



CROSS CURRENTS INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

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Our dear Prayer Supporter,

This Prayer Letter will focus upon CCIM's missionary involvement in Africa—especially mentioning Kenya. For several years we have prayed that God would renew the spiritually fruitful ministry of CCIM's "missionaries in paper covers" in Kenya.

As our longtime prayer partners will remember, through CCIM in Nairobi, the Lord brought into being a strategic "Bible center" for the distribution of Bibles, literature and the film "Future Survival." Then, for further consolidation and expansion of the ministry, the property—together with the refurbishing and equipment—were given to the NGO of Trans World Radio-Kenya [TWRK]. At that time we were shocked to discover the Title Deed of the property and its contents had been stolen. Eight years later, we still await God's timing in this matter.

Now For The Good News!

Commencing on July 4th at 10 a.m., Dorothy's Daily Devotional will also be broadcast each weekday from the KENYA Government's radio facilities—"Kenya Broadcasting Corporation" [KBC]. Research by KBC and TWRK verify that, each and every day, between 7 and 10 million people will listen to her Christ exalting and biblical messages.

Referring to this, the Rev. Stephen Boakye-Yiadom, TWR International Director-Africa wrote: "*Let's keep on praying and trusting our living Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It will be a wonderful opportunity for Kenyans to hear about Jesus and His Word.*" So, the Lord Jesus has provided a new way for CCIM to distribute "missionaries in paper covers" as a follow-up for "Dorothy's Daily Devotional" in Kenya. Praise Him!

This month, CCIM has also sponsored the printing of 10,000 Swahili copies of both *Your Quest for God* and *Food for Faith* for TWR-Kenya. Now, in addition, we will require further printings of "Quest" and "Food" in the English language.

Please link your faith to ours by your own prayerful consideration of these additional heavy expenses for CCIM. In the light of the previous overwhelming spiritual response to the literature and films distributed to Kenyans, we pray that this further step of faith and obedience will reap yet another eternal harvest!

So, by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, we too can say: *A great door and effective is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries* 1 CORINTHIANS 16:9.

Thank you for your personal fellowship and prayers for the many aspects of our ministry through CCIM.

In His love,

By the Way

It was with a concern for revival that I gladly accepted an invitation from the late Dr. J. Edwin Orr to his annual conference on "The History of Revivals" at Oxford University, England. My responsibility was to be the morning Bible teaching. Conferees attended from various countries.

In attendance was the late Dr. Bill Ghrist—a missionary Ophthalmologist from Mombasa, Kenya. The Lord had already used Bill to plant 17 churches as an outreach from "The Lighthouse for Christ"—a medical facility he had established on the shores of the Indian Ocean. Because of his great concern for revival, he also attended the conference.

After listening intently to my morning messages, Bill and his wife, June, sought out Dorothy and me to invite us for ministry in Mombasa. This was to be our first ministry in East Africa. Following this visit, Dr. Bill wrote: "*Where does one begin to describe your ministry? Revival fires have been lit in this former Muslim stronghold. I have heard from missionaries, African pastors, and African laymen alike that these meetings spoke to my heart like nothing has for many years.*" Now for . . .

The Tale Of Two Promises

A few years later, Dorothy and I were in S. California during the Christmas period. Several times during that Christmas season, Dorothy shared her great burden for Bill and June. "*They are facing some serious crises and we should especially pray for them at this time.*" she said.

Having been introduced to Pastor Chuck Smith by the late Dr. Martin Lloyd Jones, we found great encouragement and blessing by attending a New Year's Eve service at Calvary Chapel which service continued from nine to midnight! Following one of the biblical expositions, Pastor Chuck suggested we greet people sitting nearby.

In no time, Dorothy was chatting to the lady seated behind her. What could I do but chat to her husband? "*My name is Richard Bennett.*" I volunteered. "*My wife and I are missionary ministers.*" "*I'm an Ophthalmologist.*" was his ready response. "*Oh! One of my best friends is an Ophthalmologist—he is a missionary in Africa.*" His eyes brightened with obvious interest. "*He is in Kenya.*" I continued. Now I detected some excitement.

"Actually, he is in Mombasa." I needed to say no more. "Lighthouse for Christ: Bill Ghrist!" he exclaimed.

"Do you know where Bill is tonight?" he asked. "He's in the City of Hope Hospital here in Los Angeles." Then with great sobriety, he continued, "I was with him last night before his leg was amputated because of a melanoma." I then shared the burden the Lord had given us to pray for him. "Wait a minute," he said, "what did you say your name was?" I repeated it. "That's amazing," he replied, "yesterday, just before Bill went to surgery he asked if I knew a Richard and Dorothy Bennett." Then he shared how Bill said, "I do wish they were here to pray for me now." Of course, by the next morning, just as he returned from his first surgical dressing, we were at his bedside. In Swahili we tearfully sang together: "Thank You, thank You Jesus."

A Promise In California For the next three months, from various locations of ministry, we kept in touch with Bill by telephone. Always we prayed and reflected upon the wonderful times of blessing at the "Lighthouse." Then the day came when it was obvious that this would be our last time of fellowship here on earth. Sensing Bill's concern for the continuation of the ministry in Mombasa, I said: "*Bill, the people at the 'Lighthouse for Christ' know and love us dearly. They also know of the deep bond of fellowship the Lord has forged between you and ourselves. Dorothy and I will return to Mombasa for another series of meetings and bridge the ministry gap from the old leadership to the new.*"

That was my first promise and, following the Home-call of our beloved Bill, we again ministered in Mombasa with even greater blessing from the Lord.

A Promise In Holland Because of unusual blessing in Vancouver, Canada, we were invited for a second ministry itinerary in Holland under the auspices of Evangelische Omreop—the Dutch Government's television network. In addition to the ministry at E.O., for over a month we also ministered in four strategic Dutch cities.

One day, on route from the television studios in Hilversum, our translator suggested we visit a hospitalized Ugandan believer. Henry knew English and had been an attorney in Uganda during the despotic era of the infamous Idi Amin. At that time henchmen of Amin suddenly burst through his fragile African door killing his fellow attorney before blowing off Henry's jaw and mouth. Through miraculous circumstances, Christians helped this dear young man to reach Holland for reconstructive surgery.

However, on the very day we visited Henry, his surgery had failed. In a state of great depression and pain, he was alone and among a people speaking an unknown language. We noticed a cloth was tied round his head to protect the gaping hole where Henry's mouth and chin had been blown away. His eyes were gratefully rivetted upon Dorothy as she moped his wounds and tenderly kissed his forehead. Being unable to speak, he conveyed his despair by writing all that was on his heart. We prayed and wept together as we sought to speak words of comfort and of love.

Before leaving the hospital, I promised Henry: "*You may never get back to your people in Uganda to share the love of God and the Gospel of Christ. But, with the Lord's enabling, we promise that we will go to Uganda to minister on your behalf.*" And we did with much attendant blessing as we ministered to a hundred pastors and their wives and brought Bibles, hymn books, Gospel books and other medical helps. That was my second promise!

Fulfilling these two promises we travelled to, and through, Nairobi. There we attended prayer meetings for revival and much needed rain. At that time we also introduced to Kenyans a film on prophecy by Pastor Chuck Smith based from the book of Daniel—"Future Survival." Multiplied thousands were greatly blessed!

To meet the ever-growing opportunity, we personally carried to Kenya 38 projectors, over 60 films, 23 generators and hundreds of videos and Bible teaching cassettes from Genesis to Revelation. We also sent container loads of Bibles, new and used. We initiated that Gospel tracts and Bible portions be sent from Ireland in various East African languages. The great spiritual hunger and salvation response demanded we also printed copies of "Quest" and "Food" in Kenya by the hundreds of thousands.

In the course of this outreach, God enabled us to personally contact President Arap T. Moi suggesting the need for the printing of Bibles in Kenya. As a direct result, we were allocated two acres of land near Kenyetta Hospital.

It was now Kenyetta Day. One hundred thousand people were scurrying from the Kenyetta Stadium in Nairobi to board their crowded transportation and travel back to their homes.

Mingling among the jostling crowds, Dorothy noticed a passer by and said: "*Doesn't that lady look attractive? Her dress, hat and gloves, look as though she has stepped out of the 50's!*" Thinking it would be of encouragement to her, I smiling said: "*My wife just said how nice you look!*" Carefully gazing into our eyes, she requested a talk with us. Then, sitting on a nearby wall we shared our love for the Lord and for the people of Kenya and prayed together.

Taking a card from her handbag she then introduced herself as a member of the Supreme Court of Kenya. This lady graciously invited us to visit her the next day in her Judges' Chambers. There, we shared how two acres of land had been allocated to us for a Bible Center. Immediately, our new friend made two telephone calls. The first was to Kenya Television Studios where she arranged for me to preach to multiple countries on the Sunday evening religious broadcast. The second was to a Kenyan attorney, who, as a result, volunteered to do all the necessary paper work for the registration of a Kenyan company through which we could register the land.

And that is part of the story as to how the Bible Center was initiated. Subsequent marvelous timing and sacrificial provision from Christian friends around the world brought the Bible Center into being. For this we give Him all the glory!

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God ROMANS 8:14.