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April 2009

Give Away Your Favorite Book!

From the desk of Fred Palmerton

April is my birthday month, but last year a five-year old boy stole the April birthday headlines.

And I loved every minute of it.

Last April, I told you the story of Jacob Miller. Instead of asking for a lot of new presents for himself like I did when I turned five, Jacob asked his friends to bring Christian materials to his birthday party—materials intended to be sent overseas to kids in need through CRI.

Imagine: if a child does that when they're five, what will they be like as they grow up?

Well, almost two years have passed since Jacob's unique birthday party, and God has continued to work in his young heart.

Last spring, Jacob and his mother, Angie, initiated a Bare Your Bookshelf book drive at their church. (For more information on how your church can host a book drive please contact CRI at admin@cribooks.org or toll free at 888-CRI-WORD.) Having tasted how good it is to give, Jacob gladly helped his mother man the table and collect books.

Later, Jacob and his mother decided to go a step further and get their home-school group involved. God led them to not only do another book drive, but to bring a group of students on a field trip/mission trip to CRI.

For an entire day, Jacob, his mom Angie, and several others from the home-school group

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Personally deliver your Bible overseas!



If you enjoy donating your books and Bibles through CRI, you'll really enjoy delivering them personally.

Be a part of a 2009 CRI short-term mission trip!

There are two trips from which to choose:

- **Haiti:** This trip takes place from May 25-June 5, 2009. Approximate cost is \$1,500-2,000 including travel. Registration deadline is May 1, 2009 or when all 12 participant slots are filled.

- **Honduras:** Taking place from July 27-August 7, 2009, this trip costs approximately \$1,500-2,000 including travel. Registration deadline is July 8, 2009 or when all 12 team member slots are filled.

For more information or to register, contact John Lowrey by email at john@cribooks.org or by phone at 1-800-CRI-WORD (1-800-274-9673).

Visit the website at cribooks.org and click on the Missions Report tab for more information.



Jacob's home-school group (pictured above) may look like ordinary folks, but when you volunteer at CRI you can accomplish extraordinary things no matter what your age!

In This Issue

- Send your favorite book to the mission field of Kenya, along with a note to the recipient!
- Deliver your favorite book overseas yourself on a CRI mission trip to Haiti or Honduras!
- Take the Jacob Challenge at your bookshelf today...for \$1!

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dedicated their time and energy to packing boxes, and then loading them up on the container they'd be shipped in, bound for South Africa.

They then prayed over the container before it left the warehouse. What a great time for kids! Big boxes, forklifts, and lots of laughter (and adult supervision)!

Today, Jacob looks for opportunities to give and serve. His heart for helping others has grown along with his understanding of what a difference one person can make—even (and maybe especially) a young child. Maybe one day, Jacob will join CRI on one of the mission trips to hand-deliver the books he's collecting!

God is calling us to do ministry that is greater than we can ever imagine. "Greater things than I have done will you do," Jesus promised.

A five year old turned a birthday party into a bold step for international evangelism. What opportunity is God presenting you with this month to do the same?

Let's honor Jacob's unselfishness this month. If he can turn over his birthday party to the King, we can part with one book and one buck.

Head to your bookshelf now. Ask God, "Is there a book here that You want to get in the hands of a pastor or Christian worker overseas?" Then open your wallet and purse and ask, "Is there a dollar in here that you'd like to use for that purpose, Father?"

A little child is leading us, dear

Ired Palmerton

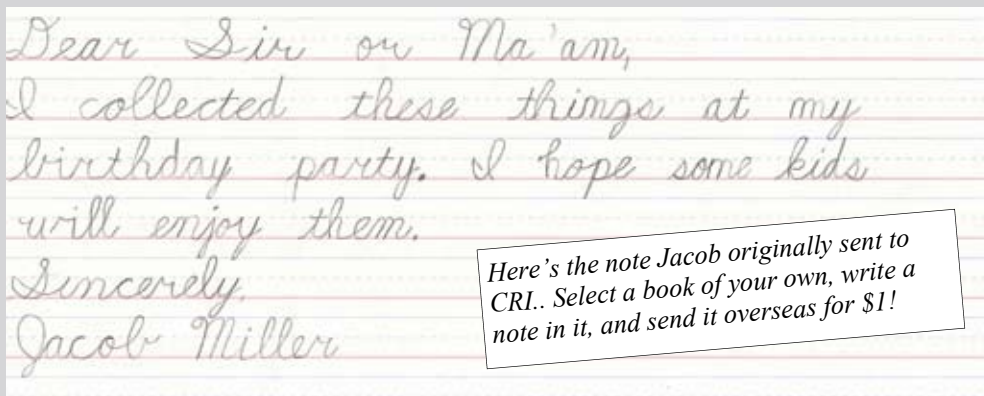
Accept Jacob's Challenge!

Just like Jacob did for his birthday, you can send a Christian book through CRI. Go to your bookshelf and ask, "Lord, is there a book you'd like to get into the hands of a Christian worker overseas?" Along with the book, send \$1 to shipping it overseas in

one of our Great Crates.

Take a cue from Jacob and write a note to tuck in your book. Jacob's original note is below.

A book and a buck: join Jacob's challenge!



Where will your book go?

Wondering where a book from your shelf might end up if you send it in today along with \$1 for shipping?

In the hands of a pastor or Christian worker in Africa!

CRI is preparing a new shipment to go to Kenya.

It's not too late to get your book on board if you act today. \$1 is all it takes!

Pray over your bookshelf. Ask God, "Which book do you want



me to send to Kenya, Lord?" Then send that book, along with \$1 (in the attached envelope), to cover international shipping aboard the Grate Crate to Africa.

But be sure to act quickly, as that container will be hitting the ocean soon!

Bundle up your book and your buck and send them today to:

Christian Resources Intl
200 Free Street
Fowlerville, MI 48836

Great Missions Adventures Can Happen Every Day

Whether we notice it or not, God presents us with opportunities for unprecedented Kingdom impact every day.

Because those opportunities are often packaged in plain wrapping, however, we often miss them.

Just ask Angie Miller, the mother of young Jacob.

Angie says that when she gave her heart to Jesus, she saw that every day presented opportunities for her to further the Kingdom...if she only kept her eyes open.

Not being in a position to travel overseas at this season of her life, Angie has learned that her current step is teaching her children what

giving and outreach is all about.

Although Angie has been instrumental in organizing a Bare Your Bookshelf drive at her church and with her kids' home-school group, she stresses how important it is to not treat giving and outreach like a special event.

"We're trying to teach Jacob and eventually our younger kids that serving others should be a part of daily life—not only a scheduled activity," says Angie.

Angie and Jacob are issuing a challenge to all Touchpoint readers this month:

1. Go to your bookshelf.

2. Pray, "God, is there one book that would be more useful to you in Kenya than here in my bookshelf?"
3. Wrap up the book that He calls to your attention. Send it to CRI along with \$1 to cover the cost of shipping it as part of the upcoming Great Crate to Kenya.
4. Include a note in the book blessing the recipient.

Angie says that the farther you get on your journey, the less extraordinary daily outreach becomes. Generosity and service change who you are until they become as natural as breathing—as natural as selecting a book and a buck this month and sending it to the mission field through CRI.

As Angie looks at Jacob growing into a young man, she sees the power of looking for little ways to give—and to enable others to give—every day.



What book on your bookshelf can be a valuable contribution to world missions when it's paired with \$1 from your wallet to cover shipping through CRI? Just like the Miller family, God wants you to be on the lookout daily for opportunities to give to and serve others.

Instant Update: Books Received And Sent in 2009

Materials Received - 65,556
Sent Out - 8,843

Bare Your Bookshelf
Packets Mailed - 674

Great Crates - 0
Power Packs - 14