

INTERNATIONAL PROJECT PROPOSAL

PROJECT 9000



Cross International

Delivering Food, Shelter and Hope in the Name of Jesus

Most Urgent Needs

— Worldwide —



“By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

John 13:35



We are a ministry

that mobilizes the global Church to transform the poor and their communities materially and spiritually for the glory of Jesus Christ.

Rather than create new institutions to distribute aid, we support existing ministries and churches already serving the poor. In addition to being the most cost-effective way of helping the poor, empowering these ministries allows us to support the Church's spiritual mission and its important position of leadership in poor communities.

We consider every gift we receive as a precious resource from God. We direct every donation to its intended project, provide honest and accurate reports to our donors, and keep overhead costs to an industry low. We handle funds with utmost integrity and hold our ministry partners in the field to the same high standards by asking them to document costs and the impact of their outreach.

We invite you to join with us as we seek to transform the lives of the poor materially and spiritually — ways that please the Father and glorify Him in Heaven and on earth.





Project Synopsis

Description

This project will empower Christian ministries in developing countries around the world to spread the Gospel “in word and deed” to the poor.

Purpose

To transform bodies, minds and hearts in Jesus’ name as we meet the needs of the poor and give them hope for a brighter future.

Our Partners

Cross International works through long-term partnerships with Christian churches, schools, orphanages and other local ministries serving the needy in their communities.

Locations

Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean and wherever the church needs our help to reach the poor.

Highlights

- Cross International seeks to bring Christ-centered relief and empowerment to the poor by rallying U.S. Christians in support of churches and ministries already serving in the developing world.
- This approach strengthens local Christian communities and puts us in contact with ministry leaders who understand their communities’ greatest needs.
- Our aid focuses on food, water, medical care, education, housing, orphan care and microenterprise.
- We also help our partners respond to emergencies such as earthquakes and hurricanes.
- By ministering to the poor’s material needs, Christians build relationships and earn the credibility to minister to spiritual needs.
- Your generous support is needed to fund these impactful Christian ministries and transform lives!





The Need

To attract support from a wider audience, Christian charities are often tempted to secularize their efforts and leave Jesus out of their work. A Bible can't feed a starving child, humanitarians might say, so some organizations stick to delivering food and keep their beliefs to themselves.



Cross International believes the Gospel flips that notion on its head. It clearly recognizes the importance of both the physical and spiritual aspects of a person. As Christians, we know that a bowl of rice can't satisfy a starving soul, for example. The poor need Jesus too — not only to secure their place in eternity, but also to restore their dignity and give them hope in the here and now.

In developing countries around the world, pastors and missionaries have also found that without giving the “Bread of Life” found in Christ, they can't fully heal and restore suffering people. Without Jesus, there is no comfort for the orphan, no security for the homeless, no joy for the widow.

In fact, withholding God's Truth can taint even the best humanitarian efforts intended to benefit the poor. Subsistence farmers supported with food but given no spiritual guidance may still fall prey to alcohol abuse, and children who grow up in city slums without dignity can still be drawn into drugs, gangs and violence. These spiritual, psychological and systemic evils can never be defeated simply by giving someone a meal or a pair of shoes.

The answer? Integral ministry.

Integral ministry is a complete approach to helping people by addressing their physical, emotional and spiritual needs, and Christian ministers and relief workers are in the best position to address the heartbreaking conditions and situations that plague people's lives. They, better than any government or secular program, are most prepared to bless families struggling with hunger, AIDS victims with no access to care, and mothers forced to give their children parasite-infested water because there is nothing else to drink.

Thankfully, there are Christians churches and ministries around the world that have been energized by the Gospel to reach their needy neighbors and transform them both materially and spiritually. They are passionate about showing God's love through their actions, and in the process leading souls to saving faith!

Read on to learn how Cross International is empowering this global Church to transform bodies and souls — and how you can be a part of this life-changing work!



Ministry Description

To more effectively serve the poor, Cross International partners with overseas Christian ministries aligned with our passion for Jesus and His saving mission.

Since our founding in 2001, our focus has been on establishing long-term relationships and creating greater capacity in these partners. We pour our time and energy into trustworthy ministries, giving them what they need to have a profound and lasting impact on the people and communities they serve. This vision guided our work among our first partners in Haiti and has shaped our outreach around the world as we've expanded into Latin America, Africa, East Asia and other places in need.

Our partners know their communities' needs and often bring special insight to how we can best address those needs. They depend on us to provide cash funds as well as shipments of humanitarian goods to bless the poor with food, water, medical care, education and other critical services. When emergencies such as earthquakes or hurricanes arise, we stand ready to help our partners rebuild their ministries and aid affected families.

The following are just a few of the life-changing projects we've committed to supporting this year with your help.



MEBSH Christian Schools – Haiti

In Haiti, extreme poverty leads some parents to make a heartbreaking decision. Unable to feed their own children, they send them away to live with other families as “restaveks” — child domestic servants. These vulnerable boys and girls are torn from the people they love and often treated as slaves in return for food, a place to sleep and an education — although the latter is often denied them because of cost.

MEBSH, a network of Haitian evangelical churches, is combating this terrible practice by running schools that target restaveks as well as children at risk of becoming restaveks.

At the MEBSH schools, children find love, acceptance and the chance to enjoy a real childhood. Restaveks who would otherwise never learn to read or write acquire these crucial life skills; and because the schools provide education and meals absolutely free, at-risk children are less likely to be sent into servitude. Much of the curriculum is an accelerated program catered to students who are academically behind because of poverty.

These schools give the MEBSH churches a powerful way to communicate the Gospel to Haiti's most vulnerable children! This year, the program is depending on Cross to feed and educate 507 children.





Rainbow Network Housing – Nicaragua

Rainbow Network is a Nicaragua-based Christian ministry that fights poverty through a holistic approach that includes food, health care, education, microenterprise and housing. Over the years that Cross has worked with Rainbow Network, the ministry has impacted thousands of lives and served as a beacon of light and hope to Nicaragua's rural poor.

This year, we are working with Rainbow Network to meet a need for safe shelter. Funds are needed to purchase land and build 22 concrete-block homes for families currently living in dilapidated shacks. Though

very basic by U.S. standards, these houses are a dream come true for families who have spent their whole lives in flimsy shelters held together with mud, sticks, scraps of wood and plastic sheeting. Each home includes a sanitary latrine and electrical wiring, and comes with a plot of land large enough for growing fruit trees and a vegetable garden. The families pay a very affordable no-interest mortgage, and are asked to help with the work under the direction of a skilled foreman — giving them a sense of ownership.



SoMedCo Medicine – Vietnam

Evangelism is a challenge in Vietnam, where the Communist government tightly restricts believers' freedom to share their faith. But Christians have found a way to reach their neighbors without running afoul of the law.

SoMedCo — the community service arm of the Evangelical Church of Vietnam-South — has partnered with Cross to continue a highly successful outreach that focuses on the medical needs of the rural poor. Churches in these communities are equipped with fully stocked medicine cabinets, and volunteers are trained to administer first aid and to recognize and treat common illnesses. Sick community members who would otherwise be unable

to obtain even very basic medicines are offered this service at no charge. They go to the local church to find healing for their bodies, and they come away with much more — the seed of God's Word planted in their hearts.

This compassionate ministry, which has already brought many new believers into Vietnamese churches, is the lifeline that many families need to encounter Christ's love and discover the riches of the Gospel. Through support from Cross's generous benefactors, SoMedCo is on a mission to restore bodies and souls and build God's kingdom in Vietnam.





General Fund | Project 9000

Help Now!



Jesus' command to "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to all creation" (Mark 16:15) is a mandate that is as relevant to us today as it was to the church 2,000 years ago. Please join us in keeping that missionary spirit alive by helping Christians in some of the poorest corners of the world show God's love to neighbors in need!

Your generous support is critically needed by thousands of families in developing countries around the globe — families who are begging and praying for relief from hunger, thirst, homelessness, disease and despair. Their suffering is truly heartbreaking — but with your help, we can turn their tragic situations into opportunities to share the Gospel and transform lives.

Please give a gift today, and help us send a message to the world that Jesus is the answer. This is our calling as followers of Christ, who said, "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me" (Matthew 25:40).

**A man reaps what he sows...
Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people.**

Galatians 6:7-10

Our Promise to You!

Proceeds from this campaign will be used to cover any expenditures for this project incurred through June 30, 2018, the close of our ministry's new fiscal year. In the event that more funds are raised than needed to fully fund the project, the excess funds, if any, will be used to meet the most urgent needs of the ministry.

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