

# Crossroads towards the Global Village

"You are about to embark on an experience after which you will never be the same." With that statement Dr. James Robinson, founder of Crossroads, sent 175 eager Crossroaders off to Africa to live, to work, to play, and eventually to return home.

What happened when they returned? Some returned to campuses and told their friends about their experiences; some brought their enthusiasm, insight, and personal involvement to their classes in Third World studies; others toured the countryside showing slides and telling the tale of Crossroads to interested classes, church groups, and service clubs.

Canadian Crossroads International (CCI) is a private, voluntary, charitable organization working to foster international co-operation and inter-cultural understanding by offering qualified individuals the opportunity to participate in development projects in Canada and overseas. The three to ten month projects in education, agriculture, construction, health care, youth leadership, and research have been organized in Canada, Africa, India, the Philippines, the West Indies, South America, and South East Asia for the last 18 years.

This year two crossroaders have been selected from the Halifax area to be sent overseas. Judy Hollet, a former Dalhousie student, is going to Lesotho in South Africa for four months. Eric Wood, a student in Design at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, will be working in Zambia (central Africa).

There is a lot of preparation involved, physically, mentally, and financially. Ever since the interview and selection last October there have been many new avenues opened. Self-assessment weekend came in November and all prospective Crossroaders from the Atlantic Provinces engaged in a weekend of activities designed to make them more aware of themselves in relation to friends, families, culture, and Crossroads. It was an eye opener.....really!



PHOTO BY A. ARCHIBALD



*In a dynamic and imaginative way, Crossroads gives contact and direction to the lives of young people in Canada today*

The good news of final selection came in December from CCI headquarters in London, Ontario. Fund-raising and orientation activities began at this point. Every Crossroader is responsible for about one third (\$750.00) of his trip's cost. The local committee, made up of many dedicated Crossroaders from previous years, is responsible for \$600.00 for each Crossroader they wish to send. The financing of Crossroads has recently been decentralized and for the first time they are going to have to rely heavily on local support from municipalities, service clubs, campuses, etc.

A Crossroader's duties only get into second gear when she/he returns to Canada from placement overseas. The work really begins then, with a large amount of time volunteered to selection of new candidates, fund-raising, and development education. It is their responsibility (and often pleasure) to communicate what they have experienced to as many people as possible in a personal way. Many Crossroaders become involved in a career related to the principles for which CCI stand for.

If you're wondering how this all got started, in 1958 the late Reverend Dr. James H. Robinson, former pastor at Harlem's Church of the Master in New York City, founded Operation Crossroads Africa, a unique and imaginative adventure to acquaint young North Americans with the people of Africa. In 1960 the Board of Men of the United Church of Canada established a Canadian Crossroads

Committee, and in 1968 a charter as a charitable organization was granted to CCI, separating it from both the United Church and the US Crossroads Committee, but retaining common working relationships with both.

This year our Halifax Crossroaders will join forty to fifty others from across Canada rebuilding flooded villages, digging wells, constructing water pipelines, building village schools, roads and bridges, medical clinics and market places. They will organize camps



PHOTO BY T. DONOVAN

for underprivileged children and teach physical education, youth leadership, and agricultural methods. On a professional level, Crossroaders have provided medical assistance, trained secretaries, and written pamphlets on child care. 1976 will see Crossroaders in Lesotho, Botswana, Zambia, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Kenya, India, Trinidad, Guyana, Thailand, and Sri Lanka.

Crossroads also operates an "in Canada" program in which young people from many of the countries just named spend an equal amount of time in Canada working with organizations such as 4H Club and YMCA, returning to their homelands to communicate their knowledge and experience.

In a dynamic and imaginative way, Crossroads gives contact and direction to the lives of some of the most outstanding young people in Canada today. CCI offers challenge - the challenge to communicate across the barriers of race, language, and culture. It seeks those who can adapt to cultural difference and accept different lifestyles under severely limited environmental conditions. Applicants must be 19 or older. Candidates for overseas placement must have Canadian citizenship or landed immigrant status. Volunteers are chosen on the basis of emotional maturity, social awareness, adaptability, range of interests and past experiences, motivation, and understanding of the aims and philosophy of CCI. Recruitment will take place in October this year, so we hope you will share the challenge with us.

*"The building of roads and bridges by a Crossroader is truly an expression of the purposes and philosophy of CCI - the number of gaps bridged extends far beyond the water crossed."*

*Project supervisor '72, Zambia, Central Africa.*

**'Reefer Madness'  
&  
'Monterey Pop'**

**7:30 PM tonight  
McInnis Room  
\$2.00**

CANADIAN CROSSROADS INTERNATIONAL