



Cross Currents International Ministries

October, 2013

VOL 42 NO. 10



Our Dear Prayer Supporter,

These autumnal colors and dusty trails remind Dorothy and me of the of the time when we met and ministered to precious Africans. As a result, we praise the Lord that we will one day meet many of



The Stick Ladies when we get to heaven! “*O send out Thy light and Thy truth: let them lead me; let them bring me unto Thy holy hill*” Psalm 43:4. Yes, as you read the enclosed article, we know that you will be moved to pray as CCIM broadcast and selectively give Bibles and books

to spiritually hungry people.

One family in our community designated all their “Christmas monies” to help CCIM purchase such Bibles. Perhaps you might like to do the same to help purchase Turkana and Swahili Bibles!

Please pray for these, a few of the many, listeners to “*Dorothy’s Daily Devotional*” from Meru. Thank you for your gifts which help make this ministry possible.

Together in His Name,

SMS Text:

“Thank you for your great

‘Daily Devotional’ which, through your teachings, have inspired me!”

Listener Response from MERU, Kenya:

“*Dorothy’s Daily Devotional*’ program continues to bless us as a family as we listen every evening. We have been listening to it for the last four years and have formed a habit of exchanging notes and praying every evening after listening to your messages. Our testimony is that God has blessed us through your teachings and our prayer is that God will bless you and that you continue with the good work.”

“I am a keen listener of ‘Dorothy’s Daily Devotional’ which is aired through Kenya Broadcasting Corporation. It is inspiring and I am happy by the way it is presented. My only problem is that it is too short and I would like the time to be extended for our further blessing. God bless you as you serve Him.”

“I appreciate the great work you are doing in reaching us with the Word of God. Our church is a distance from where we stay and we do not make it for our church services every Sunday but, we thank God that, He visits us with His Word through ‘Dorothy’s Daily Devotional’ and we are inspired. God is faithful and can meet all our needs if we do not doubt Him. Please send us ‘Food for Faith’ which you mentioned on your program.”

“I wish to thank you for your program, “Dorothy’s Daily Devotional” which has been a blessing to me. Thank you also for the copy of “Your Quest for God” which has been a blessing to me too in addition to your daily broadcasts.”

“Thank you very much for the daily “Dorothy’s Devotional” which has been encouraging and has taught me a lot on how to live the Christian life. May God Almighty bless the work you are doing in spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ.”



The Stick Ladies

-by Richard A. Bennett



Drought was prevalent throughout Kenya as Dorothy and I arrived to teach at a Pastor's Conference. We were accompanied by a team of American Christians who would drill water wells in Meru as we were privileged to teach 100 pastors who gathered. Many of the 100 pastors were recent converts and God had blessed their testimonies resulting in new churches being birthed.

A handful of these pastors walked for 17 hours in the equatorial sun through the parched landscape to have opportunity of being taught the Bible. However, to our dismay, the majority of these precious pastors did not own a Bible. What a privilege to give each pastor a copy for himself and what excitement they expressed. It was even greater than their joy at receiving a stodgy plate of carbohydrates covered by a thin pretense of gravy, after having travelled through such severe drought and famine conditions!

Soon we began to teach: "It is not enough to have a Bible in your hand, it is not enough to read it and get it in your head, I want to tell you how to read it and get it from your hand to your head to your heart and then to your lips as you share with others from the Bible—the inherent, infallible, living Word of God."

Since that visit to Meru, the Lord has heard the cry of many and sent rain throughout the region. However, there still remains a serious famine of Bibles in the languages of the African peoples. Through your supportive ministry of CCIM, we praise God that large quantities of Bibles have been carefully distributed to the many churches

To be free from the heavy load, it was necessary to fall on her bundle of sticks!



which are sadly described as: "100 miles wide and an inch deep!"

Our journey north from Nairobi over uneven roads raised Dorothy's pain level of her spinal neuromuscular problems to a level of intensity. So as we approached the last leg of the journey, we realized that it would be better to walk through the forest for the last three to four miles than to contemplate being driven down the bumpy trail. At this stage, our translator joined us in our walk as together we witnessed the miracle of God's love and providence.

Surprisingly down the trail, but a short distance from our destination, we noticed what appeared to be a large bundle of wooden sticks in motion. As we drew closer we saw that this moving object was a fragile lady carrying a heavy burden of sticks on her bent over back. Such precious ladies are seen throughout Africa and are referred to as, "Stick Ladies." Sadly, they are the transport system to keep the village fires burning. Their mutilated hands, caused by their struggle to cut the branches, which for some resulted in loss of fingers or deep slashes, spoke eloquently of their daily hard life to exist.

As on this trail we were about to meet the first "stick lady" in person. For Dorothy to look into her face and share the love of God, it was necessary for her to bend her aching back to look into her face, hidden beneath the huge pile of sticks. Through her translator, she suggested that this lady lay down her load to enable them continue their conversation. We both winced as this dear "stick lady" fell backwards on her sticks to free herself from her heavy load. Soon, down the trail, others joined her and helped each other to struggle out of their burdens to enable them to join her in listening!

Then Dorothy, standing on a little earthen mound, held a couple of sticks in her hand and said, "I want to tell you about the Person who made the forests from which these sticks came. He also made the stars, the mountains and everything you can see as well as making you and me. It was because He loved us so much He wanted us to know Him in a personal way and to be able to live with Him forever. In order to do so, He became what He had created - a living

Person - but sinless and perfect! His name is called Jesus.

He loves you individually and said: *'Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.'* But, in order to make this possible for any one of us to approach our Creator, Who is holy, He died on a wooden cross for your sin and mine." As Dorothy held high the two sticks in her hand in the shape of a rugged cross, tears started to flow from the eyes of these precious stick ladies. With no complaint about their own hard lives and realizing that such a God-Man would be willing to die for them, they shed tears of sorrow and remorse. They were humbled to realize what was necessary for God to individually save them from a lost eternity and began to understand His amazing love!

But obviously they were hungry, a cord was tied around their waist and when the gnawing pains would agonize their stomach, they would tie the cord tighter. At the time, local pastors wives were already assembled in a frugal building further down the trail. One of the men from the "drilling team" came looking for us. They were concerned as to what was happening. And Dorothy used the opportunity to request him to find some food for these ladies and at the same time notify the local pastor's wives that she was holding her meeting in the forest. Shortly afterwards, he returned with few slices of bread on a tray and said: "You will have to divide the slices in half as there is not enough to go around for everybody and only the most hungry can be given a half slice of bread!"

Looking at the starving bodies who were suffering from a lack of food caused by the severe drought and knowing the stick ladies could not understand her English, Dorothy said out loud, "I believe that the Lord will make provision to feed these ladies even if He has to turn the tray into a loaf of bread!"



Heaven alone witnessed the awesome spiritual response among those who received the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Savior

Reluctantly, the ladies pushed each other forward and hesitantly came for the bread until Dorothy was handing out the last piece. Suddenly, the supplier of the bread arrived with enough for all. Talk about the Lord's provision in feeding the 5000!

Night after night the ladies met again as Dorothy spoke from a little hill and explained the Word of God for one to two hours. The local pastor's wives, dressed in clean clothing, joined the throng on the hillside where up to 500 people were assembled. On the closing night, Dorothy noticed the enquiring eyes of the village men peeping through the trees. "Oh I see we have some honored quests here tonight," Dorothy said, "You must come to the front and take an honored place!" This was the night to pull in the net and after another hour of Bible instruction, she invited those who wanted to know Jesus as their Savior and Lord to stand.

We will never forget the total and glorious response of the ladies who gladly received forgiveness and new life in Christ. They all began to sing praises in beautiful African harmony to their new found Savior! Then, we placed Swahili Bibles into their hands and prepared the way for further Bible studies through our interpreter. Eventually we initiated the broadcasting of "Dorothy's Daily Devotional" in Swahili throughout this area and beyond. Heaven alone witnessed the awesome spiritual response among those precious people who, by many, would be considered the poorest of the poor in this world!

If ever we needed an object lesson on: *"Bear ye one another's burdens,"* it was as the sun was setting and we watched the local pastors wives, dressed in their clean attire, lift the bundles of the dirty wood onto the aching shoulders of the stick ladies. Walking down the trail into the sunset, local pastor's wives continued to help by trying to lift the weights of the heavy burden of these precious stick ladies, totally disregarding their clean clothes, but rejoicing in the Lord!

