



A Crosslinks Publication

# SMILE Newsletter

The second edition is finally here...

Although I had wanted to get this issue out in the summer, I'm afraid the sheer busyness of the last few months has prevented me doing so. I was pleased that much of the October Crosslinks magazine (which I hope you receive) was about Smile though, so I hope you feel informed about what has been going on over the last nine months.

Essentially, despite all the doom and gloom with the worldwide credit crunch, political uncertainty and wars in Africa and the Middle East, there is much to thank God for, not least because he can be relied upon when everything around us is uncertain: "Find rest, O my soul, in God alone; my hope comes from him. He alone is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I shall not be shaken. My salvation and my honour depend on God; he is my mighty rock, my refuge. Trust him in all times, O people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge." (Psalm 62:5-8)



Rwandan children at a Sunday School being run by this year's summer team from Sheffield.

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## Exciting times

With the addition of a third gap year team in January 2009 there will now be over 80 Smilers going on overseas projects this year. This is a long way from our humble beginnings 10 years ago, and is something we're truly grateful to God for.

Please read on to see news on our 2009 teams, opportunities for 2010, a key job vacancy and other news and points for your prayers.

## 2009/2010 Gap Year Teams



The 2008 Gambia gap team

Excitingly, in January 2009 we have three (four month) gap teams going out for the first time. With a new placement in Bangkok, Thailand Smile is growing.

Applications have just started

coming in for 2010 teams, so if you or someone you know would be interested in knowing more or applying, do get in touch. God-willing, over the next couple of years we will see the number of our gap teams grow further.

## Could you be a Team Leader?

With the Smile programme expanding, especially with the addition of new teams, we are on the look out for people (perhaps ex-team members?) to apply to be team leaders. Ideally anyone interested will have had some leadership and Bible-teaching experience.

If you are a servant-hearted graduate who would like to make an invaluable contribution to the spiritual lives of a group of teenagers, whilst have a great experience of cross-cultural mission work and Christian leadership, please do contact me using the address on page four.

## Vacancy: Smile Programme Co-ordinator



After almost three and a half happy years I'm moving on to a new challenge, and so the position of Smile Programme Co-ordinator at Crosslinks is now available.

Smile really does play a key role in giving young people a taste of overseas mission, and so having a good person running the Programme is important!

Based at our office in SE London, you'll be responsible for developing and running Smile in every way from promotion, selection, training and debriefing volunteers to

organising, managing and reviewing overseas placements.

The ideal candidate will be interested in world mission (perhaps with some experience), able to work effectively with 18-30 year olds, have excellent communication and organisational skills, and be a hard-working, clear-thinking team player with a servant-hearted attitude.

If you would like to find out more, or apply, then please contact the Mission Personnel Team Leader: [jsayer@crosslinks.org](mailto:jsayer@crosslinks.org)

## From short-term to long-term mission

It is always exciting when we hear news of those who have been on a Smile trip in the past, and are continuing their walk with the Lord, and striving to serve him with their lives. Often this happens at university when people who have been excited by their gap year experience are passionate to tell others about salvation in Jesus. It also means some people doing a number of different short-term placements over the years.

One of the most exciting bits of news we've had recently is of Nick Jones, one of the (or perhaps the)

first people to ever do a Smile trip. Nick has just started at Oak Hill College in London where he is studying on the Missions course, with a view to long-term mission, perhaps amongst unreached Muslims in central Asia.

This is surely testimony to the way that the Lord can use short-term mission trips as a stepping stone for a life of serving him. Nick is not the only ex-Smiler on the way to full-time mission work, but let's pray for many more Smilers to follow in his footsteps and seek to take God's Word to God's World.



## A gift for new Crosslinks members

For some time we've been trying to encourage ex-Smilers to become members of Crosslinks, without too much success! We're keen to have a good base of young people as members so that people like you can have a say in how the society is run.

The only commitment on your part would be to support Crosslinks by prayer and possibly with gifts—though I'm certainly not asking you for money. As a member you can then attend our Annual Meeting of Members, help elect the General Council and even stand for election yourself. It is not a glamorous thing to sign up for, but it is really important that we keep a

membership who are committed to the Gospel and desiring that it be made known throughout the world.

If you aren't yet a member, then if you sign up using the attached registration form we will send you a Smile t-shirt for free. Yes, free! Simply write your size on the form and enclose a cheque for £2 (made payable to Crosslinks) to cover postage.

If you are already a member then don't miss out. Just send a cheque for £5 and you can have one too! Our address is on the back page.

(If you aren't sure if you're a member yet then contact us to find out!)



Yours for free...

## Visit our website to see what else is going on!

With short-termers currently in countries as far apart as France and Kenya, the Far East and South Africa, do check out our website: [www.crosslinks.org/smile](http://www.crosslinks.org/smile) to find out more. A particularly exciting new team we have is a group of graduates from Cambridge doing student work in Port Elizabeth, so do have a read about what they're up to.

You'll also find news on current short-term opportunities, updates from individuals around the world, and lots more besides.



## Prayer Pointers

- *Please pray for Smilers currently overseas—Ben and Rachel Tanner in France, Joe Hadfield in Kenya, Nia Early in East Asia and the StAG team in South Africa. Pray that they will be great servants of Jesus as they serve those around them and bear witness to God's love for his world.*
- *Do pray for the gap year teams leaving the UK in January— for preparations before they go, and that they'll settle in quickly once they arrive, grow in their faith and be bold in proclaiming the Gospel.*
- *Pray for Smile to be a springboard for many young people to get involved with long-term mission. Thank God for ex-Smilers currently at Bible College preparing for long-term mission: Nick Jones, Chris and Ros Howels, as well as for Nerena Neathercoat, now a Crosslinks associate mission partner in Durban, South Africa..*
- *Thank God for the growth in the number of people involved in the Smile programme over the last few years. Do pray that, God-willing, this growth would continue. Please also pray for the right person to join the Crosslinks staff as Smile Co-ordinator so that they might take the work on and enable the programme to flourish.*

Contacting Crosslinks:

The Smile Programme Co-ordinator, Crosslinks, 251 Lewisham Way, London, SE4 1XF



SHORT-TERM MISSION FOR 18-30s  
[www.crosslinks.org/smile](http://www.crosslinks.org/smile) 020 8691 6111