



CROSS CURRENTS INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

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Our dear Prayer Supporter,

It is interesting to note that the Chinese character for CRISES is a combination of the symbol for “danger” and the symbol for “opportunity.” When confronted with a crisis—either personal or national—many people only think of danger!

Whereas unbelief sees a problem in every opportunity, faith sees an opportunity in every problem! And when a Christian truly *believes* that *he is dead, and his life is hid with Christ in God* (COLOSSIANS 3:3) such a person of true faith is worry-proof!

Danger: For the unbeliever, however, it can be a very daunting experience to step outside the cocoon of personal comfort to ponder the foreboding future confronting our 21st Century civilization. Today, the vast array of unresolved problems range from international; national; political and sociological—in a life-threatening morass and a murky moral quagmire. It seems that on every horizon there is a foreboding storm which foretells unprecedented danger. No! Escapism is not the real answer.

In the 7th Century B.C., God’s people were living on the brink of a national calamity. At that time, through the prophet Habakkuk, God issued a solemn warning: “*Woe to him that covets an evil covetousness to his house that he may set his nest on high that he may be delivered from the power of evil.*” So where can we run? “*The name of the Lord is a strong tower: the righteous run into it and are safe*” PROVERBS 18:10. Whatever the circumstance, true security is only found in the Lord Jesus.

Opportunity: Yes, “in Christ” God gives us all an opportunity to redeem every crisis for His glory and for the blessing of other people.

Before Joseph went to the palace he first was thrown into a pit there to die—as his brothers had presumed. But God had other plans. In his journey to the palace (to become the Prime Minister of Egypt and the salvation of Israel) Joseph journeyed from the pit to the prison and then his journey continued to His God-intended destination—the palace!

When Russian tanks rolled out of Russia to undergird the then prevailing Communist government in Czechoslovakia, when others were leaving their country, “Brother Andrew” seized God’s opportunity to enter, and took with him many much-needed Bibles.

Again, when all missionaries had evacuated from Uganda

(during and immediately after Idi Amin’s reign of terror) against the advice of the American Embassy in Nairobi, God opened a door of opportunity and protection for Dorothy and me to minister to a gathering of pastors in that ravaged country. Two million, out of a population of 10 million people, had been brutally murdered. In such an atmosphere of desolation it was our privilege to meet with these brethren in a vacated cow barn. But it was there that God met with us all in the Glory and Light of His awesome presence!

And this ministry in Uganda was also God’s opportunity for us to find ways of transporting medical supplies; Bibles; hygienic products; literature and much-needed hymn books in addition to the supplies we were able to personally carry into Uganda. Today, various mission agencies and church fellowships continue to glorify the Lord with vastly increased blessings among precious people in Uganda. Praise God!

You may remember that CCIM sponsored various printings of *Your Quest for God* for distribution in Egypt. The last edition was 30,000 copies. It was in Egypt that I had the privilege of preaching at a Christian funeral which was held in a tent erected in the center of an entire street in Cairo. Later the pastor/translator was imprisoned.

However, in spite of the Islamic persecution in Egypt, Joel Rosenberg recently wrote, “Some reports say 1 million Egyptians have trusted Christ over the past decade or so.” The same is true in other countries where several publications of “*Quest*” in the Arabic languages are surreptitiously circulated. Again, Joel Rosenberg reports that in Iraq more than 5,000 new Muslim converts to Christianity have been identified since the end of major combat operations, with 14 new churches opened in Baghdad, and dozens of new churches opened in Kurdistan, some of which have 500 to 800 members—and all this “despite intense persecution, assassinations and widespread church bombings.” Yes! *Your Quest for God* was surreptitiously brought into Iraq before, during and after “Desert Storm.”

Now, for your encouragement and prayers let us share this recent report received from Trans World Radio concerning the books CCIM purchased for follow-up to radio programs and for distribution throughout North Africa and the Middle East.

TWR Arabic Report 2006

After receiving the updated master copy of the Bennett books (*Your Quest for God* and *Food for Faith*) we printed another 10,000 copies—5,000 of each book. The distribution process was good and even had some feedback from people who read them. We tried to distribute the books in several Arab countries, which are as follows:

* **Jordan:** Distribution was concentrated on the local churches and to several local Christian ministries who in their turn helped in distributing as well.

* **Iraq:** with the help from few people we managed to send books to Iraq, where they were distributed in local churches and other places.

* **Syria:** The local churches received these books, happily.

* **Lebanon:** The Bennett books were made available in Lebanon, where the local church helped us in distributing them. These were especially needed at this difficult time in this country. The people need to find the Lord in the midst of all the upheaval that is happening around them.

* **Bahrain:** We sent with friends many of the Bennett books to Bahrain, where other friends, who live in other countries in the Arabian Peninsula, took the books to be distributed in these countries (Kuwait, U.A.E., Qatar, Yemen etc.).

* **North Africa (NA):** We have shipped some quantities of the Bennett books to NA to be distributed to local Christians in Morocco and Algeria.

* **Europe:** Some of our Arab friends in Europe received these books in order to distribute them among fellow Arabs who live in that area. On the other hand, our follow-up department has sent to our listeners books that the Bennett's supplied. We were encouraged by receiving responses from radio listeners who had read the Arabic copies of *Your Quest for God* and *Food for Faith*. Distribution of these books is still going on. May God lead us to the right people who need to be blessed by these books. Please pray!

For Your Encouragement, Some of the Book Responses are as Follows:



Syria – When I went to the church last week, one of the leaders gave me an envelope, and he told me the sender is from Jordan. I was really amazed especially (since) I don't have any contact from Jordan. Many people crossed my mind and I didn't realize that it was TWR. My heart was touched by your encouraging letter along with the book *Food for Faith*. Thank you for your love and support.



Palestine – Thank you a lot for this precious gift that I've received from you; especially the copy of *Food for Faith*; really it was the best gift for Christmas. Thank you again for your love and concern.



Iraq – My heart was filled with joy when I received your response along with the spiritual books *Your Quest for God* and *Food for Faith*. Thank you so much for your concern. I have a strong desire to learn more and more from your radio programs. God bless your efforts in producing such a fruitful ministry that helps so many to come to know the Lord Jesus Christ.



Jerusalem – I'm a Muslim guy from Jerusalem; I don't know how to express my gratitude for your fruitful ministry. I was afraid that you think that I am exaggerating, when I say that I was strongly impressed with your first sentence: "Our Dear Brother in Christ." My tears streamed down my cheeks, as I found consolation in your words as a medicine to my soul. Despite the fact that there are many people around me, sometimes I feel lonely. When I listen to your radio programs, my entire heart is overwhelmed with joy and peace . . . I'm waiting eagerly to read the book *Your Quest for God* that you sent to me.

Thank you for your part in this ministry.

With our warmest love and greetings,

A GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY Note!

Dear Richard and Dorothy,

50 Years ago
- (9th Nov. 1956) -
you, Richard, LED ME TO THE LORD
at the
College of Estate Management,
Kensington, London.

Praise be to God!

Blessings to you both!

With our love and prayers.

John (Roberts)

Long term missionary to Kenya.