



CrossCounsel Int'l Ministries
4690 Cottage Grove Rd.
Madison, WI 53716

Creative Fundraising without Extra Cost to You!

We've plugged into a national program called **Scrip**. It provides a way for people to buy gift cards from hundreds of different vendors in the comfort of their own home while at the same time benefitting non-profit organizations. You can see as you browse each store or restaurant the different percentages we receive from your gift card purchases.

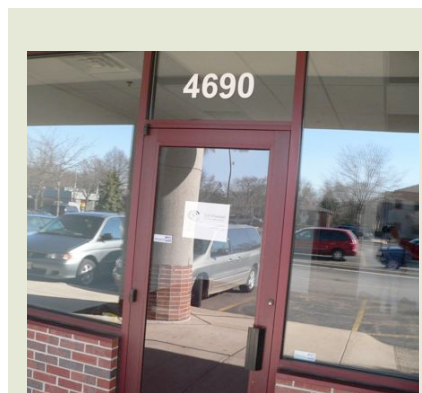
To check this out please go to: <http://www.shopwithscrip.com/> You can browse around by clicking on the "Shop" tab. You don't need to sign up to see what they offer.

If you want to sign up: Look for the green box that says: Family Sign Up! Ready to get started? Create a ShopWithScrip account now!
<http://www.shopwithscrip.com/login/register.aspx>

Once on the family registration page you will fill in some basic information to establish your account. The next page will ask for CrossCounsel's enrollment code (**873AEC4821474**). After that you should be all set. Go ahead and shop using the "shop" tab at the top of the home page.

It's much easier for us to have you use the "Presto Pay" feature they provide. It just costs 39 cents (so I guess a little extra cost - though you could save on gas) and keeps us from having our account withdrawn from. If you can provide a check at the same time of your purchase then we can usually get it deposited in time.

The only thing is work out after that is getting the cards to you (they are identical to the cards you'd get at each store directly). All the cards get sent to us. Otherwise we'd lose all profits on shipping. Make sense? Thanks!



4690 Cottage Grove Rd.
Madison, WI 53716
(608) 819-6626

office@crosscounsel.com
www.crosscounsel.com

We deal with Woodman's locally and directly. We receive 5% from those cards.



CrossCounsel

International Ministries, Inc.

January 2010
Ministry Update

"Call Upon Me in the day of trouble..." - Psalm 50:15



A New Decade, A New Journey

CrossCounsel takes another step forward by bringing on Carla Lackey as our Office Assistant

"How did we get here?" It seems to be an enduring phrase around our ministry these days.

It doesn't seem that long ago that I was back at the fortress of the St. Benedict Center (had to see it). Today, that building doesn't even exist.

From there I moved on to using space at Mad City Church. It was great while it lasted, but the Lord had a different plan.

Then there were several LONG months of meeting with people wherever I could find space. I also looked at several potential places for CrossCounsel to settle during that time.

Trying to be consistent with what we preach, I didn't move or make a decision until I was at peace. Then my friend Brandon connected me with the landlord of the strip mall where our church was moving.

It was a perfect fit. We would be independent, yet a minute's walk to Damascus Road Church. But now we had this formidable rent to pay each month.

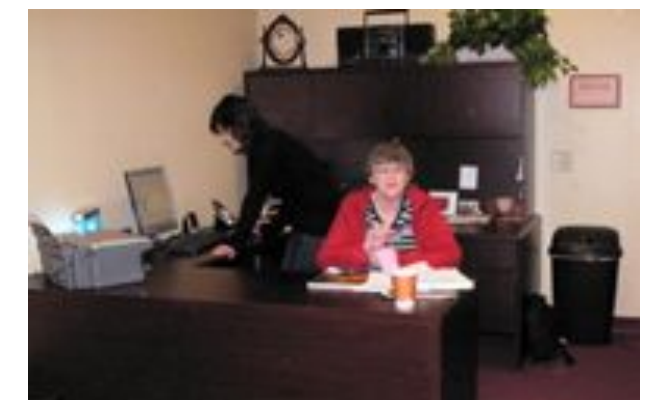
Fast forward to late 2009. We've miraculously made rent every month. New people are somehow finding us on a regular basis. We're in need of help!

Carla Lackey's name kept coming up. She and her husband Paul have been faithful friends to the ministry for years. She had spent time in our training groups. Her life had been dramatically affected by CCIM. She understood our ministry. And... she's an organizer!

But, could we actually *pay* someone?

The timing was perfect. She had been working at The River Food Pantry, but it was time for a new chapter in her life and she resigned.

(continued on page 3)



Carla Lackey (left) with Donna Smith, one of our Advanced Facilitators

From Desperate Times to Enduring Peace

by Lisa Rewald

I have been receiving Theophostic Prayer Ministry since the summer of 2006 - a bleak time in my life. I had very little understanding what TPM was but I was desperate for help. The first session I had was quite different than I expected, but it brought a sense of peace to a childhood event that had impacted my adult life. I continued to have sessions. Each one brought me some peace... peace that endured... not just peace in that moment. My life was definitely changing.

Several months ago at CrossCounsel, it was my turn to have a session in a training class. Steve was the facilitator. I was worried about my brother who I suspected was having drinking problems. I'll never forget the truth God gave me. I realized that in my life up until that point, I could never receive more than I gave without feeling terribly uncomfortable. I knew this to be true but I didn't understand why I thought that way. This began a new change in me.

As I went deeper into that emotion, I saw the crucifixion. This astounded me because I have inwardly always struggled with the concept of this sacrifice. I tended to avoid even thinking about it. Why was it necessary for anyone, especially the Son of God, to suffer such brutality? Intellectually, I understood the explanations and they made some sense to me but in my gut it seemed like an injustice... an unfair test for Jesus and for the rest of us. In that moment I had another realization.

As I looked at Christ on the Cross, I felt totally unworthy. How could I/we ever be worthy of that sacrifice? It felt so burdensome and hopeless. Immediately, Jesus was beside me and he was telling me that this sacrifice was a gift in the truest sense of the word. It was given with love. There was nothing to earn. There was nothing to pay back. Those words opened a floodgate of emotion in me. I felt a wave of love that swept away so many, many things that I had been carrying. I'm not even sure what they all were. Their absence felt like more freedom than I've ever had. It was great!

For weeks after that session I woke up every morning with a sense of peace - not my usual

few seconds of heart pounding anxiety. Throughout the day I would be overwhelmed by gratitude for all of the blessings in my life. There was an awareness and connectedness with God that I had never experienced before. With that came a closer connection with the people in my life. The need to protect myself was ebbing away.

About a month or so after this session my husband and I found out that our son, who was in recovery from alcoholism, had relapsed. The fact that this could happen again had always been a source of extreme anxiety for me. The years he was drinking were a nightmare for all of us. Even though he had been sober for at least two years, that fear could bubble up at the slightest provocation. This time was different though. I didn't feel at all responsible for his decision to drink. I didn't think that he had to comply with our plans for his sobriety or else doom was around the corner. I saw his life crumbling around him, but I thought that maybe this had to happen before he could live the life he was created to live.

The day after we found out about our son's drinking, my brother called and told me that he was losing his battle with alcohol. He knew that if he didn't quit drinking he would die, lose his wife and kids or both. He was terrified. He had attempted to give up alcohol many times in the last 15 years but failed every time. Now there were only two options left: a life without alcohol or death. We were able to talk about our lives and our father's drinking openly for the first time ever and he agreed to get help.

Both my brother and our son ended up in detox at the same time. Our son went off to rehab first but my brother followed two weeks later. I could see God's hand in this in many ways. All of this brought the spectre of alcoholism out into the open for my family (substance abuse thrives in secrets and darkness) and my brother and my son have had the opportunity to support each other in their sobriety (or possible sobriety).

(continued on page 3)

"A silly idea is current that good people do not know what temptation means. This is an obvious lie. Only those who try to resist temptation know how strong it is..."

'A man who gives in to temptation after five minutes simply does not know what it would have been like an hour later. That is why bad people, in one sense, know very little about badness. They have lived a sheltered life by always giving in.'

— C.S. Lewis Mere Christianity

(now fit that in to what Jesus endured here on earth - wow!)

(front front)

When we approached her she was very excited. God arranged the circumstances in such a way that she could volunteer for a short time to give her *and us* a try-out.

Nancy Miller recently took off an additional two days from her full-time job to download the accounting side of our ministry (thank you Nancy!). I'm not sure who needed more time to recover from that intense time...

Carla has been an incredible addition for us. She gives us a wonderful and consistent presence in the office, handles new client orientations, donations and our ministry appointment calendars. She also is coordinating our Scrip / Gift Card Program (see page 4) which is helping to fund our rent and a new Single Mom's ministry outreach.

Please welcome and pray for Carla and her family - thanks!



We implemented our plan of two different programs running at the same time (we have space!).

Both the "Theophostic Manual Study" and "Basic Theophostic Seminar Series" classes had more people than we ever expected. Both rooms are full of energy and excitement for what God is doing. We are deeply humbled by this.

(from page 2)

I have experienced grief, anger, fear and disappointment during these days but I haven't been overwhelmed by the emotions. They come and they go. I am able to function without falling apart. I have also received the gift of awareness of my own addiction to control and deny. I have operated with the lie that if I just did or said the "right" thing, the people around me would comply with my view of how things should be. That battle continues but the awareness helps me to turn to God and turn things over to God far more often.

I know that none of this would be possible if I hadn't received healing through CrossCounsel and Theophostic Prayer Ministry. Alongside the negative emotions, I've also had many moments of peace, joy and a profound sense of freedom during these challenges. That kind of scared me at first. I thought I might be losing my mind, but now I know that it is just plain miraculous!