

White Cross Update

February 2017

I almost feel like I am in a confession booth (at least as depicted in movies): “it has been a long time since my last confession...I mean...update.” What a great year!



Much of my “extra” time has focussed on the new handbook. Despite many unanticipated delays, I am pleased to say that the final draft was completed around mid-December. It is still receiving final review, including by Maureen Moody who is currently touring the medical facilities in Cameroon on behalf of Dr. Pius Tih (more commonly referred to as *Prof. Tih*). Once that feedback has been collected, all that will be left are final edits and layout. Even if you are not directly involved in White Cross, have a look at the new handbook. You might be surprised at the opportunities.

This little guy will be featured on the cover.

The newly updated Handbook is just one of the changes coming to White Cross volunteers across North America. Another change many are experiencing is through the WMF (it comes with various titles such as: Women’s Missionary Fellowship). We regularly hear reports that WMF groups are changing. Some are being absorbed into larger bodies like Missions and Outreach programs. Some are reconfiguring themselves internally and sometimes changing their names. Some are disbanding for various reasons. Some are continuing strong as they have in the past.

Change is always difficult. However, before talking about these changes, I want to take a moment to recognize the work that WMF groups have done and continue to do for the work of White Cross: without the work and efforts of the WMF groups, there is no way that White Cross would have made the impact it has in West Africa. In fact without them, White Cross may not have even existed. Remember to thank those who have served for many years!



Change is always happening in our world and in our churches. There was a time when WMF groups did not exist and there may be a time when they no longer exist in our churches. If you are experiencing or seeing such changes, take heart: it is the nature of ministry. It never stays the same. Yet its core never really changes.

In some places, where WMF groups once supported and built up the work of White Cross, we are seeing new groups and organizations continuing the amazing work.

Many of these groups are incorporating new members, even men! Of course, the core still is (and may always be) women. We encourage women's groups to continue to fellowship together and do the work of the kingdom whatever their name. We also encourage groups to be creative in finding new and different ways to include others in their work and fellowship. Churches, thank you for encouraging and supporting your White Cross groups!



Participating in God's Good News of Salvation

Much was transferred by the Good News of Jesus. I have been blessed with a purpose. However, experiencing God's healing of the emotional scars from my past was severely important to me. I have grown in the knowledge of God's Word. The Gospel that the Good News encompasses my entire life. Did you know that Good News is not "new" or "old" and different from the "old" or "new" of the world. The same Jesus who died for all of these types of sinners. His approach was not in the same way as the world. The Spirit of the Lord is upon me. Because He has intended me to bring good news to the poor, He has made me a partaker of His riches. (Luke 4:18-19)



For more information about the work of White Cross in Canada and the United States, visit Canada: www.whitecross.ca | United States: www.whitecrossusa.org

Overall, the work of White Cross is expanding across the continent. Keep up the good work and encourage each other in whatever ministry you are doing!

The promotion of White Cross is also increasing. What a blessing! 2-3 times a year you will find an article about White Cross in the NABC publication *Onward*.

If you haven't had a chance to read any of these articles or don't receive the *Onward* magazine, contact Amber Pedroni, 916-797-6222 ext. 231 apedroni@nabconf.org. You can also access the magazine online at <https://nabconference.org/resources/onward>.



Finally, here is a quick note about finances. The past year has seen economic slowdowns, particularly in Canada. As a result, there has been a decline in the regular donations to White Cross. Thankfully, other individuals and groups have also stepped up and given generously so that we are only a little behind schedule.

Give as God directs you and your heart leads you. Consider giving regularly as an individual on top of donations through your local White Cross groups/churches. Regular monthly giving is very helpful on top of the generous yearly donations from White Cross groups and churches.

For more information on donation and volunteer opportunities, contact your national White Cross shipping center. We deeply appreciate everyone who contributes to the work of White Cross through time, finances, prayers and all of the other ways in which dedicated volunteers help this important work.

In His service,

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