



CROSS CURRENTS INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

VOL. 37 NO. 3

March, 2007

The Possibility of The Impossible! That is the theme of this month's Prayer Letter.

As you read, we pray that with Dorothy and me you too will be encouraged in your own personal circumstance. You may also be facing situations that defy the possibility of a human solution: Perplexities at work or with the bank balance; problems with the family or at church; dread hours of loneliness, bereavement or even of failing health. Certainly, none of us would choose to go through such testings.

However, in God's redemptive plan these can be the herald of blessing from our loving Heavenly Father. For it is in love that He purposes these experiences to throw us in greater humility and dependence upon the all-sufficient grace of the indwelling Christ. When we respond to His enabling grace by faith, we will be lifted to a level of worship that hitherto we have not experienced.

We remember the words of the Lord Jesus when He said: "With men it is impossible, but with God all things are possible" MATTHEW 19:26.

In his day Peter believed in the possibility of the impossible. When he stepped out of the boat on to the turbulent waves it was humanly impossible to walk on the water. Was this attempt to walk on the water an act of presumptive arrogance or was it an act of obedient faith? This is the question we will consider.

It is interesting to note why Peter was in the boat on such a stormy night. The accounts in Matthew 14 and Mark 6 tell us the Lord Jesus told the disciples to leave the scene—where He had fed 5,000 men and the women and children—and go across the Sea of Galilee to Bethsaida. Night was about to fall and both Jesus and the disciples knew the treachery of the land-locked water mass. Sudden winds from the surrounding mountains could quickly whip-up waves to a life-threatening turbulence. And that was exactly what happened!

Unlike Jonah, who experienced a life-threatening storm because of his disobedience, Peter experienced a life-threatening storm because of his obedience! Yes! It was Jesus who "constrained His disciples to get into a boat and to go before Him to the other side" MATTHEW 14:22.

So we see that lessons were learned in the storm that had not been understood at the open air picnic where Jesus fed the multitude. And when the storm came and Jesus appeared walking on the water: "They were very much amazed in themselves beyond measure, for they considered not the miracle of the

leaves: for their heart was hardened" MARK 6:52.

As experienced sailors, the disciples well knew the possibilities of treacherous waters on the sea of Galilee. Accordingly, they could have played it safe and hugged the shore-line on their journey to the other side. Instead, in obedience to their Master, the disciples headed straight for the opposite shore. And *en route* their very lives were threatened.

To add to Peter's fear of the raging waves and boisterous storm, he also thought he saw a ghost walking on the water! With eyes piercing the blinding surf: "They all saw Him and were troubled. And immediately He talked with them and said unto them, be of good cheer [be of good courage] it is I; be not afraid" MARK 6:50.

Of course when the Lord Jesus told them to go, He knew they would encounter turbulent winds and lashing waves. Though the multitudes (whom He had miraculously fed) had joyfully responded and proclaimed: "This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world" JOHN 6:14, it would take a storm before the disciples would say: "Of a truth, thou art the Son of God" MATTHEW 14:33. And sometimes it takes a storm in our lives before we plumb the wonder of whom Jesus really is and who He wants to be in us and through us.

So, Peter was in the boat and in the storm all because he obeyed his Master! Similarly, when Jesus walked on the waves and said to Peter: "Come!" he again obeyed and stepped out of the boat to walk on the water. Campbell Morgan describes this event in Peter's life as "the story of one of the most wonderful pre-Pentecostal experiences of Peter."

Yes! When Peter stepped out of the boat he believed in *the possibility of the impossible!* And all who have fixed their eyes on the Lord Jesus, and in obedient faith have stepped out of their security zone, are encouraged by Peter's example of faith and the response of Jesus. He said: "Come!" Peter immediately obeyed and "walked on the water to go to Jesus" (v.29). Wonderful!

But what happened next? Faith said Peter could walk; fear said he would sink! Likewise we too are often confronted with the battle between faith and fear. The Savior tells us we can walk; our senses tell us we will sink. When our eyes are transfixed on Jesus we walk by faith, however, when our eyes are focused on the waves we walk in fear and sink.

Suddenly, Peter found himself sinking and cried, "Lord, save me" MATTHEW 14:30. He realized that the waters that threatened him were already under the feet of Jesus! Likewise,

the Lord Jesus is totally adequate to handle every wave that might threaten you and me.

Therefore, when we find ourselves beginning to sink, let us remember the Lord never asks us to walk where He has not already triumphed! In Christ there is victory (see Colossians 3:1-4). In Him, and in Him alone, we can triumph in any situation. He is adequate to carry us through the turbulence of any untoward circumstance. Therefore, as did Peter, in days of testing, let us look to Jesus and affirm: "*Of a truth, Thou art the Son of God*" MATTHEW 14:33.

Soon, Peter was safely back in the boat—this time with Jesus! It was in the life-threatening mid-night storm that the disciples recognized who Jesus really was—the Son of God! It was not the pleasantry of feeding hungry people that extracted true worship from the disciples hearts. It was the discovery in the storm who Jesus really was that caused them to enter into a new dimension of real worship: "*Then they that were in the boat*

came and worshipped Him" MATTHEW 14:33.

It is interesting to notice that it was back in the boat—back to the place which was so familiar to the disciples that worship burst forth from their hearts and lips. It was not a change of venue; it was a change of heart—from fear to faith!

This is where living fellowship with Christ and true worship is born. So, let us join the disciples and sing from our hearts with adoration and praise: "*Thou art the Son of God*" and thereby personally experience the possibility of the impossible!

As you read the following reports, we encourage you to link your faith with ours. Thank you for your faithful prayers and support as the Lord continues to make the impossible possible in the ministry of CCIM!

Together in His Name,



Hungary

Over many years, the Lord has enabled CCIM the wonderful privilege of distributing 66,000 Hungarian copies of our books through nationals. Now, we have just received a further letter from our brother in Christ, Peter Vohmann of Evangelical Publishing House and Literature Mission, Hungary:

First of all I greet all of you with love! Thank you very much for your Christmas letter!

From the last publication of both your titles Food for Faith and Your Quest for God we have only a few copies left.

*As I have previously written, these books were primarily distributed in **prisons**, and among Hungarian minorities who live in Romania, Ukraine, Slovakia and Yugoslavia. Of course, many books have also been distributed in Hungary. As a result, many people who read your books have been born anew in Christ!*

*I have again checked the faithful missions, who would like to have your books for further **free** distribution.*

For Your Quest for God we would like to print 15,000 copies: 3,000 copies for Trans World Radio; 5,000 copies for prison missions and 7,000 copies for school teachers.

For the book Food for Faith we would like to print 13,000 copies: 3,000 copies for Trans World Radio, 5,000 copies for prison ministries, 5,000 copies for school teachers.

If your answer is "yes" to this proposition, then we will start the work of preparing both Hungarian books for the latest edition. We will need approximately 3-4 months to prepare the books for printing. After that, please send us the money.

[ED. This project will amount to about \$23,500 and together with other such requests from different countries let us together trust the Lord for *The Possibility of The Impossible*.]

Thank you for your love and help! By His grace, Peter.

Africa

As well as ongoing reports we share periodically with you from Kenya Broadcasting Corporation radio listeners of "Dorothy's Daily Devotional," we want to share some of the reports from Trans World Radio, Audience Relations Department, South Africa.

Listeners write from Botswana, Ghana, Malawi, Namibia, Nigeria, Zambia, Zimbabwe as well as from South Africa. Precious listeners lack Bibles and gratefully receive free CCIM's books. Please join us in praying for spiritually needy people. We mention but a few:



Namibia – N.T. Joseph – I'm from Namibia and I listen to your programme each day. I want to know the Lord but my heart does not want to open up. Please send me the book *Your Quest for God*—I'm sure it will help. [PLEASE PRAY FOR THIS DEAR MAN]



Zimbabwe – I wish to thank you very much for the book *Your Quest for God*. I wish you God's blessing for the work you are doing with this book. That's the best work nobody else has thought of!



South Africa – Mr. C. Marizu. – Pray for me that God will revive my spiritual life, because there was a realm I use to see myself in when I first gave my life to Jesus, and am not happy about where I see myself now. I really need your help. [PLEASE PRAY]