



CROSS CURRENTS INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

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Dear Prayer Supporter,

*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life; and I will dwell
in the house of the Lord for ever.* PSALM 23:6

Have you ever noticed that each significant milestone on life's pathway inspires special thanksgiving for the *goodness and mercy* of God? For me, this month marks one of those memorable milestones.

It was exactly 50 years ago this July that my resignation as a "City Planner" became effective from the Norfolk County Council in England. The very evening of my last day at work I boarded a train to the port of Southampton and headed into an unknown future. Early next morning I embarked for New York, and so to Bible College.

As the brass band played "Rule Britannia" on the quay side, and the ropes released the ocean-going liner to plow her way through the Atlantic waves, my stirred emotions could have been accompanied by strong apprehension. But such was not the case!

You see, the weeks that preceded that eventful day had been accompanied by strange testings but also with clear and encouraging promises from God. For many months all the necessary immigration applications and procedures had been accomplished. Even so, one month before my departure I still had no visa; no ship passage, and no permission from the Exchange Control to convert more than £20 into US dollars.

But there was yet another obstacle to be overcome. My resignation had been the cause of quite a furor in the office. The resentment was that I had not been in the military and two fellow-workers had recently returned from distinguished military service.

The problem was that I had reached draft age after the war was over. In post-war England, because of bomb devastation, Parliament had enacted a bill of Compulsory Deferment for everybody who was engaged in the architectural and civil engineering professions. Therefore, because of my training, I had been compulsorily deferred from the military draft.

Misunderstanding my situation, and being aware of my bold witness for Christ, the rumor had been circulated in the office that I was a "conscientious objector"—in their eyes a coward! No remonstrations from me could convince them otherwise. So one co-worker thought that my resignation presented him with an opportunity to prove his point. Now, he thought, instead of going to America for Bible training I should be drafted for the military. Accordingly, he contacted our Member of Parliament.

As I write, I have before me a letter with the bold insignia

House of Commons and dated 28th July, 1951. It is signed by our Member of Parliament. This letter arrived in the second mail, giving me final confirmation from God before my train departure that evening. The timing of this letter also enabled me to share the contents with my work colleagues and so vindicate the Hand of the Lord in the steps I was about to take. In part, that letter read:

I believe a colleague of yours in your office informed you that I have been asked to make enquiries as to your liability for National Service, and I naturally took this action confidentially

I have now received a confidential communication from the district officer of the Ministry of Labour and National Service, and from the information which he has given me I am quite satisfied that your deferment is in order and am proposing, quite rightly, not to take any further action in the matter.

Yes, I was "free to pursue whatever course of action I so desired." However, in other ways also, the miraculous timings of God confirmed my call during my resignation month.

In the post-war period, every ocean-going liner was overbooked. Passages were almost impossible to purchase. But just one week prior to my leaving office my father arrived home and gleefully told me that a business associate of his was able to procure a trans Atlantic ticket. The ticket I had been prayerfully awaiting to purchase was now in my hands! The Greek liner was to leave from Southampton on the 30th of July—the day following my final day at work!

And it was only one week before that, that I received my student visa from the American Embassy. Again, in those days of severe restrictions in England, it was only two days before receiving my visa that the British Exchange Control authorized my converting an extra £100 to US dollars. All this happened after I had burned my bridges behind me and had resigned from my budding and remunerative professional career.

Surprising? Not really; and you may wonder why. The answer is simple. In those days when misunderstandings and delays were heavy upon my heart—even bringing me to tears before God—one night my Bible reading contained a verse that the Spirit of God quickened in a personal way. I had been asking the Lord what else I could do to facilitate my leaving for Bible College. If it was God's will for me to go in the military, then that was my will. But I had a deep conviction that He was leading otherwise. Then I read: *Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth* PSALM 46:10. So I waited upon God to see

what He would do. And the rest is history!

Over the years, Dorothy and I have proved that to *Be still* does not mean “to stand idle.” *For this I also labor, striving according to His working, which worketh in me mightily* testified the Apostle Paul in COLOSSIANS 1:29. And again, *For it is God who worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure* PHILIPPIANS 1:34. And yet again *Faithful is He that calleth you who also will do it* 1 THESSALONIANS 5:24.

Yes, within one month of my arrival at the Bible College in Providence, Rhode Island (while I was shoveling coal in the boiler-room at the Barrington campus) I met a previous student of the College who had just resigned his Church to accept a call to another pastorate. As we shared the Lord together, he asked if I would preach for him the following Sunday at Shannock Baptist Church, Rhode Island.

The very next Sunday I was honored to preach at that Church, and before registering for my first College semester I was already the pastor of Shannock Baptist Church! While ministering among those precious people, the Lord graciously opened doors for special meetings in several neighborhood Churches in Rhode Island. One such Church was Perryville Baptist Church. And to this day—50 years later—we are honored that Perryville Baptist Church regularly prays for us and supports the international outreach of CCIM. Thank you PBC and thank you also to our few other faithful supporting Churches! How wonderful are the ways of God!

After graduation, I returned to England to join Pastor Stephen Olford at Duke Street Baptist Church in London. There I met my dear wife and fellow helper in the Gospel—Dorothy.

Last night the Lord woke me at the midnight hour. My mind then reflected upon the *goodness* and *mercy* of God that has followed Dorothy and me over our many years of united ministry. Sleep evaded me so, at 4 a.m., I rose and went to my desk to record a brief summary of all that was filling my heart with thanksgiving and praise.

In mistakes—*His mercy endureth for ever* PSALM 107:1.

In failure—*He is faithful and just to forgive* 1 JOHN 1:9.

In weakness—*His grace is sufficient* 2 CORINTHIANS 12:9.

In lukewarmness—*He provides gold tried in the fire* REV. 3:18.

In loneliness—*My Friend sticketh closer than a brother* PROV. 18:24.

In need of wisdom—*Christ Jesus is our wisdom* 1 COR. 1:30.

When prayerless—*Others are praying also for us* COLOSSIANS 4:3.

When our plans abort—*He enlarged our coasts* 1 CHRONICLES 3:10.

Little wonder that after the Apostle Paul had been used by the Holy Spirit to expound the gospel of God in the book of Romans, and before he proceeded with the practical implications of gospel truth, he exclaimed: *Oh the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God: how unsearchable are His judgements and His ways past finding out* ROMANS 11:33.

Now you may be wondering whether these reflections are by way of a valedictory testimony! *Anything but*. Remember, the Lord Jesus kept the best wine until last. No, when one becomes a senior citizen, God does not “put a hold” on His

promise to do *a new thing* ISAIAH 43:19.

CCIM presently faces an explosion of inconceivable opportunities because God is faithful to His call and persistent in His purposes of blessing (1 THESSALONIANS 5:24). Today, CCIM’s “missionaries in paper covers” literally circumscribe the globe. We have just been talking to three immigrants from Russia who came to repair our window frames. Upon giving one of them our only Russian copy of *Your Quest for God*, he exclaimed “I know your name, I read this book in Siberia!” *To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever* ROMANS 16:27.

Yes, because of the sacrificial support of you, dear friend, God has miraculously enabled CCIM to print and distribute, “missionaries in paper covers” to multiple ethnic groups and languages in isolated regions and to the continents of * Africa * Asia * Europe * Middle East * South America. Humanly speaking it just should not have happened. *But God!* ROMANS 5:8.

And because of your prayers, CCIM continues to experience God’s persistent purposes of blessing that presently unfold around the world. These new opportunities reach far beyond any previous CCIM missionary outreach. We know that Jesus is the *Author* and *Finisher* of it all (HEBREWS 12:2). This year alone, He who loves the whole world, has initiated the printing of yet another 250,000 CCIM books—and all from our home/ministry base!

So this week we have responded by faith for CCIM to meet requests:



- * **From the Muslim World:** in the Middle East through *Evangelische Karmelmission* for Jordan; Iraq; Iran, and Lebanon.
- * **From Egypt:** for 60,000 further copies of the books to be printed and distributed throughout the whole of the country by *evangelicals*.
- * **From India:** for further printing and distribution of books in 16 Indian languages through *Operation Mobilisation*.
- * **From Portugal:** for both books to be widely distributed in Portugal and in all Portuguese African countries through *Accaao Cristae*.
- * **From Latin America:** to print and distribute more CCIM books through *Trans World Radio* from their 10 radio stations in South America; Mexico, and Dominican Republic.
- * **From Macedonia:** through *Operation Mobilisation Greater Europe*.

You must think CCIM is very wealthy! Anything but—but God is so very faithful.

Now, after 50 years of ministry, as we enter another decade of opportunity, Dorothy and I lovingly request that you kindly pray: First, for the recipients of “*Quest*” and “*Food*” around the world; Second, that in these critical days (before the Rapture) you unite with us in special prayer for the resources to meet the requests of so many nationals who reach precious souls for Christ on your and our behalf.

Unitedly—in His glad service,

Richard & Dorothy Barnett