

The Incredible Growth of Canadian Crossroads and My Unforgettable Experience at a Work Camp in Ethiopia - 1963

It was the summer of 1963 when I embarked on an extraordinary journey to Ethiopia. Little did I know that this adventure would not only shape my personal growth but also give me a unique perspective on the incredible progress of Canadian Crossroads and the impact of their work camps around the world.

Before diving into my unforgettable experience in Ethiopia, it is worth exploring the inspiring growth of Canadian Crossroads. Founded in 1958, Canadian Crossroads International, now known as Crossroads International, has been dedicated to fostering global cooperation and sustainable development.

Over the years, Canadian Crossroads has expanded its reach, establishing partnerships across continents and creating opportunities for individuals to contribute to the development of global communities. Their work camps have become a cornerstone of their efforts, allowing volunteers from Canada to engage in impactful projects within diverse cultures.



Excerpt 15: Growth of Canadian Crossroads and my Second Work Camp in Ethiopia in 1963

by Matthew Marcetich (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

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The impact of Crossroads International's work camps is multifaceted. Not only do these camps facilitate the exchange of knowledge and skills, but they also promote cultural understanding and foster long-lasting friendships. It is through these camps that I had the privilege of embarking on my second journey to Ethiopia.

My Work Camp Experience in Ethiopia

As I arrived in Ethiopia, I was immediately captivated by the rich tapestry of its culture, breathtaking landscapes, and the warmth of its people. The work camp project I participated in aimed to build a school in a rural community, providing a much-needed resource for local children.

Together with a group of volunteers from Canada and Ethiopia, we worked tirelessly under the scorching sun, mixing cement, laying bricks, and constructing a future for these children. It was physically demanding work, but the camaraderie and the knowledge that our efforts would make a significant difference kept us motivated.

Beyond the construction work, we had the opportunity to immerse ourselves in the local community. We were welcomed with open arms, invited to traditional ceremonies, and treated to delicious Ethiopian cuisine. This cultural exchange allowed us to truly understand the community's needs and foster a deep sense of connection.

Throughout our time in Ethiopia, Canadian Crossroads ensured that we engaged in educational workshops, promoting personal growth and cross-cultural understanding. These sessions not only equipped us with vital skills but also challenged us to think critically about development practices and our role in creating a sustainable future.

The Impact of Canadian Crossroads in Ethiopia

It is astonishing to witness the impact that Canadian Crossroads has had on the development of rural communities in Ethiopia. Through their work camps, they have constructed schools, clinics, and crucial infrastructure that have transformed lives and brought hope to countless individuals.

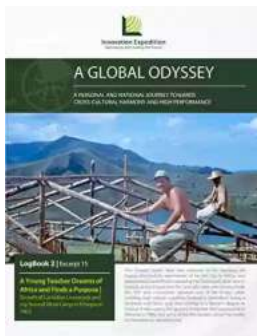
Education has been a key focus of their work in Ethiopia, empowering local youth with knowledge and skills necessary to break the cycle of poverty. The schools built through these work camps have become centers of learning, providing children with opportunities they never had before.

It is not only the infrastructure that has created a lasting impact but also the relationships forged during these cross-cultural encounters. By fostering understanding and empathy, Canadian Crossroads has helped bridge the gap between countries, promoting peace, and collaboration among nations.

Looking Back at the Journey

The summer of 1963 will forever hold a special place in my heart. My second work camp experience with Canadian Crossroads in Ethiopia taught me invaluable lessons about humility, resilience, and the power of collective effort. Witnessing the growth of Canadian Crossroads and its impact on global communities has been truly inspiring.

As we reflect on the journey that Canadian Crossroads has undertaken over the years, it is evident that their commitment to sustainable development and meaningful engagement has formed an essential part of their success. Through their work camps, Canadian Crossroads continues to empower individuals, transform communities, and shape a better world for future generations.



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This Excerpt covers how Don returned to his teaching job hugely enriched by experiences of his first trip to Africa, and passionately committed to keeping the Crossroads ideal alive in Canada. It was a busy time for Don, who was now running both the ASF and Crossroads activities out of his home, while teaching high school, coaching football or basketball, being a husband and father and then adding in a Master's degree in history! It also covers his second Crossroad field experience in Ethiopia in 1965 and some of his first lessons about the reality of international development.



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