



# CROSS CURRENTS INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

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Our Dear Prayer Supporter,

Milestones of life come and go so swiftly. For Dorothy and me there have been three milestones in three months. This month, the Lord has protracted Dorothy's life to her 85<sup>th</sup> year. In reflections upon God's goodness to us both, we enclose the article, "The Last Lap," in which Dorothy testifies of her determination to trust the Lord to finish her course.

Thank you for your great encouragement in praying for us both over these many years of glad service. Such service has been made possible by His enabling grace! Please join us as we use every day to reach as many people as possible with the glorious news of the Gospel. Your gifts really make a difference! Together, let us evangelize in many languages while we still have time.

You will rejoice to read of God's blessings through our Swahili broadcasts to Marsabit which is one of the five FM Sifa TWR, Kenya radio stations. In previous letters we have shared our broadcast and literature outreach through the FM stations at Lodwar, Voi, Lamu and Garissa. We count heavily upon your prayers for these precious people we are entrusted to reach with His Word. Please pray with us as you read these following testimonies from people in Marsabit.

In His love,

"**Dorothy's Daily Devotional**" is broadcast in Swahili and has been acknowledged as a favorite program among the Marsabit people living in Northern Kenya, two days drive from Nairobi. "We bless the Lord for the many lives that have come to know God through the gospel preached from these stations and the many people who are blessed by the broadcasts every day."



With severe drought conditions and little food for gaping mouths and empty stomachs, the communities face severe hardships with frequent instances of livestock theft and tribal fighting spurred by stiff

competition for the scarce resources of water, food and pastures. Poor road network also makes access to information difficult. However, the radio has proved to be a powerful and effective tool to bring blessing and a source of hope. Marsabit County is home to over a quarter of a million people. What a great privilege to bring His Word to this region. Please pray!

## Radio Response from Marsabit, Kenya.



\*Thank you for your wonderful program, "*Dorothy's Daily Devotional*." I have been listening very keenly to Dorothy's messages. Even if I am not a Christian, one day I will be. Keep praying for me.

\***You are our encouragement and an oasis in the desert.** We thank God for you. Every time I listen to your messages, my spiritual man is awakened and I am blessed to be alive. Please pray for my Muslim brothers and sisters. I know that one day they will realize, like me, that Christ died for them.

\*Thank you for your radio messages. They are an encouragement especially in times that we feel like we are being persecuted because of our faith. I have been encouraged to stay in the Word no matter what challenges we face. God bless you.

\*Please pray for me and my family. We are the only ones who are Christians. All other family members are Muslims. When we meet with them we pray that our lives will be used of Him.

\*I have just listened to your program, "*Dorothy's Daily Devotional*" and I have been blessed! I like how you teach - clear and to the point.

\*Thank you Dorothy, your devotions are very encouraging. I look forward to listening as I am always blessed.

\*Dear Dorothy, Thank you for your program. I just completed my secondary school education last year so I listen to your program a lot. I rarely send sms because of lack of credit, but today, my brother sent me some and I saved 5 shillings just to respond to this program. I listen to it and I am so blessed. Please pray for me to get a job.

# The Last Lap

Richard and Dorothy Bennett



*Several years ago, Dorothy, indisposed by physical weakness and pain, was unable to travel with me in the ministry. She turned on the television to watch the news. This was immediately followed by a re-run of a highly charged emotional moment. It was the conclusion of an incredible 1968 Olympic Marathon 28 mile cross-country race as an African runner entered the arena. The startling impact upon Dorothy motivated her to immediately document her observations:*

**I**t is dark! The lights of a police motorcycle are trained on the path of an African runner. Soon he will enter the great arena. At first I can only see his shadowy silhouette. But gradually I see his form more clearly. His right leg is bound with two tattered bandages. Excruciating pain is evident throughout his frame. My attention is riveted and my sympathetic nerves respond with horror. Near collapse, he falters and doubles over his cramped leg. Then with great determination he drags forward his exhausted limbs. The face I see is writhed in agony. As he gasps for breath, perspiration flows freely from his body. Surely, no one could expect him to continue.

From the sidelines of the stadium I hear a great roar. Unseen spectators shout their encouragement: They know of his imminent triumph. Though near the end of the grueling race he seems oblivious to the fact that he is a potential hero. It appears he is unaware as to how well he has run up to now, and how proud the nation of Tanzania would be of him if he would but finish the course. For him it seems to be a life and death struggle. “Would they call the race to a halt and relieve him of his agony?”

Dazed, the runner enters the great arena. By now the cries of the spectators reach a crescendo of jubilant roars of enthusiasm. Yes, he is still a potential winner! Tears stream down his face, and mine also as I witness his new spurt of energy. The bandaged leg is moving faster now. As he heads for **the last lap** the crowds are on their feet and hysterical. His victory is their victory. **Yes, he has finished the race!**

It is over. Switching off the television, I fall to my knees and cry: “Lord, let me run the last lap! Vain excuses cannot deter me—age, health, constant demands, mountains of work, separation from loved ones for long periods of time—yes Lord, it is the last lap that determines the race. Lord, I do want to finish the course in Your victory.

Reaching for the telephone, I call a dear friend who is the wife of a well-known Christian who had also seen the Olympic replay. Together we pray: “Lord, the eyes of Thy witnesses are upon us. The great heavenly host are already shouting the victory cry. They know that there is not much more time for us to run. Thy Word is a Lamp for our feet.

“We praise You, dear Lord, that You will enable us to complete the last lap knowing that the victory is Thine as the Country we represent will never perish for its Maker and Founder is God!”

This long distance runner, John Stephen Akhwari of Tanzania, later reported: “My country did not send me 10,000 miles to start the race. They sent me to finish.” What a message for us all! Whatever the cost, with the Apostle Paul, may we one day be able to say: **“I have finished my course”** 2 Timothy 4:7.

These impressions of the 1968 Olympic Games, though written many years ago, are still applicable at this time in our lives. With expanding missionary opportunities, Richard and I still echo that prayer in our hearts. However, we are only too aware that we cannot finish the course in our own strength, or by our own abilities. Only through the enabling grace of the Lord Jesus - the Author and Finisher of our faith!

**“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto JESUS the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God”** Hebrews 12:1-2.