



# Crossfire

NEWSLETTER

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## I q f ø u " C p u y g t u " R t c { g t

We at Crossfire were truly blessed in 4 2 2 8 0 " " Y g " h g n v " I q and answer to prayer which we would like to share with you.

For years we have been praying for a larger facility to expand our ministry to include a city wide furniture bank.

Lacking the space, lacking the labor to lift heavy furniture, and lacking the funding, we concluded that God was u c { k p i " õ p q ö " v q " v j no longer carry furniture or seek to establish the city furniture bank, however worthy this goal might be.

We realized that in reality God was lifting a burden from our shoulders and allowing us to excel at what we were already doing best ô á food, clothes, toiletries, and housewares pantry. Our pantry continues to grow by leaps and bounds and we are one of the largest in the area. However, we were still fraught with space problems. Our pantry was housed in a semi trailer with no climate control and with steps that caused our handicapped and elderly clients great distress. Our work area was still inadequate, as was our storage. Our parking was limited, if not impossible. Y g " e q w n f p ø v " i g v " v weather. We still needed the intervention of God for more space.

In late July, we discovered that the mechanic who owned the garage adjacent to the back half of our lot had passed away. Hope beyond hope, we inquired of the son if it might be for sale but discovered that it had already gone into court probate. We also asked if

Crossfire might rent it but discovered the price too costly.

A week later, the son called to say the family would consider selling, if we could finalize details before the judge signed the probate papers. It was already considerably longer than the three weeks maximum in which paperwork was usually signed. We made a counter offer to the asking price which was rejected.

After another week and with much prayer and thought, several of our board concluded that this property, being adjacent to the mission, would be invaluable to Crossfire. Our present location is ideal, one block away from the bus stop on Boulder and in an area of great poverty and need. If Crossfire owned both properties, it would not only help alleviate many space problems now existing, but it could eventually allow for a larger building to be built.

Now in the fifth week, considerably past the time that the judge should have signed the papers, Crossfire submitted a contract which was accepted. Crossfire was to purchase the little garage next door.

The ministry was gifted the price of the property by an anonymous donor and with the building fund already established, the necessary work for occupancy was completed.

Y g " d g n k g x g " v j c v " v j k u " y c u " I q f ø u " f k  
\*Trustees

tion for Crossfire. He held the property open, while showing us the possibilities and His plan. We praise God for a build-

k p i " y k v j " p q " f g d v . " v j c v ø u " I q f ø u " Y c { "  
e c n n " k v " õ E q o r c u u k q p " J q w u g 0 ö " "  
*See Compassion House page 3*

p e g "  
**CROSSFIRE MINISTRIES  
INC.**

Outreach to the Needy  
Local and Foreign Missions  
K c a Y b Ñ g " U b X " A Y b Ñ g  
Christian Outreach

**OPERATIONS MANAGER**  
g f " v q "

John Miller

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# Love on Union Boulevard

*By Christopher Lane (used by permission)*

it keeps  
coming  
back, shows  
up  
in the blue -black shadows  
of a frigid  
winter morning  
with keys  
jingling,  
arms  
loaded with vegetables, unlocking  
sturdy wooden  
doors, clearing the path with a bent, silver  
shovel - pushing, carrying, sliding,  
heaving  
gray plastic  
crates and sagging cardboard  
boxes,  
it continues  
beneath the cruel August sun, endures bone -shuddering  
April gusts, wicked January snowfalls, arriving, lingering,  
dwelling  
within the tired, dented sheetrock of a half -century  
house, smiles  
at the trail of faces that curl through the entrance like ants in search of a picnic, laughs,  
nods, even  
weeps with the pain of fresh wounds and sad, sad stories: un -  
employed, un -  
appreciated, di -  
vorced, e -  
victed, mentally  
challenged/afflicted/anguished, existing - just barely - on the fringes, swept neatly to the  
margins of the page, blind to anything but the hot -white gleam of  
despair,  
with blankets of darkness descending, discouragement gathering in the sky like vultures to  
smother the sun,  
it: L-O-V-E  
swells, crackles, roars to life, explodes  
from aging lips and quick -passing tongues, painted large on timid, self -conscious murals of  
flesh, reflected in the deep wells of understanding  
eyes, gushes forth from abiding  
hearts, it swings wide the gates,  
prays, wonders,  
waits, watches,  
and patiently, gently invites every wandering soul, each marvelous and beautiful stranger  
into the glorious embrace  
of the King

# The Compassion House

*Continued from the front page*

The purchase of Compassion House enabled us to make some changes in our operations. We were able to move the food pantry into the main building from the semi trailer. The clients no longer have to go outside in the elements and climb up seven stairs and then carry their food back down.

The Compassion House now furnishes us a 30 foot by 30 foot, q r g p " y q t m " u r c e g 0 " " K " h g n v " v j c v " y k v j " c " 5 2 ø " z " 5 2 ø " d w k n f k p i " k p " v j k u " n q e c v k q p " v j c p " c p { y j

In it we are able to do several things:

- We process donations and merchandise.
- We sort for various projects.
- We hang clothes.
- We have handicapped and other workers process beans, rice, and other items into distribution sizes.
- We use it to hold our monthly garage sale.
- We used it for the First Presbyterian ladies to sew baby bags.
- We will have our Victorious Living Workshop in it in the summer.

With a little more dirt work, behind it we will be able to offer additional parking.

- We now can use the old pantry trailer for greatly needed storage.
- We will be able to expand our refrigerated storage.

Our housewares have been moved inside for distribution, opening up even yet another storage trailer.

The changes this new building has wrought, as has our new ministry emphasis, have already blessed the ministry more than words can say.

However, it is just the middle step. Our dream is to build a large two story building across the back of both lots. This would give us 10,000 square feet of warehouse, office and work space, and client service space, all in one building, under one roof. What a blessing that will be! *See Growth and Change p. 4.*

[ q w " e c p " d g " c " r c t v " q h " v j g " d k i i g t " x k u k q p 0 " " P q v " c " 5 2 ø " z d w v " c " 8 2 ø " z " " : 8 ø " v y q " u v q t { " d w k n f k p i " k p " v j k u " n q e c v k q p " v j c p " c p { y j  
*See Be a Matchmaker page 5*



Then shall the King say unto them on his right \ U b X ž ' Î 7 c a Y ž ' m Y my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the World: For I was an- " ð L q j p " { " I was hungry, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, U b X ' m Y ' W U a Y ' i b h Then shall the righteous U b g k Y f ' \ ] a ž ' g U m when saw we thee an- hungered, and fed thee? Or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger and took thee in? Or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and W U a Y ' i b h c ' h \ Y Y 3 King shall answer and say i b h c ' h \ Y a ž ' Î = b U have done it unto the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto a Y " İ ' ' fl A U 40) \ Y k ' "

## The Journey

Over twenty years ago, Leslie and I began our service for the Lord by taking youth groups to Mexico on evangelistic mission trips. We owned and ran a Christian bookstore and flower shop which supplied all our needs and helped us support our short term mission trips. The purpose of these trips was to build lives and invest in people.

On one of these trips, I sensed deep in my spirit that God was saying "Kirk" but what about your own home v q y p A ö

Thus, in 1992 we decided to start Crossfire Ministries. The name may seem curious to some but in Hebrews 12: 28 and 29 it says:

*Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: For our God is a consuming fire.*

We desire to serve God acceptably and with reverence and godly fear, for our God is indeed a consuming fire. And throughout the years, we pray that we have done just that.

As the Bible instructed, we believed that if we have bread and someone needs it, we are to give it (Proverbs 3:27). We therefore decided not to require our clients to apply or meet financial qualifications. If they said they were in need, that was what would determine our service to them and God could and would handle any abuse and misuse of the system. We did choose to require identification and quantity limitations.

We discovered through the years that many whom we serve, have never experienced love and come from situations that are oppressive and destructive. They are hesitant to reveal themselves. But as we love and accept them, we get to slowly know their stories. That is when God can open doors for ministry.

Crossfire has been an innovator. We were one of the first pantries in the nation to allow people to *select* their food, rather than give them a prepared box.

For the duration of the ministry, Crossfire has devoted one half of our sign board to the Lord. We gave Him the first fruits of our sign, the best seen by traffic, where we display scripture for ongoing traffic.

Another decision we made at the beginning was if a house is to stand, it must be built by the Lord. We decided that we would allow the Lord to bring in the support and finances and have therefore infrequently requested funds.

Since those humble beginnings, we have had many experiences. We have gone from a few boxes of food a week to over 400,000 pounds of food in 2006.

The statistics reflect over 20,000 individuals, with each person having a name by which we try to call them. We try to learn their story, so that we can encourage them. The world does enough to pull them down.

## Growth and Changes



When we moved the pantry inside and the work area into the Compassion House, we decided to make another major change.

One way to make more space for our services was to convert our thrift store space to client services. We removed all items that were not pertinent to our free distribution and replaced them with things from our housewares pantry such as dishes,

pots and pans, linen, blankets, etc. We also devoted one full room to toiletries. All the items now on display are eligible for free distribution through vouchers. Clients can now obtain yearly household vouchers, quarterly clothing vouchers, monthly toiletry vouchers, weekly food, baby bags, and special distributions.

The non-essential items that we previously sold in our thrift store, we are now trying to sell at our monthly garage sales, auctions and flea market sales. *See Sales below.*

The clients love all our new changes, as do the volunteers, having to climb far fewer stairs. Consolidating all the services in one building, saves time and energy and is a much wiser use of our resources. "Kirk" wonderful how God works all things together for the good of those who love Him.

### Our Sales

#### Crossfire Monthly Garage Sales

The first Friday from 10:00 to 4:00 and the first Saturday from 8:00 to 2:00.  
307 N. Union Blvd. (front and back)

#### Watch for coming auctions.

#### D c d { " c p f " E j k n f t g p ø u "

July 20 & 21 from 9:00-5:00  
To be held at Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
4125 Constitution Ave.

#### Fall Craft Sale

October 5 & 6

#### Christmas Craft and Treasure Sale

November 2 & 3

## Be a Matchmaker

As mentioned previously, the Compassion House is an intermediate step to eventually building a larger facility on the property. Crossfire has a very generous donor who has the same vision for a larger facility. This donor is willing to match *special giving* up to \$50,000. I say *special giving* because we need to maintain our current level of services to those in need.

We had a special kick off for the Matchmaker Fund at our winter banquet. All donations given for the Matchmaker Fund will be designated to help pay off the debt on the main building and then to start the planning and architectural process for the new building.

Please help! Any donation, whether it is \$1.00, \$50.00, \$100.00 or \$5000.00 is to be *o c v e j g f 0 " " U q " c " f q p q* \$100,000 or \$10.00 becomes \$20.00. What a wonderful opportunity you have to help!

As mentioned previously, Crossfire has tried to be low key in our requests for funds. This is our first campaign such as this. God has been so very faithful in supplying all our needs according to His riches in glory.

We are an all volunteer organization from the small beginning in 1992 to our current size. Annually we are serving over 8,700 families or 20,000 individuals, we have given away 400,000 pounds of food. We have done that on a budget of just over \$100,000. God does multiply even today.

*U q . " y q p ø v " { q w " r n g* monthly pledge or a one time gift to help us reach the matching available funds of \$50,000?

And guess what? This donor says that if Crossfire supporters catch the vision and match funds in 2007, he will do it again. That is a total of his and your contributions of \$200,000. This will pay off all debt and help us to seriously begin to lay plans for the new construction.

Again, please prayerfully consider if this is an area God is leading you to help supply.

*See the last page for details.*

## Nehemiah Wall

*K " n k m g p " q w t " r t q l g e v " v q " P g j g o k c j ø u "* salem.

Many things are broken down in our city *ø* marriages, as well as individual lives.

God has placed Crossfire volunteers to look over the city and see the brokenness all round us. When Nehemiah went back to Jerusalem *g o " \* e j c r 0 " 4 . " x u 0 " 3 4 + . " ø K " c t q u g " k p "* me, neither told I any man what my God had put in my heart to do at *L g t w u c n g o í ö*

Nehemiah viewed all parts of the city that were broken down or *d w t p g f " c p f " v j g p " j g " u c k f " \* x u 0 " 3 9 + . " ø q h " L g t w u c n g o . " v j c v " y g " d g " p q " o q t g " c "*

Like Nehemiah, Crossfire has been given a vision to help the needy of Colorado Springs. So we say, come let us build together, that we might be a better help.

Nehemiah was met with opposition. The devil does not want *I q f ø u " r g q r n g " v q " c e e q o r n k u j " i q q f . " u q* times he puts up road blocks that seem impassable. But like Nehemiah *o k c j " u c k f " \* x u 0 " 4 2 + . " ø V j g " I q f " q h " j g c h q t g " y g " j k u " u g t x c p v u " y k n n " c t k u g " c p f*

Nehemiah chap. 3 lists all the families that built portions of the wall. As work progressed, the enemy came against them. Nehemiah encouraged the people and the families to build the portion of the *y c n n " e n q u g u v " v q " v j g o 0 " " K p " P g j 0 " 6 < 3 8* spears, shields, and the bows and the other half worked. Everyone *y k v j " q p g " q h " j k u " j c p f u " y t q w i j v " k p " v j*

You and your family and the Crossfire volunteers are working together to build that which the devil has broken down. We can do this project together. Working side by side, we can provide a better facility to help the needy of Colorado Springs.

*D g e c w u g " P g j g o k c j ø u " r g q r n g " y g t g " u g r* instruction was given that when they heard the trumpet, they were to go to that area.

Those of you who are reading this newsletter, the trumpet has sounded. We need your help. We are asking you to participate in the Matchmaker Fund raiser.

**We believe that if the funds come in, it will be an indication that God is approving our plans and direction. We will build a two story steel building across the back of the properties along the alley. The building where the mission is now will be moved or torn down for much needed parking.**

**We will no longer have to store supplies in movable trailers or under lean- *v q ø u 0 " " K* our services and working space more efficient and desirable.**



