



CROSS CURRENTS INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

VOL. 38 NO. 8

August, 2008

Our dear Prayer Supporter,

At our time in life, it might seem strange for Dorothy and me to be contemplating a strategic expansion of the mission outreach of CCIM. However, by the grace of God, we believe we should respond to His leading for far-flung opportunities that lay before us. We rejoice to know that, with these contemplated expansions, CCIM is enjoying an ever deepening bond of fellowship in our long-time association with Trans World Radio [TWR].

Therefore, with many thanks for your fellowship and love, this month we will share significant opportunities which are rapidly developing in West Africa. At another time, we hope to share with you how incredible doors of opportunity are beginning to open for CCIM's involvement in China. So our theme this month is: "*Lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes*" ISAIAH 54:2.

Lengthen Thy Cords

In the astonishing and exciting providence of God, the long prayed for TWR transmitter in Benin, West Africa, recently commenced to broadcast the wonderful words of Life! The primary target areas for this powerful 100,000 watt missionary radio transmitter includes Benin, Burkino Faso, Ghana, Mali, Niger, Nigeria and Togo. How wonderful to know that now the Gospel can penetrate areas often dominated by Islamic culture and where missionaries have seldom been able to penetrate!

Several months ago, we mentioned missionary friends, Frank and Isabelle Baggott. At that time—at age 91—when stalwart missionary, Frank Baggott, was called from the desert floor of Niger to his Heavenly Home, his last audible prayer was: "Please Lord, send laborers to this harvest field." And within but a few months, the Gospel message was being beamed from Benin by TWR to that desolate and spiritually dark region of Niger.

From this new lighthouse of love and truth in Benin, it was originally expected that 63 million people would be in the radio signals footprint! But, since their commencement, transmissions were actually picked up as far away as Spain, along the coast of Portugal and even Florida—a huge distance from the target area!

Well, you may be thinking, "That's interesting; but how does all this good news effect CCIM?"

Because of the thousands of letter responses we have already

received—a few of which we have shared with you—God has clearly shown the eternal significance of CCIM's "missionaries in paper covers" in numerous African countries where the books have already been printed. Now, praise God, many more people can be reached with the Gospel!

Not only has the fruit of CCIM's literature ministry brought joy to our hearts, but it has also been recognized by TWR Directors as a valuable adjunct to their vast missionary radio network. Recently, Pastor Abdoulaye Sangho, Director of TWR West Africa, requested that further copies of both *Your Quest for God* and *Food for Faith* be translated and published in Baoule, Fongbe, French, Pulaar, Songhai, Tamashek, Wolof. These languages will reach many millions of people from various ethnic groups.

In some of these regions, the Word of God is virtually unknown and spiritual darkness prevails. In war torn lands or in Islamic strongholds, persecution and martyrdom may await new babes in Christ. But, the good news is that there is great boldness and a desire for such believers to share their faith when: "*God, who commanded that light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in [their] hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ*" 2 CORINTHIANS 4:6. This is where CCIM's books can be a vital adjunct to their testimonies.

It is therefore humbling to realize how CCIM books minister as follow-up for new converts; for evangelistic expansion, and to compliment excellent Bible teachers broadcasting to these regions. Happily, Trans World Radio programs and CCIM books work together, hand in hand, in West Africa to evangelize and disciple Christians.

As Pastor Abdoulaye wrote: "*This literature is used for the follow up of French speaking listeners to the radio programs: 'Through the Bible'; 'In Touch'; 'The Word Today'; 'The Way of Righteousness'; 'Africa Challenge'; 'AIDS Challenge'; 'Testimonies'; 'Leading the Way'; etc.*

"Both Your Quest for God and Food for Faith have been a great tool in West Africa for the ministry of Trans World Radio. As the main literature for follow up for our French programs in francophone countries in Africa. Copies have been sent to French speaking countries all over Africa by post office; hand by hand distribution and distributed during rallies, visits in churches and to visitors at our office. Pastors and Christians are really appreciating this great tool in their hand."

Yes, a distribution network is in place for this strategic CCIM expansion opportunity!

Strengthen Thy Stakes

As the Lord provides, all the funding for these expansion opportunities will come through personal donations given to CCIM. However, to facilitate this development of cooperative fellowship, TWR has graciously opened an internal CCIM/TWR account at TWR International Headquarters in North Carolina. From there, necessary funds will be directed to multiple countries where CCIM's ministry is involved. Overseeing this CCIM/TWR account will be a committee of four: Timothy Klingbeil (TWR International Director, Americas); Ralph Stores (TWR, USA Ministries Partnerships); together with Richard and Dorothy. We four will oversee the CCIM/TWR account and ministry expansion as we prayerfully establish priorities and direct the resources that the Lord provides through CCIM to TWR.

In addition, this year Dorothy and I have formalized a "Family Trust" through which our personal assets are bequeathed to TWR. The designation of this Trust is that the CCIM ministries of radio and "missionaries in paper covers" will, God willing, continue after our Home-call! Until then, we trust God to continue to supply the necessary funds through Prayer Supporters of CCIM for the above mentioned ministries. Then, at the time of our Home Call, any donations to CCIM will be processed through the TWR/CCIM account.

As I was reading the Bible this morning a familiar verse specifically spoke to me: "*Break up your fallow ground, and sow not among thorns*" JEREMIAH 4:3.

Sow Not Among Thorns

How easy it is for pre-conditioned thorny patches of lust patterns to emerge in modern-day Christianity. Five such lust patterns have been suggested. To amplify these, we have suggested biblical illustrations:

Material Lust: As exemplified by the Church of Laodicea. Could it be that one of the greatest problems of the Church in America is her relative affluence and resultant self-sufficiency? Lust is never satisfied with anything but a little more!

Power Lust: As exemplified by Diotrephes. Because Diotrephes coveted the prominent position in the local church, he sowed infection about the Apostle John. Speaking of Diotrephes, John wrote that he was "...prating against us with malicious words."

Approbation Lust: As exemplified by Saul who coveted man's approval. Accordingly, when he heard of the women dancing and singing the latest pop song—"Saul slew his thousands and David his ten thousands." Saul recognized that his popularity rating was in decline. As a result, jealousy and murderous intent were born in his heart.

Details of life Lust: As exemplified by Martha. Unlike Mary, who waited upon the Lord Jesus, Martha was excessively occupied with hospitality details to the exclusion of her personal communion with Jesus. Pride lives for its image before men, whereas humility waits upon the Lord to accomplish His purposes of blessing through a life of fellowship and availability.

Sensual Lust: As exemplified by David. David lusted after another man's wife and craved for sexual fulfillment outside of God's boundaries. The same lust pattern is also applicable to mental lust.

It is a solemn reality, that before the seed of God's Word can flourish with penetrating authority and spiritual fruitfulness, each of us need to personally encounter the Christ of the Cross:

But God forbid that I should glory, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world GALATIANS 16:24.

For in that He died, He died unto sin once; but in that He liveth, He liveth unto God. Likewise, reckon [count on it as a

fact] ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Let not sin, therefore, reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in its lusts ROMANS 6:9-11.

For this I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh GALATIANS 5:16.

We would greatly value your prayers that Dorothy and I may daily experience our co-crucifixion with Christ so that His resurrection life may flow like living water as we seek to obey God and, "**Break up the fallow ground.**"

Yours because of Calvary,



It is therefore humbling to realize how CCIM books minister as follow-up for new converts; for evangelistic expansion, and to complement excellent Bible teachers broadcasting to these regions. Happily, Trans World Radio programs and CCIM books work together, hand in hand, in West Africa to evangelize and disciple Christians.