and diabetes), Francisco has served faithfully and handled all the mission trips well, as you can read above. He is involved in the ongoing ministries of the Feeding Centers, Water Well Projects, and Prison Ministry, as well as the Hospital Ministry, construction of our Training Center and the purchase and care of livestock. Through all of these we have seen more than a thousand come to faith in Christ.

For more details, go to: [gocrossway.org/Francisco](http://gocrossway.org/Francisco)



#### Ken Gatithi, Field Director in Kenya



**Showing the Jesus Film**

Ken is working with orphanages and schools when he is not setting up water projects for needy communities. And he is also enrolled now in the Grace School of Theology.

Here is an excerpt from a recent prayer letter:

*"In the past few weeks I had the pleasure of showing the Jesus film to different schools. This has transitioned me to a new area of preaching. This gives me the platform to show Jesus' life here on earth and what he went through to have our sins forgiven. The kids are able to fully understand that Jesus died on the cross for our sins and rose from the dead. Out of my several visits, I have been blessed with a bumper harvest and saw over 500 trust in Christ alone for their salvation!"*



Here is a more complete update of how God is using your prayers to work through me in Kenya.

- *Visit to Kihuti Primary School: We had installed two rain harvest tanks and painted the school. I showed the Jesus film video and later shared the gospel to the 276 kids out of which 45 kids trusted in Christ alone for their salvation.*
- *Visit to Star for Jesus Orphanage: I was able to place our 5 orphans in this home and they are doing great! We were also able to provide school uniforms to 25 orphans from this orphanage in February. I also showed the Jesus film and shared the gospel to the 35 kids present, and 10 made a clear decision to trust in Christ for their salvation.*
- *Visit to Rutune Primary School: We had helped repair their concrete tank and did some rain harvesting for the school. I showed the Jesus film to 243 kids and preached resulting in 30 trusting in Christ.*

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- Volunteered at Amani children's home and was able to share the gospel using the gift cube. Out of the 38 kids in the home 8 did put their trust in the Lord.
- Visit to Masewani Primary School: I showed Jesus film and later shared the gospel to 250 kids and 40 kids trusted in Christ for their salvation. We had drilled a well, did some walls reinforcements and painted the whole school.
- Visit to Thangathi Primary School: We had painted the school. I showed the Jesus film to 310 kids and 65 trusted the Lord.
- Visit to Farm View School: Got an invitation to show the Jesus film to 250 kids by David the school director. I had 60 trusting in Christ alone for their salvation.
- Visit to Gathukimundu Primary School: We did some rain harvesting project for them and we have a request for a tank. I showed Jesus film to 400 kids and 80 trusted in Christ.
- Visit Muhito Primary School: I showed the Jesus film and shared the Gospel to the 540 kids and 150 trusted in Christ.
- Visit to Kiuu Primary School: Dean and I visited the school in May and requested for some hand washing tanks. I visited the school and while installing the tanks I shared the gospel to a group of 25 kids on Three Things God Cannot Do. I had seven who did put their trust in the Lord.
- Visit to Ichamara Primary School: we had painted the school and still trusting the Lord to provide some rain harvesting tanks for the school. I showed the Jesus film and out of the 280 present 45 trusted in Christ.

*Please pray for these young people. Pray that the decisions they made would continue to impact their lives...Ken Gatithi"*

For more details, go to: [gocrossway.org/Ken](http://gocrossway.org/Ken)

### Isaac Zoedah, Field Director in Liberia

- Isaac continues to do a good job as the head of the Christian Primary School in Ben Town, Liberia with its 174 students. This school is fully subsidized by CrossWay International due to the damage to the economy caused by Ebola.
- He also is lining up the teaching opportunities for 350 public school teachers, and Allen taught the Make It Clear! Seminar on evangelism to 95 of the teachers in September.



For more details, go to: [gocrossway.org/Isaac](http://gocrossway.org/Isaac)

### Melaku Abebe, Field Director in Ethiopia

Melaku successfully launched the new CrossWay Church plant in Addis Ababa and oversees our Christian School in Meki with over 170 kids. We expect more than 200 in the coming months.

For more details, go to: [gocrossway.org/Melaku](http://gocrossway.org/Melaku)



Respectfully submitted,

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