



Crosslinks

God's word to God's world

A photograph of a man and a young boy building a rock tower on a rocky shore. The man is crouching on the right, wearing a brown sweater and blue shorts, carefully placing a rock. The boy is on the left, wearing a striped sweater and blue jeans, also focused on the task. They are surrounded by many smooth, grey rocks. The background is a blurred natural setting with trees and foliage. The image is partially covered by a red diagonal banner at the top and bottom.

**Become a
member today**

crosslinks.org/membership

An **unoriginal** idea

Our world has changed a lot since the first century, but the importance of gospel partnerships hasn't.



Becoming a member of Crosslinks is a key way to actively and personally partner with gospel ministries around the world, not just on our doorsteps.

The core group of Crosslinks members pray for, give towards and directly support and maintain Crosslinks' gospel convictions.

Although your membership comes at no required financial commitment, it comes at great gain to the gospel and brings benefit and blessing to you, your church and the world.

Gospel partnership isn't a new idea – it's over 2,000 years old. It's how the Apostle Paul established his ministry, alongside gospel partners – individuals and churches – who prayerfully and financially supported his work, and sometimes went with him.

'I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now...' Philippians 1:3-5

Our world has changed a lot since the first century, but the importance of gospel partnerships hasn't. In fact, as churches in the UK and Ireland face an unprecedented shift in society and culture that disregards God's authoritative word, the value of gospel partnerships has only increased.

Left: Alanna Creighton with fellow faculty members of Jos ECWA Theological Seminary, Nigeria



'From the dedicated Crosslinks team at the end of an email, to the churches and individuals who pray and give, this is what makes it possible for us to serve God's kingdom.'

Andy and Rachel Symons, serving in Zambia

We know that deciding to support Crosslinks in this way takes time and careful consideration. You may already support one of our mission partners, projects or study partners, and for this we are very grateful.

Please use this guide to help you imagine the potential of your support as a member of Crosslinks and to answer some of your questions.

Right, top: Bible study group in East Asia
Right: Andy Symons with a local church elder



A look back into the past

In 1922, it was the actions of a faithful generation of men and women whose commitment to the clear proclamation of the gospel and the call to repentance and faith in Jesus that delivered BCMS (now Crosslinks) into existence. Membership was woven into the fabric of the Society to protect the gospel priorities of Crosslinks from liberal drift. Today, we face a similar challenge and a similar call to faithfulness against the tide.

...to step forward into the future

In many mainstream church denominations in the UK and Ireland (including the Church of England, where Crosslinks has its roots planted), issues of primary importance are dismissed or redefined according to society's preference. The Bible is no longer regarded by some as God's sufficient or authoritative word.

At such a time as this, we look to you – another generation of faithful men and women. We need your help through your membership to uphold the gospel in this country and the gospel overseas, where many men and women serve cross-culturally, planting, strengthening and leading churches.

They haven't abandoned the needs of the global church; we must not abandon them.

Membership was woven into the fabric of the Society to protect the gospel priorities of Crosslinks.

Joe Clarke preaching at a church plant in Coimbra, Portugal



Why membership?

Becoming a member of an organisation involves exclusive and tangible benefits. Joining a gym gives you access to running machines, weights and (hopefully) increased fitness. Becoming an Amazon Prime member gives you free next-day deliveries. But the tangible and exclusive benefits of becoming a member of a mission society are different. We may just need to change our perspective to see them.



There is much personal blessing and spiritual benefit to be found in becoming a member of Crosslinks – the encouragement of engaging with God's global church, the joy of enabling gospel ministry in a cultural context you wouldn't otherwise be able to serve in. But perhaps the blessing and benefit is felt most by those who are served by Crosslinks – and it's worth being up front about that. Our mission partners are enabled to continue serving cross-culturally because you have committed to supporting Crosslinks through your membership.

Left: Gerald Mwangi training students in Bible handling in Kenya

'But I'm already involved in local mission'

Those of us living in the UK and Ireland have, in the last two decades, changed how we think about mission. We naturally sense the priority of local evangelism and church planting, but this has sometimes led us to only see the 'mission' on our doorsteps. **Consequently, commitment to overseas mission has slipped further down the agenda of the local church.**

Think of all the things you love and value in your local church – the Bible teaching, the faithful leadership, the pastoral care. Most of our brothers and sisters around the world don't enjoy the same privileges. Many communities have no trained Bible teachers or church leaders. Just because they're not on our doorstep, it doesn't mean they don't need our support.

'We love Crosslinks' firm gospel priorities, commitment to the local church, and flexibility in supporting mission partners in different models of ministry.'

John and Jenny Miller, serving in South Africa

Below: John and Wyson, a Johannesburg Bible College student from Malawi



It's both possible and biblical to be committed to local and global gospel mission. So, what does that look like?

Give...?

'[Your generosity] is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God' 2 Corinthians 9:12

In 2012, we asked our members to pay £5 per month, a rate which has not increased. This was as a contribution towards our 'central costs' which support our staff teams who provide key administrative, pastoral and financial support for our mission partners so they can focus on frontline evangelism, word ministry and training pastors.

Our central costs remain (and are a significant proportion of our annual expenditure) and we are grateful for those of you who continue to contribute or even increase your generous giving.

However, we believe that now is the right time to get rid of a monthly fee* as a requirement of membership.

*new members who join without previously giving to Crosslinks will be asked to make a joining gift of £10 to satisfy the Articles of Crosslinks which state members must have supported Crosslinks by prayer and gifts prior becoming members.

Pray

'Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build labour in vain' Psalm 127:1

Our members commit to praying for our work. As a member, you'll receive regular news and information to equip you in your prayers for God's mission overseas. You can subscribe to prayer letters from our mission partners and project partners via our website:

crosslinks.org/sign-up-for-prayerletters

Go

'Go and make disciples of all nations'
Matthew 28:19

The Great Commission looks different for different people. Some go overseas. Others send them while reaching out to local people. Some members have served as part of a short-term team or gone on to serve as long-term mission partners. Our members are invited to attend our events, online prayer meetings, annual general meeting and Summer Celebration. These are great opportunities to gather with mission partners and fellow supporters and hear about global mission in more depth.

Request details of upcoming events at info@crosslinks.org.



Become a member at crosslinks.org/membership or by returning the enclosed form.

Support

'I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel' Philippians 1:4

We ask members to sign the Basis of the Society, our statement of belief, to confirm their support for Crosslinks and the work we do. Members have the responsibility and privilege of electing our trustees and can stand for election to our board. Trustees are vital to Crosslinks as they make decisions which steer the Society. As we are a company limited by guarantee, as well as a registered charity, our members undertake to contribute to our assets in the event we are wound up (but don't worry – your liability won't ever exceed £1).



'Staying connected with supporting churches and individuals has been such a blessing, especially when life and ministry is challenging. We're hugely encouraged to know that we're prayed for by so many.'

Matt and Sarah Gurtler, serving in Moldova
Above: Short-term student mission team to Moldova with Matt and Sarah, far right.

Become a Crosslinks member and keep the light of global gospel ministry shining for generations to come

Your membership makes a difference. With your support, we can enable ordinary people to do extraordinary things. Hand out gospel tracts in a Muslim marketplace. Teach English to Buddhist students and share Jesus with them. Help the underground church grow in their knowledge of the biblical languages. Your membership opens a world of gospel opportunities to the lost.

Crosslinks serves the local church as it takes the gospel to the nations. We do this by encouraging every Christian to get involved. Crosslinks can help you play your part in God's plan for the world as we pray, give and go.



**'I am grateful to be
serving Christ in
partnership with a
mission organisation
that maintains
gospel priorities.'**

Janet Webb, serving in South Africa



crosslinks.org/membership

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