



CROSS CURRENTS INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

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Dear Prayer Supporter,

In Old Testament days the shepherd expended his life in the rearing; the feeding; the tending; the healing; the retrieving, and then the restoring of his precious lambs. All of this shepherd care was devotedly invested in his flock with one objective—he was to prepare each of his sheep for the slaughter! Therein lies an illustration of the New Testament under-shepherds in the Church.

In our New Testament days God gives to His Church pastors with a shepherd heart. It is always a tremendous privilege to fellowship with this type of pastor. Pastors who breed God's lambs by biblical evangelism and then feed God's sheep by teaching them the Word of God *precept upon precept; precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little and there a little* ISAIAH 28.13. And just as the OT shepherd nurtured his sheep for the slaughter, so the faithful NT pastor/teacher will faithfully, studiously, prayerfully and consecutively feed his flock with the Word of God so that they too may become a *LIVING SACRIFICE*.

For example, the Apostle Paul expounded God's Gospel of grace in the Epistle to the Romans. In so doing he laid the foundation of biblical evangelism for the lost, and also biblical edification for the believer. Then he led God's precious sheep to the slaughter with the following exhortation in CHAPTER 12:1.

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a LIVING SACRIFICE, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

The Amplified Bible clarifies the phrase "reasonable service" to mean "spiritual worship." Such worship is the overflow of a life that *reckons* its co-crucifixion; co-burial; co-resurrection and co-ascension with Christ (see ROMANS 6:11, 6:3-4, EPHESIANS 2:6). No emotive music or even biblical lyrics—impressive as some may be—can replace spiritual worship that flows from the believer's heart who daily appropriates the truth that: *Ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God* COLOSSIANS 3:3.

But as we daily present our bodies as a *living sacrifice*, we realize it is not the act of presenting our bodies that makes us acceptable to God. Certainly not! It is only because of the Cross of Jesus that we can be accepted by a holy God. The shed Blood and the Finished Work of the Lord Jesus alone can enable us to present our sinful lives in a way that is both *holy, and acceptable to God*. Such expendability and availability is vital for the normal outworking of His purposes of blessing in our respective lives.

No Surprise

Therefore, it is not surprising that, since CCIM's two missionary books were born, we have trusted God to provide fellowship with mission personnel who have a "shepherd heart."

Basically there are only three ways that we can give money to God:

- Gifts that are directed for the support of God's servants.
- Gifts that are directed for the construction of ministry facilities: Church buildings; Bible education facilities; orphanage or medical facilities including food and medicine; radio transmitters, etc.
- Gifts that are directed for literature such as: Bibles; Gospel and educational/discipleship materials; tracts, etc.

And through such faithful and sacrificial support from God's children the work of God has progressed from generation to generation and we are blessed! Now, as we seek to pass the blessings on to the next generation, the Lord graciously provides CCIM with resources through your fellowship of love and prayer. Thank you! Over the years, this has enabled CCIM to sponsor—

- 20 years of our missionary radio ministry.
- The construction of a Bible distribution facility in Africa through which CCIM distributed hundreds of thousands of Bibles and huge supplies of Gospel tools to Africans.
- Sequential explosion of opportunities: In multiple languages and to millions of people around the world, there continues to be an amazing demand for *Your Quest for God, Food for Faith*, and the AIDS tract "Hope for the Hopeless."

With this outreach to multiplied nations and ethnic groups, let us earnestly pray together for His financial provision.

Merchandising or Ministering

In our distribution of CCIM's "missionaries in paper covers," we always seek to fellowship with brethren who have a "shepherd heart" and those who value the vital contribution that CCIM literature can make to undergird their own ministry. At the same time, we seek to avoid those who regard the books as merchandise to promote their own gain.

Thankfully, CCIM has just completed the printing of 60,000 copies of our "missionaries in paper covers" in Egypt through brethren with a "shepherd heart." Please pray with us, as this month these books will be circulated to university students and to illiterate villagers in isolated regions throughout all of Egypt. Recently, a precious Muslim was wonderfully saved when a pastor/shepherd read to her the book "*Quest*."

The cost of printing our books in Egypt was 18 cents per copy! However, the cost to circulate them cannot be measured in dollars. Each colporteur risks liberty and life should fanatical Muslims find them proselytizing—we call it evangelizing! The same dangerous situation prevails as CCIM books are circulated in some parts of India and the Middle East. They count upon our prayers.

Birthing

Some people in America who have procured "*Quest*" have glanced at its pages and then put it on their bookshelf. Others have recognized this book to be a vital tool in their prayerful concern for the lost. And that is the real purpose for which the book was written. Just as the Bible first reveals who God is, and then proceeds to explain His loving purposes of salvation for fallen humanity, so "*Quest*" does not commence with the need of man but rather with the nature of God. It then seeks to expound a Biblical Gospel which, in these days of evangelical superficiality, is not always clearly presented.

The following people, whom Dorothy and I met outside of Church services, are typical examples of millions more who also await a word of clear testimony and love from you and ourselves:

- A Hindu businessman in Africa.
- Two Jewish hairdressers in the West End of London.
- An Islamic student on the streets of Cairo.
- Punk rockers at a railway station in England.
- Trade union leaders on a "stoppage" at Crewe station.
- An unemployed university graduate in a coffee shop in Holland.
- An Indian Chief in a hospital in the USA.
- A maid in a "pension" in Eastern Europe.
- A fisherman in a boat on the shores of Jamaica.
- A family of "boat people" from Vietnam on the day they arrived in the USA.
- A dying 78 year old Jewish widow on a plane over Eastern Europe.
- An agnostic city businessman in a commercial context.
- Soldiers in an interrogation room in a socialist state.
- The chief of Police, when under apprehension, in a city where the Apostle Paul had ministered!
- A father released from prison on Christmas Eve.
- Untold numbers of beloved Kenyans as they walked dusty roads.
- A European millionaire who gave us a ride in his Mercedes Benz.
- A rebellious son who was running away from home.
- Two Ambassadors to the United States in Washington DC.
- An Italian waiter at London airport.
- Airline personnel and waitresses wherever we have traveled.
- Doctors and nurses in various medical centers.
- A dying 24 year old man lying on the road in a freeway accident.
- Three Queen's Messengers in an International airport VIP lounge.

- 17 pensioners who survived a deadly bus accident ahead of our car when it plunged into a raging ravine. 12 people immediately drowned and two more later died in Dorothy's arms with the name of Jesus on their lips. A bus load of young marines stopped to assist Dorothy and, in the reality of life and death, all gladly pocketed the first edition of "*Quest*" and we prayed with many.
- UNESCO officers; political leaders and Heads of State from several African countries. One UN official, in the last stages of AIDS, came to Christ after three hours of great spiritual warfare.
- In a Nairobi Court room, a 16 year old AIDS victim with only two weeks to live had been convicted of stealing. Together with his distraught mother from "up-country," and as the Judge wept behind the bench, the desolate boy and mother found new life in Christ.
- "The Beach Boys" Director, to whom Dorothy and I witnessed independently, and who not only gladly received "*Quest*," but then called his whole band together at the airport and insisted that we share the Lord with them.
- The wife and three boys of the British Ambassador to China whom we met on a London bus as they proceeded to the airport and on to Peking.
- *Just two weeks ago*, a gang of leather jacketed motorcyclists who were under shock as one of their fellow cyclists lay unconscious on the road from an accident. After medical help from Dorothy, they gladly responded to testimony and prayer with loving hugs and tucked "*Quest*" in their pockets with deep appreciation
And many, many more!

Feeding

The following letter from Hungary relays the significance to the local Church of your sacrificial gifts to CCIM and faithful prayers for Dorothy and myself.

Thank you very much for all your love and help by which many Hungarians are reached with the Gospel. The latest edition of "Food" has been completed and distribution is presently taking place. The Hungarian Trans World Radio has already gratefully received a further 5,000 copies. And now the latest edition of "Quest" has just been completed.

It is said everywhere that people have found God through reading "Quest" and that they are following the Lord more seriously because of "Food." Recently, a mother of 14 children told me she had given a copy of "Food" to each of her children because she considered it very important.

Signed Peter V.

This warm-hearted thanks from Hungary really belongs to the Lord and to you. Without your fellowship in the Gospel, the books would never have reached these precious people whom one day you will have the joy of meeting in Heaven.

Thank you in the Name of our blessed Lord,

Richard and Dorothy Bennett.