



CROSS CURRENTS INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

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Our dear Prayer Supporter,

Dorothy and I well remember ministering the Word of God behind the “Iron Curtain.” The pastor in one of the Churches had recently been released from prison after serving thirteen months. He had been charged with issuing political directives before the elections because he preached “*Cast your net on the right side of the boat*” JOHN 21:6.

Standing before his congregation, I was aware that I ministered to people who knew the cost of true discipleship. As usual, I opened by bringing loving greetings from believers in the free world. But as I assured the assembly of believers of their prayers, tears flowed down my cheeks. Though Dorothy and I were gratefully aware of friends at home who were praying for us, I could not help but wonder how many were praying for these brethren!

Seeing my tears, the organist, on a small pump organ, spontaneously began to play, “Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love . . . from each to the other flows, a sympathizing tear.” This was a language we could all understand! With this free-flow of heavenly love I continued to expound the Bible for several days with His evident blessing!

What a difference there is between our prayerful concern for our missionaries and our prayerful concern for the nationals to whom they minister. For instance, there are two missionaries in Afghanistan who for several years have faithfully served the Lord Jesus in an atmosphere of spiritual darkness and open hostility to the Gospel. Dorothy and I have prayed for their physical protection, spiritual discernment, and biblical wisdom. Recently, these missionaries left Afghanistan to reevaluate their future effectiveness. We thanked God for their safe return. But will we remember to pray for the fledgling believers left behind?

We know that the more bold their testimony is for Christ, the greater will be their danger. In Hebrews 12:3, God commands: “*Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body.*” Referring to the Body of Christ—not only the local Church but also His world-wide Church—the Apostle Paul wrote: “*Whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it*” 1 CORINTHIANS 12:26. Such *koinonia* love is impossible for anyone whose life is self-centered. Campbell Morgan wrote: “**Self-centeredness is the essence of sin; the core of hostility; the substance out of which hell is made.**”

In vivid contrast to a self-centered person who thinks of “me” and “mine,” is a Christ-centered person who thinks of “Christ” and “His.” There is a great divide between human sympathy and divine love. Our sympathy can easily be evoked by a tear-jerking presentation of the physical needs or deprivation of

hurting humanity. However, when the love of the Lord Jesus Christ fills our heart, our concern for their spiritual well being will express the overflow of His love and then, on their behalf, the common round and the trivial task will become fraught with eternal significance “. . . *forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord*” 1 CORINTHIANS 15:58.

When the Lord Jesus ministered to the needs of the poor and suffering He had a spiritual and eternal objective. For instance, He healed the paralytic man and made him walk (Matthew 9:2). He also opened the blind man’s eyes and made him see (John 9:37,38). This ministry of healing was wonderful, but even more wonderful was His ministry when He forgave their sin. The former was temporary but the later was eternal!

The Lord Jesus said: “The poor you have always with you” JOHN 12:8. But the social gospel is not in and of itself the Christian Gospel. The Satanic ploy of the twenty-first century seems to be that Christian compassion for the physical needs of suffering humanity can unite with the social concerns of false religions or even with godless politics. This, of necessity, means that the distinctive claim of the Lord Jesus is ignored. Remember, the Lord Jesus also said: “I am the Way the Truth and the Life; no man cometh to the Father but by Me” JOHN 14:6.

Today, in identifying the trends of the social gospel by the Church, we notice that a “Purpose-Driven” mentality increasingly seeks common ground between Christian compassion and the social concern of false religions. For instance, during the July 4th weekend, Rick Warren agreed to appear at the Indiana based Islamic Society of North America [ISNA]—the largest gathering of Muslims on the continent. The theme of this convention was “Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness.” Joining Warren was noted Muslim scholar Hamza Yusuf and ISNA President Ingrid Mattson.

Thankfully, Elijah never sought common ground to dialogue with the prophets of Baal. No, certainly not! But with God-given boldness, Elijah confronted the people and said: “*If the Lord be God, follow him; but if Baal then follow him.*” The resultant fruit of such a confrontation was: “*The people fell on their faces and said, The Lord, He is the God; the Lord, He is the God*” 1 KINGS 18:21,39.

Tragically, the compromise and confusion of the emergent church is rapidly penetrating the so-called “evangelical” Church in the Western World! Consequently, the current approach to evangelism is that believers should unite with other religions in social action and contemplative prayer, to usher in the Kingdom of God. Such thinking is like trying to attract alcoholics to Christ is by sponsoring a cocktail party to preach the Gospel!

God has promised to bless His Word when it is faithfully taught with dependence upon the indwelling, sovereign, living Lord Jesus Christ. “We, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another” ROMANS 12:5. So in these days of apostasy, we praise the Lord for His open doors to minister to so many people around the world.

CCIM FOCUS ON WEST AFRICA MINISTRIES

Thank God that *Your Quest for God* teaches the doctrine of Christ’s Person; of His mission; of His atoning death; of His resurrection, and, of the infallibility of the Bible as well as God’s provision for Christian living. These “missionaries in paper covers” are now expanding to new language groups in spiritually barren lands. In these lands people eagerly await to receive their copy.

This month we rejoice to tell you that, through Trans World Radio [TWR] West Africa, the Lord enabled CCIM to print and donate 10,000 French copies each of the newly-edited *Your Quest for God* and *Food for Faith*. In fact, both books are just off the printing presses in China and are currently being shipped on the high seas to the TWR headquarters at Abijan, Ivory Coast, West Africa. Even with the shipping costs, it is 50% cheaper for CCIM to print in China! Also, these books printed in China are of a superior quality paper and binding than could be printed in West Africa. Please join us in prayer for their safe arrival, custom clearance, and then for protection in the hazardous journeys involved for distribution. May each book reach God’s prepared person for His glory!

This current CCIM West Africa French project is only the first of similarly requested projects in other West African languages. Much effort is involved in the tedious task of translating and proof-reading even before CCIM can print in China the requested languages of Wolof, Songhai, Pulaar, Tamasheq, Boale, Fongbe.

Books in these languages have been urgently requested as a donation from CCIM to TWR West Africa—some of these are not even dictionary languages. Accordingly, your prayers are so very much appreciated for His help in the high level of coordination that is required for these translations. However, it is all so gloriously worthwhile! For some, their own cherished copy of this book will be the first book they possess in their own language.

In 2005 the TWR West Africa Director wrote:

“Both *Your Quest for God* and *Food for Faith* are a formidable tool in the hands of the Lord here in West Africa. They continue to be powerful instruments that the Holy Spirit uses to make the glory of God burst into the life of numerous persons.

“We receive many a person who come to our offices asking for these books. The quality of the contents and the simple and deep education which they give make these books appreciated by all. We also use the books in our visits to churches as well as for listeners who respond to our broadcasts. I can assure you that each book allow several persons to come to know the Lord

as they are shared with others who in turn become profoundly attached to His Word.

“In the name of TWR, West Africa and all the churches and persons who benefited from the work, we want to say thank you in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

In 2007 the TWR West Africa Director wrote:

“Both *Your Quest for God* and *Food for Faith* have been great tools in West Africa for the ministry of Trans World Radio. As the main literature for follow-up for all our French programs in the francophone countries of Africa, the books have been sent all over to African French-speaking countries. Pastors and Christians are really appreciating these great tools in their hands and Churches use the books to reinforce Bible teaching. Also, the books contribute to make known the radio programs and ministry of Trans World Radio in West Africa. But more than that, they contribute to life-changing experiences of both readers and listeners. May the Lord continue to bless your lives and your work.”

In 2009, the TWR West Africa Regional Director further wrote:

“I really assure you that these books are highly needed here and much expected. As I previously told you, there are thousands of requests for these books.”

How can CCIM do anything less than trust the Lord to make these requests a reality—even though the cost for printing the pilot French product was \$16,715!

Recently, TWR commenced broadcasting Bible messages to numbers of surrounding countries from the country of Benin, West Africa. This Benin station will give TWR access to well over 200 million people in West Africa thus providing opportunity for broadcasting the Gospel message in up to 50 new languages within the next four years.

The late Stephen Boakye-Yiadom told us that the President of Benin had been a follower of Voodoo traditions as well as being a communist. By the grace of God, however, a country pastor had been burdened to make treks to the capital and regularly sought an audience with the President. These weekly visits were accompanied by his protracted prayer outside the Palace. After one year, the pastor was granted permission to meet with the President. With one purpose in mind, he redeemed his God-given opportunity to speak of the Lord Jesus Christ and consequently had the wonderful privilege of leading him to the Savior! Subsequently, through the intervention of the President, TWR was granted permission to build the 100,000-watt transmitter on donated land.

So, as together we prayerfully trust the Lord, CCIM literature will increasingly be a vital follow-up ministry in this strategic missionary outreach! Thank you so much for your fellowship of giving and praying which make all this possible!

Together in His Name,

