

Crossroads Connection

A Publication of Crossroads Pregnancy Center

JANUARY 2010

THE ARMS AND LEGS OF GOD

1 CORINTHIANS 12

By Mark Perlick

It was late afternoon March 6, 2009 as I was driving to the Royal Park Hotel for the annual Crossroads' Benefit Banquet, and I was nervous. Being Vice President of the Crossroads Board of Directors, I was included in a small group of people invited to meet and welcome the evening's featured speaker, Nick Vujicic (pronounced Vuya-chich). Having traveled extensively in my business career, I had plenty of experience meeting and greeting people from other countries. I knew that Western Europeans did not shake hands exactly like Americans and that there was a protocol on how far Asians bow depending upon the status of the other person, but I had never greeted anyone with no arms or legs. I was a bit uncomfortable.

I knew Nick's history. He was born in Australia in 1982, the firstborn child of a pastor and his wife. There had been nothing unusual with the pregnancy, no warning signs of problems, and his condition has never been explained medically. Yet, Nick was born with no limbs other than a small appendage of a foot attached to his torso. I also knew that Nick, despite his disabilities, had become a living testimony to God's Grace, the Christian life, and a tremendous encouragement to others wherever he went. He started and was living a full time, widely acclaimed Christian ministry. But I was still nervous.

As I walked into the room, there were a dozen or more people present, and in the middle of a small group was Nick standing on the seat of an upholstered chair facing backward as he interacted with the group. I was introduced to Nick; he smiled, offered a friendly greeting, and said "Will you give me a hug?" Not about to say no, I quickly gave him a hug, and every apprehension I had melted away. Nick was warm and completely engaging. It was amazing how this young man with enormous physical challenges was able to demonstrate and communicate his love for others, and in so doing, to live out God's love for people. What an inspiration. What a testimony for the sanctity of life, especially unborn babies, handicapped or not. I wonder what our abortion-minded culture would say about an unborn infant diagnosed with Nick's characteristics. I don't need to wonder, I know.

I doubt if anyone who attended the banquet last year will not be excited to learn that Nick will return again for the 2010 Crossroads' Banquet. Likely they will want to invite friends and relatives. For those who were not able to attend last year, this is an extraordinary opportunity. Consider bringing a few guests or a table full to hear this remarkable man tell his even more remarkable story. And don't be nervous to talk with him personally!

2010 marks the 26th Annual Benefit Banquet, and new this year will be an expanded program with both a dinner and a luncheon at the Royal Park Hotel. Choose the time that works best for you, but be

sure to attend one or the other. Look for the details elsewhere in this newsletter.

The programs are expected to fill to capacity especially since, like last year, there is no charge for attendance. However, this event is the most important fundraiser of the year for Crossroads, and an appeal for donations will be made. This is a difficult time for Crossroads which, like many other charitable organizations, is challenged with financial pressures due to economic conditions. We at Crossroads understand that many of our supporters are struggling in their personal circumstances and that this is not a "business as usual" environment.

Since there are probably few if any of our contributors who have not been exposed to Christian stewardship principles, we want you to know that Crossroads' board and staff clearly understand that stewardship is a two way street. Just as individual Christians are accountable for the stewardship of the resources entrusted to them, so too, are we at Crossroads answerable to God as well as to our supporters for our stewardship of the resources provided to us. Be assured that Crossroads takes this responsibility very seriously and donors are encouraged to drop by the center and see how the funds are used or to review the financials.

By way of example, in 2001 we were serving an average of 55 clients per month at a cost of \$397 per client. For 2007 those numbers were 133 clients per month and \$177 per client. In 2009 we expect to serve 211 clients per month at a projected cost of \$158 per client. Furthermore, besides a huge increase in the number of clients for our traditional ministries of pregnancy tests, counseling, and material assistance, there has been a tremendous expansion of abstinence education in area public schools. See the article by Evelyn Van Sloten elsewhere in the newsletter describing this exciting program.

The Crossroads leadership will continue to look for every opportunity to improve services and reduce costs; it's what good stewards do. At the same time, we do not want to compromise on the quality of the work we do, nor do we want to establish unreasonable expectations for staff and volunteers. We at Crossroads pray that God will continue to provide resources to meet the opportunities He sets before us and that He will stir the hearts of people who, as they determine their giving priorities, include Crossroads in their planning.

Thank you for your faithful giving.

Help Wanted

from the desk of the director

Because we are now seeing more than 215 appointments per month, up from 176 per month in 2008, we need your prayers.

Because of the huge increase in clients in the past five years, from 888 in 2005 to 2,600 in 2009, we need your prayers for more volunteers.

Because of the increase in Hispanic clients, we need your prayers for bilingual volunteers to translate.

Because God has given us four school districts where we teach abstinence, we need your prayers for more qualified teachers.

Because so many women have come to us for help, we need your prayers for a constant flow of diapers and wipes.

Because our banquet is coming up in March, we need your prayers for underwriters to help cover the expenses.

Because our costs are going up, we need you and your friends to become monthly supporters.

Because you are reading this newsletter and care, we thank you and ask God to bless you.

CROSSROADS PRESENTS ABSTINENCE CLASSES

This past year the Lord has opened the doors of all the middle schools in the Troy, Avondale, Rochester, and Lake Orion districts to receive abstinence education from Crossroads. Our instructors visit the schools' health or science classes each quarter to present our three-day program which is designed to reinforce moral values, character development, and the value of waiting until marriage before becoming sexually active. Students are taught positive decision-making skills and the consequences of being sexually active before marriage. This program has been very successful and results continue to indicate the value of this teaching when it comes to how our youth determine the importance of this decision.

A high school health class was developed this year to illustrate the need for abstinence as it relates to unplanned pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases. This class has been successfully implemented in the Rochester high schools and will be taught in the Lake Orion high school this coming year. In an era of teaching that safe sex is condom usage, we have been given the opportunity to present the truth that safe sex is actually waiting until you are in a committed married relationship. What an incredible opportunity God has blessed us with!

2007-2008 school year: 113 presentations to 1021 students

2008-2009 school year: 128 presentations to 1350 students

2009-2010 school year: Presentations to an estimated 5000 students!!!!

In addition to the many students receiving our instruction, community members are also being educated in pregnancy prevention, STDs, and proactive decision-making skills. A partnership with the RAHCC has given us a platform to present a parent evening for the Rochester and Auburn Hills community dealing with these topics. *Teen Sex: Risks and Consequences* will be presented at Crittenton Hospital on March 15 from 7-9 pm. Mark your calendars to attend.

Please join us in prayer as we present these truths in our public and private schools and in the community. At Crossroads we believe in the importance of the abstinence message and are committed to providing the best presentations possible without compromise. Please consider how you might support the work at Crossroads Pregnancy Center. If you would like more information on how you can be involved or how to bring our program to your school or community, please call us at 248-293-0070 x 102.

Car Wash for Life

The Car Wash for Life is an annual pro-life youth event held in September where groups of youth all over the country hold a car wash in their own hometowns and donate the proceeds to a local pregnancy care center. This way, they participate in a national event while at the same time helping their own community. The students of Notre Dame Prep High School sponsored CPC for the third consecutive year at the Meadowbrook Shell gas station in Rochester Hills where 78 cars and a bike were washed. Their efforts resulted in a grand total of \$1,036.55. These students have been ranked #1 in the country for money raised, cars washed for the day, and volunteers involved. Crossroads would like to extend a special thank you to Kathleen Lindemann and the students of Notre Dame Prep High School.

Golf “Fore” Life

Indianwood Golf & Country Club will host the 2010 Golf “Fore” Life charity outing on Monday, May 10. Space is limited to 120 golfers. The first 72 registered golfers will be playing Indianwood’s old course, which is the course for the upcoming 2012 Senior U.S. Open. The other 48 golfers will play the new course. Tee off is at 10:00 a.m. Register your foursome today to ensure you get our unforgettable golfer gift. For registration and sponsorship packages, please call 248-293-0070 or email cpccharlotte@gmail.com.

Summertime at Crossroads

We are saying goodbye to the annual Garden Party Gala and are welcoming a new expanded program on a Monday evening in July at an undisclosed venue. If you are not on the Crossroads mailing list, be sure to sign up to receive more details on this event. Our events are also posted on our website and Facebook page.

Ultimate Frisbee Tournament

Attention Youth Groups and College Groups! Join us on Saturday, August 7, 2010, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for a riveting Ultimate Frisbee tournament. Lunch will be provided, and custom Frisbees will be available for purchase. To participate, contact the center at 248-293-0070. View the rules of the game at <http://www.upa.org/ultimate>

Walk for Life

The 2010 Crossroads Pregnancy Center “Walk for Life” will take place Saturday, September 25, in Auburn Hills. The short 2.2 mile walk will take place at the center, with tours of the center and registration at 8:30 a.m., and the walk at 9:00 a.m. Walkers will receive a free t-shirt for total pledges of \$150.00 or more, and the top three sponsored walkers will be awarded prizes. Light refreshments and coffee will be served. No tickets are required. For information about registering to walk, contact the center at 248-293-0070.

Prayer Breakfast

On Saturday, November 6, from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m., we will have a morning of prayer and thanksgiving at Faith Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Rochester. We will gather together to lift up our voices to the Father, the giver of Life. A continental breakfast will be served.

Christmas Blessings

Many thanks to the ladies of the Advent Angels who showered Crossroads with diapers, wipes, toiletries, formula, and other baby items that were collected at their Fifth Annual Advent Evening. Ladies, your kindness and generosity were truly answers to prayer. Thank you again!

CPC Baby Bottle Campaign

Host a 2010 Baby Bottle Drive through your church or ministry group. This is one of the easiest fundraisers, bringing in more than \$30,000 for the center in 2009. The program works like this: we supply the empty baby bottles and ask that you distribute them to your congregation, requesting they be filled with spare change over a 2 or 3 week time-frame and then returned. We tally the proceeds and send a thank you letter back to you with the dollar amount collected. No counting, sorting, or rolling for you! Would you prayerfully consider sponsoring a Baby Bottle Drive for Crossroads? It would be a blessing to partner with your church or organization. To schedule a bottle drive, please contact the center at 248-293-0070.

Top CPC Needs

*“Bear one another’s burdens, and so you will fulfill the law of Christ.”
Galatians 6:2 (NAB)*

We thank God for his countless blessings, and we thank you for your faithful support of Crossroads. Our current needs include:

Prayers

- In thanksgiving for our many blessings
- That our clients come to know Christ as their Savior and choose life for their unborn babies
- For our ability to follow God’s wisdom and direction in all areas of His ministry
- For all CPC clients, support groups, donors, volunteers, staff, and fundraising events

Volunteers (training provided)

- Abstinence education teachers and helpers
- Graphic designers and someone to perform website maintenance
- Receptionists
- Peer counselors
- Church liaisons
- Mail team workers

Donations

- Diapers
- Enfamil baby formula
- Baby wipes
- Underwriters and sponsors for the 2010 CPC fundraising events

Your tax-deductible donations are greatly appreciated by young mothers and families who have chosen life for their babies. Thank you!

An Appeal for Your Help

We at Crossroads are honored to be able to serve our Lord and our community by presenting the Gospel and providing services that help women and families choose life for their unborn babies.

We do not receive government money, so all of our monetary support comes from fundraising events and directly from people like you!

Your support is even more critical right now. Due to the economy, more people are in need of our services. At the same time, many of our donors

are forced to cut back on their support of this ministry.

Your donations provide material goods like pregnancy tests and diapers. More importantly, your donations provide truth, hope and love to our clients. Thank you!

Please use the remittance envelope enclosed in this newsletter to send your tax-deductible contribution today. Thank you again and may God bless you.

Showers of Blessings

God has opened the flood gates and has blessed us with an abundance of maternity clothes, baby clothes, and other baby items. As a result, our storage room had a mountain of bags and boxes filled with everything baby that even reached the ceiling at times! Many dedicated volunteers have spent countless hours sorting, purging, cleaning, hanging, and folding.

God has given one of our faithful volunteers the gift of organization. She, along with many others, has reorganized our existing materials and has begun to implement a system for the donations that continue to come in. The volunteers look for clean, gently used items to be sorted by type of

clothing, size, gender, and season. The shirts, pants, skirts, and dresses are then hung on racks. The shoes are displayed on shelves; onesies and sleepers are folded and sorted into bins. The car seats, high chairs, cribs, swings and other items are thoroughly checked for safety and cleanliness before they are put out for the moms' consideration.

We are thankful to our God who supplies our needs through those who have donated to the center as well as the many volunteers who lovingly sort through all the donations, thus giving our moms a neatly organized place to come and get necessities for their babies.

Why We Ask You to Pray

Not all the stories from Crossroads are success stories. In fact, too many times we do not know what the young ladies decide after they leave. But, sometimes they make it very clear what decisions they are going to make.

The month of November 2009 was a very tough month. It seemed like every day brought us another girl with a hardened heart. One of these women "Deb" came in to have a pregnancy test. Deb was in her 20s and single. She had several abortions in the past and also had a preschooler. Her only interest in coming to us was to find out if she was pregnant and how far along she might be.

From the start, Deb was cold and hardened. We did all we could to make her feel comfortable and share the love of Christ with her. At one point, she even allowed us to pray with her. Her pregnancy test was positive, and she requested an ultrasound. She met all of our criteria so she

was taken to have the ultrasound.

Deb had told us that her intent was to have an abortion, so as is always the case, the staff started praying for God's intervention. As the ultrasound began, she made it clear she did not want to watch the pictures of this marvelous creation of God. At one point though she did peak at the pictures of her active child, and a single tear appeared on her cheek which she promptly removed. Then she turned away without saying one word. When she left, she made it clear that she would never have this child and that she was more resolved than ever to end this child's life.

This is why we need you to pray for us every day. The battle goes on, and we are not capable of fighting this "war for life" without the strength of God and the prayers of the saints. Thank you to those who have been praying for us. If you are not doing so yet, please start. God bless you all.

Our Pro-Life Sponsors

Bellefleur Garden Services
Blue Ocean Advisors Group and Underwriters
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C12 Group
Charity Motors
Faith Evangelical Presbyterian Church
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Precise Print Toner
Raymond James and Associates
Rochester Chiropractic Clinic
Smithers Mechanical Company
Sweet Essentials of Berkley
Tullymore & St. Ives Resort
Waldon Family Medicine
Yates Cider Mill

2009 MEMORIAL GIFTS

In Memory of Joan Pistonetti

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Somerville
Curtis Leszczynski

In Memory of Grace Walther

Anonymous

In Honor of Courtney Maussioux

Mr. & Mrs. Karl Kromer

In Memory of Christina Grace

Theresa Walters

In Memory of Ann Kassmann

Mary Abela
Chuck & Judy Andrews
Diane Bach
Marlene Calverley
Ladonna Even
Fred & Diane Fayle
Joseph Kassmann
John & Juanita Mallmann
Glen & Melissa Maurer
Kenneth & Hilda Michel
Isabelle Mulheron
Dorothy Murawa
James & Lucille Myers
Antonio & Rita Reyes
St. Andrews Tuesday Morning Prayer Group
Mary Lou Westhoven

CPC has a **NEW** domain name: www.crossroadspregnancy.org

Crossroads Mission Statement: We are a non-profit, Christian organization dedicated to assisting abortion-vulnerable women and men who are involved in a crisis pregnancy to choose life for their unborn child. In addition, we are committed to encouraging godly sexual attitudes and practices in our community.



3205 South Blvd.
Auburn Hills, MI 48326
(248) 293-0070
crossroadspregnancycenter@gmail.com
www.crossroadspregnancy.org

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Rochester, MI
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