

2008 Calendar



LeaderLink '08* – North America
March 1-6, 2008
 Canterbury Retreat & Conference Center
 Oviedo, Florida
www.crossgloballink.org

LeaderLink '08* – Africa
May 4-9, 2008
 Nairobi, Kenya

North American Mission Leaders Conference '08*
 (Triennial 2008)
September 24-27, 2008
 Omni Hotel
 Broomfield, Colorado

LeaderLink '08* – Asia
October 19-23, 2008 **NEW**
 Chiang Mai, Thailand

Personnel Conference '08*
December 3-5, 2008
 International Learning Center
 Rockville, Virginia

**Jointly sponsored by
 CrossGlobal Link &
 The Mission Exchange*

VISIONS



The Quarterly Newsletter of CrossGlobal LinkSM

January 2008


The Benefit of Benefits

It's rather common to take what is important for granted. This is especially true when God-given benefits present themselves so readily to us. However, by not stopping to recount the good things in life that we come to enjoy, we are prone to fall into the trap of taking benefits for granted. That is probably why King David reminds us to praise the Lord and "forget not all his benefits" (Psalms 103:2).

According to Webster, a benefit is defined as "a help," "a profit," or "an advantage." When a mission executive, mission administrator, or field missionary wonders what is the value of membership in an association like CrossGlobal Link, the real question is, "what advantage, profit, or help is CrossGlobal Link to us as we do mission?"

That's a fair question! And it's one that demands a clear answer. The question is especially valid in these days when not only clarification of core benefits is sought, but additionally when

discernable "value-added" profit of membership is expected.

In this issue of *Visions*, we intend to clarify the numerous advantages and value of membership in CrossGlobal Link. An explanation of our Core Benefits demonstrates anew the "benefit of benefits." This clarification, coupled with the testimony of one of our long-standing members, helps bring a fuller understanding of those advantages. 

“...the real question is, ‘what advantage, profit, or help is CrossGlobal Link to us as we do mission?’”

CrossGlobal Link + Membership = Benefits

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The Benefits of Membership

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"The only justifiable reason for an organization's existence is the production of worthwhile results."

—John Carver

"Remarkable associations demonstrate their commitment to members in everything they do, from answering the phone, to responding to email, to developing quality products and services."

—from *7 Measures of Success*

"Every association can deliver better results for its members."

—Jim Collins author of *Good to Great*

Recently in my mail came a colorful booklet from the airlines with which I frequently fly, detailing the benefits of a new status I had attained for being a loyal flyer with them. It informed me that because of my loyalty, I not only had some exclusive flight privileges, but also additional benefits such as discounts at vacation spots, on car rentals, at restaurants, a hotel chain, and even on movie rentals. The booklet enlightened me on the array of rewards that were mine because of my membership with them.

Similarly, CrossGlobal Link provides clear-cut advantages to member organizations. We call these advantages "benefits." Indeed the reason CrossGlobal Link exists is for the purpose of members benefiting in tangible ways so they in turn are more effective in their God-given mission. All this takes place through the eight Core Benefits that membership provides. So what exactly are the advantages?

1 Stimulates fellowship, mutuality, prayer and commitment to the Word of God. Aligning with CrossGlobal Link provides opportunity where like-minded members can confer together in a non-threatening environment. It is a safe place to talk about the issues and challenges of doing mission in today's hostile environment. It is a place where reliance upon God and his Word is at the core of discussions. It is where members know they are prayed for on a regular basis, and cheer each other's accomplishments. Synergy breeds affinity.

2 Fosters networking and strategic alliances. In this age of willingness to do ministry in concert with others (rather than in competition), networking is a high value. Actually in a recent survey of our members, this value topped the list as the greatest benefit of all! In today's mission environment there is an increasing felt need to partner together for greater productivity, effectiveness and stewardship of resources. Recently a CrossGlobal Link member mission relocated its headquarters close to where another member mission was already established. The established mission assisted the newly arrived one in their relocation processes. In return the newly arrived mission, having surplus visa slots in a country the other mission was trying to enter, gave their visa slots over to the helping mission. Now that's one aspect of networking at its best!

3 Provides specialized mission training. CrossGlobal Link concerns itself with the on-going development of the full sphere of mission workers: missionaries, mission administrators, and mission executives. Each year we co-sponsor the Personnel Conference where individuals can take part in specialty workshops that focus on mobilization, training, member care and member management. Every two years our Mission Administration Seminar provides four tracks of specialized training in executive leadership, financial management, development and legal matters. CPE credits can be earned for those who need them to stay current in the financial field. Additionally, in alliance with the Evangelical

Missiological Society, every year at the CrossGlobal Link Annual Meeting we provide an array of missiological workshops on current issues being discussed on global mission.

4 Sponsors leadership development. CrossGlobal Link is co-sponsor with The Mission Exchange of LeaderLink. LeaderLink is the most comprehensive leadership institute specifically designed for missions. The institute, with its four-year curriculum, is tailored to the leadership needs of field missionaries as well as home mission staff. As a global training program, it holds 5-day modular sessions in three locations: Florida, Nairobi, Kenya, and Chiang Mai, Thailand.

5 Keeps members current with relevant mission information. Because of its stature in the North American mission community, the CrossGlobal Link office is a center for receiving current mission news and mailings from a variety of sources. These news items are gleaned and the most relevant items passed along electronically to member CEOs on a regular basis. Additionally, when a special or extraordinary mission forum on a pressing topic (i.e. security) is arranged, CrossGlobal Link passes that information on quickly to member missions.

6 Promotes a unified testimony and united voice for mission in both the domestic and global arenas. When called upon, CrossGlobal Link represents, as a block of mission agencies, North American evangelical missions in domestic functions and

forums. Association gatherings, country and ethnic specific forums, and interfacing with other accrediting associations such as Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA) in the U.S., and Canadian Council of Christian Charities (CCCC) in Canada are examples.

7 Represents our faith missions globally. Global issues demand global discussions that take place at global forums. As an umbrella association comprised of almost 90 North American mission agencies, CrossGlobal Link represents our members as a united block at these international forums. Some of the more noteworthy gatherings at which we participate are in connection with the World Evangelical Alliance (WEA) and Lausanne Committee for World Evangelism (LCWE). The upcoming "Global Mission Consultation and Celebration: From Edinburgh to Tokyo" to be held in 2010 of which CrossGlobal Link is a co-sponsor, is another case in point.

8 Sets and maintains standards of accountability and integrity. Since 1917, CrossGlobal Link has set high standards of accreditation and has awarded our seal of integrity to member missions who meet those standards. In an age when questionable mission practices and financial integrity is a concern (it is estimated that 24 billion dollars is embezzled annually from church-related funds), the CrossGlobal Link seal of integrity is important. Our seal guarantees integrity in message, finances, relationships and morals. We

hold our members accountable in these areas so that Christians everywhere are assured our standards are maintained. CrossGlobal Link has never deviated from high membership standards. Our members can be trusted to be true to the Bible, the gospel, and to the high moral and ethical demands of Scripture as they do mission. The "CrossGlobal Link Member" seal found on member websites and publications is the symbol of integrity.

The airline booklet I mentioned earlier reminded me that, although they provide me with an array of benefits, it was incumbent upon me to take advantage of them. Only then would I most appreciate them as a company and have greater appreciation of my membership. Similarly, CrossGlobal Link members who most take advantage of our Core Benefits, gain the greatest advantages and value from the association.

Since it is the mission of CrossGlobal Link to advance the effectiveness of our members in global mission, we hope you take every opportunity to participate fully in what CrossGlobal Link offers so that these benefits will enable you to thrive in your God-given mission. ○



Marv Newell
Executive Director
CrossGlobal Link

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In 1945 under the name of West Indies Mission USA, World Team became a member of CrossGlobal Link (then known as IFMA). West Indies Mission Canada joined in 1958. RBMU (Regions Beyond Missionary Union) joined CrossGlobal Link in 1952 and later merged with World Team in 1995.



Albert Ehmann
Executive Director
World Team

The Benefit to a Member

World Team has greatly benefited through its membership in CrossGlobal Link during these past 62 years. One of World Team's core values is **interdependence**. When I first became a missionary, the value of separatism and independence seemed to dominate field relationships. I struggled with a spirit of competitiveness and suspicion both in myself and in workers from other agencies. At times it didn't feel like we were working for the same Master and we certainly didn't work interdependently.

I thank God that through my association with CrossGlobal Link, I began to develop a kingdom view through interaction with fellow agency leaders like Ron Blue of CAM and Pat Cate of Christar. I learned that interdependence is better caught than taught when these and other CrossGlobal Link leaders shared with others their lives and global perspectives. We learned to know, love and trust one other, laying foundations for partnership and mutual learning. CrossGlobal Link facilitates and promotes such interdependence.

Individual agencies can easily get absorbed in their own ministries. But when they come together, they regain a fresh perspective on what God is doing and how they fit into *His* global and eternal agenda. During CrossGlobal Link personnel, administration and annual conferences, mission leaders often learn more from one another than they do from presentations. At the same time, God often uses speakers to call us back to Himself and to His Word. Our minds and hearts are challenged by missiological concepts and discussion about hard issues. I often find myself seeking help from other mission leaders as I grapple with particular problems. Gladly I share what I have learned with newer leaders or point them to others who have greater wisdom and experience.

In recent years LeaderLink has brought quality leadership development to a large number of mission leaders. Many World Team leaders have greatly benefited from this valuable training. I rate it among the best leadership training that I personally have received. I thank John Orme, Dan Bacon, Dave Dougherty and others for the investment they have made in developing us as mission leaders.

The pressure of budget and time constraints periodically challenges the cost benefit of membership in CrossGlobal Link. When these are weighed I find that the benefits far exceed the costs. However, as the saying goes, "you get out of it what you put into it." Benefits are not realized merely by paying membership dues. Vibrant families and teams are the product of fully participating members. Passive or absent members give and receive little. Speaking for World Team and for myself personally, we have reaped a high return for our investment in CrossGlobal Link. My hope is that other agencies and leaders have benefited as much from World Team, as World Team and I have benefited from association with them. ○

In 1985 when Albert first became Director of World Team Canada, he began attending CrossGlobal Link conferences. Albert has served many years on the board of CrossGlobal Link, both in Canada and the USA.

LeaderLink... Leadership Training for Mission



For over 10 years LeaderLink has been the place of choice for mission executives, administrators and field missionaries to enhance their leadership development. LeaderLink has a four year curriculum, with Foundations offered each year, plus one of the advanced tracks on a rotating basis. This leadership program is co-sponsored by CrossGlobal Link and The Mission Exchange.

2008 Course Content

Foundations Track:
Leadership Challenge, Introduction to Leader Development and Facilitative Leadership, Organizational Culture and Values

Advanced Track:
Coaching and Mentoring, Advanced Leader Development
Foundations & Advanced Tracks Together
Biblical Character

For more information and registration go to:
www.crossgloballink.org

LeaderLink

2008 Locations



Oviedo, Florida
March 1-6



Nairobi, Kenya
May 4-9



Chiang Mai, Thailand
October 19-23

NEW