



# CROSS CURRENTS INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

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Dear Prayer Supporter,

**D**orothy and I must start this letter by expressing our heart-felt gratitude to you for the way you are responding to our new accountancy/bookkeeping procedure.

We are so encouraged by your cooperation during these busy days. Thank you for your prayers, love, support, and understanding in this administrative adaption and mailing address transition.\*

**This July and August, Dorothy and I expect to be out of the country for ministry in the Republic of South Africa [RSA].**

Though we had regularly broadcast our program, "The Way of Truth," to RSA from Trans World Radio [TWR], Swaziland, it was not until 22 years ago that we made our first ministry visit. At that time, large numbers of people gathered from the evangelical churches in 12 successive major cities for a week of "Spiritual Life" meetings. Our days were filled with the ministry of the Word to Christians from every ethnic background in that amazing country!

I well remember standing alone on the southern most shoreline of South Africa at Capetown during our first itinerary. There I reflected on the masses of suffering people who inhabited this vast African continent and prayed for the millions without Christ.

Later, Dr. William Ghrist—a missionary ophthalmologist with a heart-cry for revival in the Kenyan churches—persuaded Dorothy and me to visit Kenya for united ministry. Little did we then realize the protracted involvement that the Lord would subsequently call us to undertake in all of Africa.

Now (still with that burden for revival in the African churches) we again return to South Africa. While there, it will be our joy to renew person to person fellowship with precious African servants of Christ. We met many of these co-workers at a similar TWR National Directors retreat five years ago. Each Director exercises a strategic leadership role in various African countries through the missionary network of TWR.

This TWR retreat is organized by the TWR African Regional Director, Rev. Stephen Boakye-Yiadom. Consequently, all of the TWR National Directors; all of the TWR African Regional Advisory Council and all of the RSA Coordinating Committee will attend this retreat. There, it will be my honor and responsibility to minister the Word of God to this strategic team of God's servants. It is our prayer that the Lord Jesus Christ will be exalted and glorified in our midst.

Will you also join us in prayer that the Holy Spirit will apply the Word of God in such a way that it may be internalized in our hearts and lives? Only then will the prayer of David in PSALM 119 be answered: *Revive me according to Thy Word*

(v. 25); *Revive Thou me in Thy way* (v. 37); *Revive me in Thy righteousness* (v. 40).

## **But That Is Not All**

Not only will it be our privilege to minister the Word of God at the TWR African retreat but I will also deliver the message for the Dedication Service of the new and impressive African Regional Headquarters in Kempton Park, Johannesburg.

The significance of this Dedication Service could have a far reaching impact. In addition to the dedication of a beautiful building, and our rejoicing in the goodness of God at making these strategic facilities available, President Thabo Mbeki and other South African dignitaries have been invited. Whether or not the political notorieties are able to attend, please pray that the King of kings and the Lord of lords will manifest His presence and power with a special anointing for the occasion.

## **But Even That Is Not All!**

After the Dedication Service, our missionary journey will continue to the Zulu tribe. There, Dorothy and I prayerfully anticipate ministry in their churches. You may be aware that the King of Zulu is a committed believer and it will be our joy to share the truth and love of Christ among these people.

In this connection we are overjoyed to tell you that this visit will coincide with the publication date of our newly translated and printed books: *Your Quest for God* and *Food for Faith* in the Zulu language. Yes, this is yet another translation of the ever-growing ministry of CCIM's "missionaries in paper covers."

Again, Dorothy and I must say that, without your steadfast and sacrificial support, all these opportunities would be non-existent. Thank you in His precious Name!

## **Challenge From A Pastor In Mutare, Zimbabwe**

It is interesting to note that when President Robert Mugbe was re-elected in Zimbabwe the media briefly reported on the electoral manipulation and fixing of the votes. At that time, there were also a few mentions of the totalitarian, communistic politics of the incumbent President. [Incidentally when President Mugbe's celebrated his electoral victory, the President of South Africa visited him to join in joyful congratulations.]

President Mugabe commenced his first term by identifying with Christian convictions. At that time we were able to send him a copy of *Your Quest for God* and *Food for Faith*. Subsequently these books were introduced into Zimbabwe schools and orphanages. Sadly, today, the spiritual, political, economic and moral direction of this country has been totally reversed from initial expectations.

If a similar climate of repressiveness and fear prevailed in the USA as is presently the case in Zimbabwe, I wonder how many believers would be emboldened to write to the powers that be in a similar vein as that which is expressed in the following letter. This letter was written to President Mugbe on February 16, 2002 by Pastor Derek Carlsen, Director of "Reason for Hope", Pastor of the Reformed congregation in Mutare, Zimbabwe, and father of three young children. For the writer, such a letter as this could have dire consequences under, what is increasingly, an authoritarian and anti-Christian governance.

### Spiritual Warfare

From the leader to the humble laborer in each nation, every life has enormous value to our Lord. It is to the masses of poor souls without Christ that we seek to direct our Gospel literature. Dorothy and I are most grateful and extremely aware of your precious fellowship in the Gospel. Thank you! Your fellowship, through the ministries of CCIM, reaches so many people in various parts of the world.

*Dear Mr. President,*

*As a church leader in Zimbabwe, I believe I have a moral obligation to address you and I choose an open letter, since what I say is obvious to anyone who cares to look.*

*Mr. President, I am horrified that I find the person who holds the most honored position in our country condoning:*

- \* the trampling upon our constitution.*
- \* the suppressing of fundamental freedoms and human rights.*
- \* the violence that supports Zanu PF interests.*
- \* the lies and deception in the State media.*
- \* the recently enacted oppressive legislation.*
- \* the selective enforcement of the rule of law.*
- \* the spread of injustice and corruption.*
- \* the hypocrisy with respect to property rights.*
- \* the violent attacks on opposition Members of Parliament.*
- \* the threatening of our judges.*
- \* the fuelling of racial hatred.*
- \* the widespread intimidation of the electorate.*

*No democratic country can tolerate any of these evils and remain a democracy and no country, with a sense of morality, can ignore such abuses without violating its conscience (JER 6:13-15).*

*I believe, Mr. President, that you have polluted your commission by abusing the authority entrusted to you by God and the Zimbabwean people (DEUT 16:18-20; 2 CHRON 19:5-7; PSALM 82:1-5; PROV 24:23-25; ISA 10:1-3; ROM 13:3).*

*I believe that, as a Christian minister, ordained by God, I have an ethical duty to denounce any of our national leaders who embrace a path that is immoral and oppressive (EX 5:1; 2 SAM 12:7; ESTHER 7:6; MATT 23:14; MARK 6:17,18; LUKE 13:31,32).*

*I believe this prophetic responsibility necessitates rebuking wickedness without fear or compromise and I pray that the true church will not only refuse to tolerate such behavior from you, but from any future President of our country.*

*Therefore, just as Nathan the prophet said to king David, Thou art the man (2 SAM 12:7), and as Elijah told king Ahab that it was his sin that had brought trouble upon Israel (1 KINGS 18:18), so I say to you, Mr. President, that you are fundamentally to blame for the destruction of and oppression in our nation. The Zimbabwean people are being crushed and I choose to identify myself with them and say in God's holy name, "Enough!" My prayer is for God to be merciful and deliver us from your oppressive hand and that once delivered, He would make us vigilant so we never again allow the framework for such oppression to be erected.*

*Finally, I am moved by God's grace and a clear conscience, knowing the it is far better to die while seeking to uphold truth and justice, than to live as a compromised coward under an oppressive ruler (MATT 16:25). Here I stand, I can do no other. May God help us all. Amen!*

*— Rev/Dr. Derek Carlsen, L.Th, M.Miss, D. Miss.*

### One Of Many Testimonies From South Africa

"I am a family man who lost his job two years ago. Because of that my life was miserable and my family suffered. What I thank God for is that this problem brought me to Jesus. My friend, who is a Christian, told me about TWR's radio program. Trying to please him, I asked him to tune in to it. That day, you were talking about Jesus who healed a paralyzed man, and you said that some are not paralyzed physically, but spiritually, and that they, too, can be helped by Jesus. I saw myself in what was said. Three months later I gave my life to Jesus. In October, I got a job, and I believe it is God's blessing because I am now His child."

Now, with this month's emphasis on Africa, would you please take time to claim His victorious working among the African people? CCIM is still committed to translate, print and distribute: *Your Quest for God*, *Food for Faith* and the AIDS tract "Hope for the Hopeless" throughout Africa as the Lord so leads and provides.

Your prayers for this vast opportunity to reach nationals through CCIM's literature can be used of God to release the minds of spiritually blinded Africans and turn them to our wonderful Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Let us together look to the Lord to reach multitudes for Christ on this dark continent while it is still day!

In His love and victory,



**Note:** Each of the above scriptures were quoted in full as an appendage to the above letter. A Pastor confessed how he survived by compromise in Hitler's Germany: "We survived" he said, "because we taught the theme **in** the situation but did not relate the theme **to** the situation." Thank God that is not so with Pastor Carlsen! Please join us in prayer for him and his family!