



CROSS CURRENTS INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

VOL. 32 NO. 6

June, 2002

Dear Prayer Supporter,

This month Dorothy and I anticipate celebrating our 44th Wedding Anniversary. The Lord has been so very gracious and faithful to us both and for this we praise Him! The reason we mention this at this time is because the first sermon that Dorothy heard me preach—and the last sermon that I preached at Duke Street Baptist Church in London, England—was concerning Abraham.

Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will show thee...and Abram departed as the Lord had spoken GENESIS 12:1,4.

It was not long after that sermon and also after our wedding service that Dorothy sang "Great is Thy faithfulness" in our first church service together as man and wife. This hymn was written in 1923 by Thomas Chisholm. It was his melodic response to LAMENTATIONS 3:22-23. *It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is Thy faithfulness.*

When Thomas Chisholm composed this well-known hymn, his income was small and his health was poor. But he wrote: "I must not fail to record here the unfailing faithfulness of a covenant-keeping God and that He has given me many wonderful displays of His providing care, for which I am filled with astonishing gratefulness."

Today, 44 years later, we turned again to those verses in Genesis. There we noted that when God called Abraham he was already 75 years old. This carried a new significance to us both because next month I too will be 75! And at this time God is leading us to take new steps of faith and obedience and so enable us to meet the expanding opportunities God is giving through the ministries of CCIM.

And David said to Solomon his son, Be strong and of good courage, and do it: fear not, nor be dismayed: for the Lord God, even my God, will be with thee: He will not fail thee, nor forsake thee, until thou hast finished all the work for the service of the house of the Lord.

1 CHRONICLES 28:20

Timely Questions:

- How can we best preserve and expand the wonderful ministry of our "missionaries in paper covers" around the world, and, at the same time see the daily administrative responsibilities brought to a more manageable level?

- In our remaining years, how can we maximize our first commission from God which is to "preach the Word"—person to person, pulpit to pew—by our preaching, teaching and witnessing ministry?

To meet these objectives two emerging transitions are necessary. In these developments we covet your continued friendship, your faithful prayers and your continued support. Praise the Lord!

Full Circle

You may remember that Cross Currents International Ministries was born because of the urging of Dr. Paul Freed—Founder of the world-wide Gospel outreach of Trans World Radio [TWR]. It was Dr. Freed's expressed desire that my preaching of the Word of God be broadcast over TWR's high-powered mission radio transmitters around the world. Accepting this invitation, the preaching ministry then necessitated personal follow-up communications which was accomplished by individual correspondence and monthly "Ministry Memos"—at one time to over 10,000 people in multiple countries.

Then, over many subsequent years, Dorothy was able to introduce *Your Quest for God, Food for Faith* and the AIDS tract "Hope for the Hopeless" to multiple ministries of selected international missionary agencies. Joyfully, we became aware that God was pleased to honor this vision in 44 languages to the blessing of many people in remote regions of the world.

As you may recall, God also continues to use our "missionaries in paper covers" in a significant way as an evangelistic and follow-up ministry for other TWR broadcasts. Presently, the ministry of this literature is extending across Latin America; Africa and the United Kingdom.

To facilitate this ongoing process, CCIM's Latin American outreach, and all of CCIM's African outreach, have already successfully merged into a cooperative fellowship with TWR on these continents. It was to this end, that the giving of our Canadian friends has helped to support CCIM's "missionaries in paper covers" in both Spanish and Portuguese throughout Latin America. Similarly, our British friends are currently being encouraged to designate gifts for CCIM's "missionaries in paper covers" to be used by TWR on the African continent.

As this process continues, in increasing numbers CCIM's literature (presently being distributed throughout India in 16 Indian languages; throughout the Arabic world in the Arabic language; in East European multiple national languages as well as in other European languages) will also hopefully minister to

diverse nations through TWR. However, this will only transpire because of the continuation of your prayers and gifts through CCIM.

But more: The incredible increase of international mission potential will require a parallel increase of financial commitment through CCIM. Then, as the Lord answers our prayers for a much-needed increase of funding, the emerging cooperative fellowship of CCIM's current outreach through TWR will both expand CCIM's effectiveness and at the same time simplify CCIM's multi-organizational involvements. Few friends may realize the complexity of Dorothy's present administrative role. It is like a juggler trying to keep too many balls in the air!

Review This act of faith—to make possible the future expanded blessing of CCIM's "missionaries in paper covers"—is the result of prolonged prayer and careful enquiry. To accomplish our vision, the CCIM Board have prayerfully considered working together with other mission agencies or church fellowships. Several such agencies have indicated a great interest for CCIM to *submerge* its distinctive mission and ministry outreach into their ministry or mission agenda. However, it has been the persistent vision of the CCIM Board to *merge* with a "mission" and not to *submerge* our mandate into another agency's agenda. So we rejoice that God's answer to our quest will preserve and expand CCIM literature ministry to increased numbers of spiritually impoverished people around the world.

Yes, the ongoing ministries sponsored by CCIM (and therefore by you, our faithful prayer supporter) are providentially progressing toward a full circle by ever increasing cooperative fellowship with TWR!

Yet Another Transition

You will have noticed that for the past eleven years the signature on your CCIM receipt has been that of Mrs. Edith Baldwin.

It has been such a joy and blessing for Dorothy and me to fellowship with Edith as a co-worker in the Gospel over these many years. With meticulous care and dedicated volunteer ministry Edith has been the CCIM bookkeeper/accountant. Thank you dear Edith! Your industrious and trustworthy help has been invaluable in the cause of Christ through CCIM. Please continue to pray for Edith. At this time health needs indicate the wisdom of her seeking to coordinate the transfer of this important aspect ministry to another trustworthy and capable bookkeeping/accountancy procedure.

So, once again, we rejoice to share with you the Lord's wonderful provision to meet this need. Now, through the fellowship of a long-time and highly esteemed colleague in the ministry and newly appointed additional CCIM Board member—Pastor Bob Hoekstra of *Living In Christ Ministries* [LICM]—arrangements have been made for CCIM's donor giving to be receipted as a volunteer service to CCIM from their offices in Dallas, Texas.

This transition will take place next month, July 1, 2002.

How timely is this provision for continued help in the Gospel! Thank you Pastor Bob!

Important!

Now, kindly note in your records this change of address as of July, 2002. This new address will be:

Cross Currents International Ministries,
PO Box 551144, DALLAS, TX 75355-1144.

Please Note: All your personal communications will still reach us at Bellingham. You are still in our prayers. We are not losing contact with you and we will also continue to send you the monthly Prayer Letter written in Bellingham then printed and mailed in Texas.

So, beginning next month—to avoid any confusion or mishap—the receipt for your donation will be sent directly to you from Texas. Please help us by noting the new CCIM address which next month will be on your enclosed remittance envelope. Also, please direct all communications to Dorothy and me via the Dallas address. This will therefore be especially important when we are overseas for ministry and unable to attend to the Bellingham mail. What would we do without your prayerful cooperation!

But what of the Bennett's personal ministry?

The Lord has primarily called me to be a missionary preacher and not only a missionary promoter! For instance:

Africa Calls

Next month we have both been strongly urged by the "Africa Regional Office" Director of Trans World Radio—Rev. Stephen Boakye-Yiadom—to return for ministry at a retreat to all the national Directors of TWR. These beloved men will gather from every African country in which TWR Africa presently ministers.

When remonstrating with Stephen as to whether we were really needed, he retorted: "The TWR African Directors would be bitterly disappointed if you didn't come. They still remember the impact of your ministry from four years ago and eagerly anticipate your return!"

Stephen then added that the new *All Africa TWR Headquarters* are to be dedicated when we will be in South Africa. He then asked if I would bring the message at this Dedication Service and added that the President of South Africa and other dignitaries are to be invited to attend.

In addition, we anticipate going to churches among the Zulu tribe. There we will minister the Word of God and share the love of Christ. In addition, we will also be privileged to introduce CCIM's books being sponsored by CCIM and presently being printed in the Zulu language. None of this would be possible without your continued gifts and prayers. Thank you in His precious Name!

Please continue to pray for the Lord to glorify Himself in all these unfolding opportunities.

Through His abundant grace and love,

Richard + Dorothy Bennett.