



CROSS CURRENTS INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

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Our dear Prayer Supporter,

In last month's Prayer Letter, we were happy to quote fifteen letters from readers of *Your Quest for God* and *Food for Faith* living in Slovakia, Hungary and Rumania. Interestingly, out of these fifteen letters (each testifying of salvation blessing) five had connections to prisoners or to prisons.

What a blessing it is to preach deliverance to the captives! Yes, it was in the synagogue at Nazareth that Jesus disclosed that He was the fulfillment of the prophecy recorded in ISAIAH 61:1.

For the Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He hath anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He hath sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord LUKE 4:18,19.

Today, you and I are living in the acceptable year of the Lord—the era of His grace. However, in the book of Isaiah the quotation Jesus mentioned continues to a period beyond our present era of grace to “. . . the day of vengeance of our God.” One of these days will herald the era when God's wrath will be poured out upon a sin-loving, law-revising and Christ-rejecting world.

The solemn—and we believe the imminent—prospect of “great tribulation such as was not since the beginning of the world” (MATTHEW 24:21) impels us all to be available to the indwelling Christ in our daily witness. As Jesus said: “the night cometh, when no man can work” JOHN 9:4.

Within the past two months it was announced that the prison population in America has, for the first time, exceeded 2 million.

To put this figure into perspective, let us ask ourselves:

- Have we ever been in a church service where there are 143 people present? That would mean one person was missing. He or she was in prison.
- Have you ever been in a plane with 286 other passengers? That would mean 2 people were missing. They were in prison.
- Have you ever been to a ball game with 60,000 people in the ball-park? That would mean 420 people were absent. They were all in prison.

Yes, in America today, one out of every one hundred and forty four people are in prison. That is a staggering number. The Lord Jesus included these people when He told how that:

“He came to set the captive free.” This is the glorious inner freedom of sins forgiven; new life in Christ, and one day, a never-ending future with the Lamb of God!

Several years ago, Dorothy and I well remember giving hundreds of copies of *Your Quest for God* to the prison chaplain of Strangeways Prison in Manchester, England. He told us that the inmates were far more responsive to the Gospel than were the general British population. In fact, he also told us that they were experiencing a revival among the prisoners.

Praise God, the Lord is now positioning CCIM to enter yet another door of strategic opportunity.

Last year, as well as the previous year, Dorothy and I were blessed to visit friends at International Prison Ministry (IPM) in Dallas. When there, we ministered to and enjoyed fellowship with the staff as an already developing bond of cooperative fellowship was forged still further between CCIM and IPM.

Thank you too for your prayerful cooperation in the change of the CCIM mailing address. Yes, God has provided the faithful volunteer assistance of Joe and Heidi Ceballos who undertake the receiving, bookkeeping and mailing procedures of CCIM.



**After Richard's ministry to
1,000 Bible School students 6 years ago**

(Left) Pastor Bob Hoekstra – Director of IPM and Founder/Director of Living in Christ Ministries. (Center) Lloyd (Shelly) Bowles – Consultant Attorney for IPM and honorary Counselor and Recording Secretary for the CCIM Board. Shelly's wife, Joanne who is 95% vision impaired but whose cheerful countenance always reflect her walk with the Lord.

All your notes are regularly forwarded to us here at our Bellingham ministry base.

In addition, now through IPM, God is expanding CCIM USA literature distribution, without cost, from Dallas. None of these developments would have transpired without our bond of love and vision with the Director of IPM, Pastor Bob Hoekstra and his wife, Dini. These developments have a double thrust from Bellingham and from Dallas.

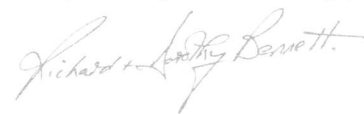
* For Dorothy and myself this has recently involved our undertaking the complete reformatting (together with editorial refinements) of both *Your Quest for God* and *Food for Faith*. This will involve us in future complicated multinational revisions and expansions. Your prayers are greatly appreciated for this world-wide outreach and for His enabling strength to meet the demands of unrelenting day and night involvement.

* For IPM: In the past God has graciously enabled CCIM to sponsor the printing of the only USA edition. We praise the Lord that these **new editions** have been sponsored by IPM and they will be the USA Distributor. However, CCIM is now the Publisher of both books.

This means that the USA books are now available for distribution to prisons; to churches; to para-church and college ministries to military personnel as well as continuing to be a support for your own personal witness. For the time being, you can send for your copy to the CCIM Dallas address as written below.

With this news of consolidation and expansion, we again take the opportunity to thank you for your continuing prayers and support.

In His Life and love,



**Please Join Us in Prayer
for the lives being reached through:**

- “Dorothy’s Daily Devotional” a 6-minute daily satellite broadcast over Trans World Radio to Ladies in Africa.
- The international distribution of “missionaries in paper covers.” Because space restricts mention of so many international ventures of faith through the distribution of CCIM literature, please use the prayer requests from recent Prayer Letters. Much more to come!

By The Way

As we recently started on a missionary journey by plane, I sat by the window and Dorothy by the aisle. Between us was a gentleman quietly reading his newspaper.

Glancing over his shoulder, I saw it was open at the financial page. “Things don’t appear too good do they?” I remarked. “No,” he replied, “it makes you wonder what’s going to happen.” “Oh I know what is going to happen” I said. “What’s that?” he quizzed. “Well the truth is: things are going to get much worse before they can get any better!” “But how do you know that?” he retorted. “I read it in the book,” I answered. Now my travelling companion was most curious: “What book is that?” To his amazement I replied—“The Bible!”

Attempting to deflect the conversation from anything too religious, he boasted that his own literary interest was that of Shakespeare as his writings were always positive. With that he pulled out a copy of “As You Like It” and forthwith read aloud a few paragraphs. Upon conclusion he quietly admitted: “I really don’t understand all that Shakespeare means.”

Now it was my turn to comment. “What do you think Shakespeare referred to when he wrote of: ‘Treading the primrose pathway to the everlasting bonfire?’ Would you call that positive?” And, to change the theme I then asked, “What do you think Shakespeare meant when he wrote that, ‘Love is not love that alters when it alteration finds,’ have you ever met anybody who loves like that?” With a note of sadness he confessed that he never had and went on to share that he was a divorced and very lonely man.

“You have read to me from your book, now let me read to you from my book,” I said as I pulled out my New Testament. First I shared how things would get worse by turning to Matthew chapter 24. Then, with joy I shared of the One who really does love us and His name is Jesus. In His incomprehensible love for us all, God gave His only begotten Son to bear the

punishment for sin when He died on the cross. Now, if he would only believe in Jesus, he would not have to face that future day of judgment.

“I really don’t know why I’m on this plane,” my new friend soberly interjected. His divorce, his painful loneliness and a recent “impulse” about which he intimated had all led to his decision to take a few days of “respite away from it all.” Apparently, it was during a recent business trip to Italy, that this “impulse” was a “sort of Damascus experience.” This phrase encouraged me to realize he had some acquaintance with the Bible in spite of his frequent cursing.

The plane was now landing and as the brakes brought us all to a halt, Dorothy handed a copy of *Your Quest For God* and asked if he would take this book to his retreat and read it carefully. “Yes!” he replied with a ring of certainty and gratitude. Until then, this gentleman had been unaware he was sitting between man and wife! Neither did he realize that, as I witnessed, Dorothy prayed! Upon disembarking, I assured him that God had placed him beside us because, “He wanted you to hear of His love for you.”

It is for such witnessing responsibilities that come to us all that *Your Quest For God* was written. The purpose for this book is not to be given as a *substitute* for witness, but, as a *support* to our personal witness for Christ.

Although we do not always know the end of the story when we witness, of this we can be certain: God uses every link in the salvation chain—whether it is the first link or the last link. Sometimes the Lord Jesus gives us the privilege of being the last link in bringing a person to Christ—and for this we rejoice. However, whatever may be the link in the chain, of God’s promise we are sure: “*My Word . . . shall not return unto Me void but it shall accomplish that which I shall please and it shall prosper in the things whereto I send it*” ISAIAH 55:1.