

✦ CHRISTMAS IN A HURTING WORLD ✦

December 2008

“You, O Lord, hear the desire of the afflicted. You encourage them and listen to their cry for help, defending the fatherless and oppressed.” Psalm 10:17-18

Christmas Gifts



What kinds of gifts are you giving your loved ones this year? Perhaps the newest video game, a beautiful necklace, or if they're really special, a fruitcake ©. Whatever the gift, it's

sure to be meaningful. This Christmas, I'd like to ask you to consider the needy mentioned above in Psalm 10. I (Dean) meet many such oppressed people in my travels, and I know that

the gifts of food, shelter, and medical care are among the most meaningful I have ever given, adding a deeper joy to the usual gifts of toys and gadgets that we give each other. Here at CrossWay International, we'd like to invite you to impact eternity by showing God's love in practical ways to the hurting and oppressed. Join us in the privilege of being the Lord's eyes, ears, hands, and feet.

(For more details, see "How Can You Help?" on the back.)

Ethiopian Expedition November 2008

What if your child was sick and there were no doctors in town, no medicines available, and no travel funds to take him to another town for help? Although unthinkable in America, we faced this exact scenario in Meki, Ethiopia this November. Meki is a town of 60,000, and yet it has no doctors or nurses. Dr. Katie Buck and Nurse Susan Buchanan, our Medical Consultant Team, treated children with persistent diarrhea and other typical childhood maladies caused by contaminated water or food. Many children linger in poor health and even die from such



Nurse Susan Buchanan and a young patient.

diseases, although these can be easily treated with simple care.

Dr. Katie and Nurse Susan tell of the heartbreak they faced when they finally had to close the clinic in Meki to catch their plane home. Many mothers had children who still needed treatment, and though they spoke no English, their desperate eyes begged Katie and Susan not to leave. Some even tried to give their babies to the two of them as they left. It is one of the rare times that I (Dean) am glad I'm physically blind and can't see this heartbreaking situation.

Though leaving was difficult, our team is building a more permanent presence in the community.

We have purchased a piece of property, and Steve Buchanan, our Construction Consultant, researched and will oversee the renovation of the small building into a medical clinic. Our Engineering Consultant, Bob Nicol, looked at the cost and means for drilling a deeper well and a water distribution system in Meki. And all this time, Dean was preaching, teaching on evangelism, and ordaining a young man, Zalalem, as pastor of a new church. This new church was started from the English School, which we began several years ago. Our coworker, Melaku Abebe, oversees all of these ministries as Director of CrossWay International in Ethiopia. We thank God for all this new and ongoing work!



Dr. Katie Buck with a young woman at the clinic.



Steve Buchanan makes a new friend.

Dean Chollar || www.gocrossway.org || dean@gocrossway.org || (830) 249-2322 || ECFA Affiliate

Donations: CrossWay International || 14 Fabra Oaks Road || Boerne, TX 78006

What's Next: Mercy Trip to Sudan to Care for Orphans

On January 10, Dean plans to travel to Adoor, Sudan, and hopes to be accompanied by a doctor. This village is home to the 494 orphans we care for at CrossWay, and it is even more impoverished than Meki. Adoor has no electricity, schools, or phone service, and has only one man who is somewhat trained in dispensing very limited medication. The large NGO organizations do not come here, due to its physical remoteness and also to its location in a military corridor near Darfur.

Dean will be helping Harry Wake (from a church in London) set up a water distribution system in Adoor; thankfully, we have already drilled three wells there. Due to a recent outbreak of cholera,

we have already lost one orphan and one mother this November, and the latest reports say the cholera is spreading. The clean water from the new distribution system will help staunch the spread of this disease.

Dean will be teaching pastors in the area, as well as the orphans, while the doctor sees to their health needs. Bob Nicol, our Engineering Consultant, will be traveling to both Meki, Ethiopia and Mombasa, Kenya to oversee the drilling of two wells and setting up water distribution systems there. He has, as many have done, paid for this out of his own finances, and we ask you to pray for this and their important work. We are all in need of much prayer and support. Plane tickets alone will run close to \$4,000 for each person (the higher cost is due to the area's remoteness).

How Can You Help?

First and most importantly, pray for the fatherless and oppressed, and that God might show you how to become more engaged in helping the truly hurting.

Second, as God leads, give to this work so that we might better meet these needs. We face a daunting challenge of drilling many water wells, setting up medical clinics, and caring for orphans as a means of reaching more for Christ. This is the Great Commission, and we've all been called. The question isn't, "Do we get involved?", but rather, "How is God leading me to get involved in His ongoing work around the world?"

In the spirit of gift-giving during this holiday season, consider giving a Christmas present to our friends overseas. Here are a few items that are needed:

For the Orphans:

A blanket -	\$10
Shoes -	\$10
A mosquito net	
to prevent malaria -	\$10
Soccer balls (ea) -	\$20
Food for one month -	\$25
A goat for food -	\$50
Bike to transport food -	\$150
Soap for the orphans -	\$200
A cow for food -	\$400
A tukul (hut) for	
10 orphans -	\$500

Sudan/ Ministry in General:

Visas (ea) -	\$50
Tent for coworkers	
in the field -	\$150
Vaccines and shots	
for coworkers -	\$250
Fence around okra crop -	\$300
Medical supplies	
to set up clinic -	\$1000
Plane tickets	
for team -	prices vary
Water wells:	\$1 a day
(see buckadaywater.com)	

Note: To give toward this ministry, make your check out to CrossWay International and mail to Boerne, TX address on the front. You can also give online by e-check or credit card by going to www.gocrossway.org.