



CROSS CURRENTS INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

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Our dear Prayer Supporter,

This month, Dorothy and I will celebrate our Jubilee Wedding Anniversary. For fifty years we have experienced the faithfulness and grace of God during our ministry together. How fitting was the sermon that Stephen Olford gave at our wedding:

“Together in life: Together in love: Together in labor.”

Surely, today, we can echo the testimony of John Newton: “Through many dangers, trials and snares we have already come; ’tis grace that brought us safe thus far and grace will lead us home!”

But, before we testify of God’s faithfulness in our own lives, let us briefly mention the significance of the “Year of Jubilee” in the life of the children of Israel.

Jubilee in Israel

Every 50th year, the year of Jubilee was introduced in Israel with the far sounding blast of the Shophar (a ram’s horn trumpet). This was to be a year devoted to restitution, renewal and rejoicing. Accordingly, God twice repeated: “Proclaim liberty throughout the land” LEVITICUS 25: 9 AND 19.

Previously, a shophar had been blown when the Lord descended to Mount Sinai (Exodus 19:13, 16, 19 and 20:18). It was there that God met with Moses and gave him the two tablets of stone upon which, with His finger, He engraved the Ten Commandments—His Law.

It is interesting to note, when God ordained the year of Jubilee, He again spoke from Mount Sinai (Leviticus 25:1). This time it was to announce a message of grace: “Then shalt thou cause the trumpet of Jubilee to sound . . . and proclaim the liberty across the land” LEVITICUS 25:9,19. It was on the Day of Atonement that the trumpet was blown and the year of Jubilee commenced.

Yes, there must have been great jubilation in Israel when the trumpet was blown. It meant that the people who had sold themselves into a life of servitude were to be set free (Leviticus 25:25,39): The people whose circumstance of poverty had necessitated the sale of their property were to have it restored (Leviticus 25: 25,36): Estranged families were to be reunited (Leviticus 25:41): And for one year there was to be relief from the bitter bondage of cultivating the land (Leviticus 25:11).

So it was, that even under the Law, in the administration of the kingdom, grace and restitution prevailed. And the year of Jubilee is but a small forerunner of the abounding grace God offers us as New Testament believers.

Jubilee for the Believer

Yes! On the Day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit ministered in a new way. This was only possible because the spotless Lamb of God had died as a substitute for sin: He had robbed death of its power and triumphed over the grave: He had ascended to heaven where He sat down at the right hand of His Father. To “sit down” indicated that the work of redemption was completed. In Old Testament days, the priest never sat down after offering the sacrifice. Then, the sins of the people were covered by this act of faith but they could never be removed until the substitutionary sacrifice of the Lamb of God.

So, it was after the Perfect Man, Christ Jesus, pioneered the way to heaven for you and me, on the Day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit was sent and the Church was born! And now the holiness and the power of God are made available to you and me; not by our own merit but, praise God, because of His finished work!

After the crucifixion, resurrection and ascension of our Lord Jesus, in his Pentecostal sermon, Peter proclaimed: “*This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we are all witnesses. Therefore, being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He hath shed forth this which you now see and hear*” ACTS 2:32,33. And today, because of His shed Blood, an endless supply of life is available to any person who will open their heart to Him: “*That ye may be filled with all the fullness of God*” EPHESIANS 3:19. What an incredible jubilee!

“*But ye shall receive power when the Holy Spirit is come upon you . . .*” ACTS 1:8. Such power was not found in the ethic of the Ten Commandments. However, it is the dynamic of the Holy Spirit who has been given to make Christ a living reality in each of our lives when we come to the cross as needy sinful and law-breaking people. Wonderful!

Yes, “*ye shall receive power.*” Some may think this is power as a gift from the Holy Spirit. No! The power that God gives is the Holy Spirit! But, He is not only the Spirit of power, He is also the Spirit of Holiness. He is the HOLY Spirit. As such, He will make Christ’s indwelling a living reality in our lives. Faith says: “Thank You, I have everything I need to live a life of power and purity!” When we become conscious of our weakness or are tempted with impurity, let us exercise faith and say: “Thank You, Lord Jesus, at this moment, by the power of the Holy Spirit, You are my Life, You are my Purity and You are my Victory!

At Mount Sinai we see the God of Law: During the year of Jubilee we see the God of restoration: At Pentecost we see the

God of regeneration. In Christ, the Law-Giver became the Law-Keeper. Now, by His grace, the Law-Keeper lives in me! So, at Pentecost we can partake of God's incredible provision to enable and embolden our witness for Christ.

How we need a movement of the Holy Spirit in our day to convict the world of sin, of righteousness and of judgment to come! But let us solemnly remember that "*judgment must first begin at the house of God*" 1 PETER 4:17.

The "Liberty Bell," housed in Independence Hall in Philadelphia, carries the significant quotation from the book of Leviticus: "*Proclaim Liberty throughout the land.*" This bell first rang on July 4th, 1776. Unfortunately, in 1835 the peel of the Liberty Bell was silenced. As every school child knows, today there is a crack in the Liberty Bell!

Now, 173 years later, liberty across America and in democratic countries around the world has been prostituted. It is not the freedom to do what I want, but, by the grace of God, it is the power to do what I ought. The same book that proclaimed liberty also precluded adultery, incest and homosexuality (Leviticus 20:10-13). Surely, across America today there is also a crack in the nation's moral Liberty Bell!

Jubilee for the Bennetts



Iced around our wedding cake on June 28, 1958 was the text taken from Matthew 18:20, "*Together in My Name.*" And it was in the above London church that I concluded my ministry by preaching: "*Abraham . . . went out, not knowing whither he went*" HEBREWS 11:8. And so, on our wedding day, Dorothy and I were united to commence our ministry. Now, for fifty years, we have proved again and again the unwavering faithfulness, mercy and grace of our precious Lord Jesus. How incredibly blessed we have been to also be the recipients of the love and prayers of people such as you. Thank you most deeply! Because of your prayer, the Lord has continually restored us in our blunders and renewed us in our vision and love for a dying world.

It was on our 25th wedding anniversary, that, flowing out of 20 years ministry over missionary radio to five continents, *Your Quest for God* was born. Little did we realize then, that by the grace of God, this literature ministry would become such a vital and expanding ministry in 59 languages around the world.

Now, with ever expanding doors of opportunity to reach precious lives in so many different countries, there has never been a time when we more urgently needed your intercession and involvement. Each month, new translations are being proof read to await printing for people in lands of which some have

few or no missionaries to share the gospel. A letter we recently received in response to Dorothy's Daily Devotional expressed deep gratitude and informed us that where she lived there was no church, no pastor, no Bible and no missionary.

Jubilee for the Yet Unreached?

The perplexity that CCIM is presently facing is that just as the blessing and the potential of CCIM's ministry is literally exploding, many of our faithful and longtime supporters have been going to the Lord! Just last week, Dorothy was talking to a dear friend who has been on our mailing for 50 years. We were married in London on Saturday and ministered in a church in Long Island on Sunday! There, 50 years ago, we met three precious families who still undergird CCIM's mission outreach by prayer and support. A church in New England, where I was blessed to conduct an evangelistic campaign 55 years ago, still includes CCIM on their mission budget. How very faithful is our God! When we walk by faith and not by sight all the yesterdays have such an impact upon today.

Of course, Dorothy and I are also in our own "pre-dawn years." So our present concern is that the potential of reaching precious souls who, though blanketed in spiritual darkness, and who languish for new life in Christ, will continue unabated when we are gone. Even after our Home call, Dorothy and I have tried to prepare for such ongoing ministry. So, in fellowship with Trans World Radio, your support and that of other new supporters is so absolutely essential. **Please pray!**

Having witnessed, over many long years the blessing of God upon CCIM's "missionaries in paper covers" around the world, Trans World Radio presently are proposing that CCIM undergird the translating, proofreading and printing CCIM's "missionaries in paper covers" to reach multiplied millions of people in each of the following West African languages: Baoule; Bambara; Fongbe; French; Moore; Pulaar; Songhai; Tamashek and Wolof. Because God is so faithful, we are linking our faith to His faithfulness and are presently committing CCIM for the translating and proof reading of these books. We believe that each will be printed and paid for over the next year. **Please pray!**

And these new languages are in addition to the ongoing ministry of radio and literature through which CCIM is currently ministering in the African languages of: Afrikaans, Arabic, English, Portuguese, Swahili, Xhosa and Zulu.

When asked where his parish was, John Wesley replied: "The world is my parish!" Yes! "*God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life*" JOHN 3:16.

Trans World Radio's new proposals for the continuation of CCIM's Arabic ministry in Middle East and North Africa (with a daily potential listening audience of 230 million) together with anticipated new proposals for CCIM to minister into China, are further reasons to stretch our faith. More about this in subsequent prayer letters. **Please pray!** "*With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible*" MATTHEW 19:26.

With our love and jubilation in our risen Lord,

Richard + Dorothy Bennett.