



## What's happening at CANAAN and Abroad?

Darmstadt-Eberstadt, October 1991

Our dear Friends,

In this newsletter we would like to share with you about a special experience. The weekend May 30 to June 2, 1991, was set apart at Canaan as a time of worship, praise and thanksgiving. It was our prayer that the heart of God might receive comfort and joy amid the blasphemies and outbursts of hatred against Him. How He must grieve over the rising tide of sin throughout the world! With the Herald Chapel now available again, we wanted to celebrate a big festival as an expression of our love and gratitude to Him: a "Festival to the Glory of the Holy Trinity", as Mother Basilea named it.

We would have loved to invite you all, but this festival had to be limited to Canaan Friends, since our Herald Chapel seats a thousand at the most.

Besides, we had a special debt to our Canaan Friends, above all, to those in Germany. When in 1980 our ministry at Canaan was reduced to release sisters for new branches abroad, the friends here sacrificed their retreats and various other events at Canaan and became prayer partners of the Canaan branches. Meanwhile, new Canaan Friend circles have sprung up in other countries, and for years these Canaan Friends had hoped and saved for a trip to Canaan, in some cases their first visit ever.

The announcement of the theme of the festival lit a flame in our hearts. We wanted to do all we could so that God would be honoured, loved and glorified to help counteract the seeming victory of His enemies. It was Mother Basilea's prayer that this





◆ TO GOD BE THE GLORY ◆ A DIEU SOIT LA GLOIRE ◆  
 KUNNIA ◆ GUD SKALGJÖRÐUR DÝRÐLEGUR ◆ GOD MÖ  
 'לְהַלְלוֹת, 'לְהַלְלוֹת אֱלֹהֵינוּ ◆ GUD MÅ BLIVE FORHERLIG  
 ◆ GUD MÅSTE BLI FÖRHÄRLIGAD ◆ 하나님께서 영광받  
 ΕΙΝΑΙ ΤΟ ΟΝΟΜΑ ΤΟΥ ΚΥΡΙΟΥ ◆ BŮH MUSÍ BÝT OSLAVOVÁN

festival would inspire us all to glorify God in every situation — for many years this has been her own motto. She shared with us:

If there is something I would like to have lived for, contributing my small part, that would be the glory of God. And I believe that after having a festival to the glory of God, we will have but one desire: to glorify Him by truly seeking to follow Jesus on His pathway now in the end times...

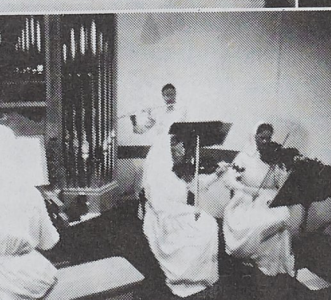
### *"He has done wonderful things"*

God was to be glorified, and He did glorify Himself in a way we had never experienced before. When we tried to express our thanksgiving after those few days, words seemed so inadequate. A special point for praise is that the Lord gave Mother Basilea the strength to hold the meetings. All the other prayer requests were also answered. It was almost unbelievable the way God's presence filled Canaan even before the festival began.

Large reliefs were affixed to the walls of the Herald Chapel — angels proclaiming the message of the end times, heralding the glory of heaven and announcing the wedding supper of the Lamb. We also had the feeling that the holy angels themselves had supervised every aspect of the festival. It all went so smoothly and effortlessly, without a hitch. No attack of the enemy succeeded. An atmosphere of deep peace pervaded the grounds and the buildings. In faith we had reserved at our own cost hundreds of hotel beds months in advance. When the festival came, they turned out to be just the right number — not one too many nor one too few.

A spirit of love and ardour was poured out on us, overcoming the many seeming impossibilities as far as time and physical strength were concerned. The thought that God was to be glorified spurred us on. Everyone helped out wherever the need was greatest. If there was a difference of opinion anywhere, it was resolved immediately. Firms, airport and hotel staff seemed to be infected with the enthusiasm. Hotel managers commented that they had never had such nice guests as our Canaan Friends, who were radiant with the love of Jesus. We saw every mountain challenging our faith — including the costs — melt away like wax before the Lord.

At the last minute, through a wonderful leading of our heavenly Father, we were able to acquire a small pipe organ, almost new, for the adoration services in the Herald Chapel. The extension built to Bethabara, where we receive visitors, had been completed the previous summer and was a tremendous asset. When the festival began, a weather miracle occurred. Whereas in the previous weeks it had been unusually wet and cold, it was pleasantly warm, dry and sunny, sometimes slightly overcast and with a gentle breeze — "dream weather", as our guests called it. After the festival was over, rain set in again and temperatures dropped. How gracious the Father was!



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 ✦ ET VERHEERLIJKT WORDEN ✦ 神 當 得 榮 耀 ✦  
 ✦ A DEUS DEMOS GLÓRIA ✦ DIO SIA GLORIFICATO  
 ✦ 소서 ✦ GOTT MUES VERHERRLICHT SI ✦ ΔΟΞΑΣΜΕΝΟ ΝΑ  
 ✦ GUD MÅ BLI FORHERLIGET ✦ 神にのみ栄光があるように

## Participating and Reliving

You will be happy to know that a video tape of one of the evening celebrations (the Heaven Festival) will soon be available as a half-hour TV Easter Special and for home video use. *Joy Everlasting* gives you an opportunity to join in the celebration, sing along, hear Mother Basilea share about heaven, and pass through the "golden gates" with people from over 30 nations. Someone commented, "A festival like this brings hope and glorious anticipation to every confused and hungry heart." Mother Basilea had asked God to plant heaven so firmly in our hearts that it could never be uprooted even in the hardest moments and during the sufferings of persecution.

In *Jesus' Footsteps*, the message the Lord laid on Mother Basilea's heart for the first day of the festival, has been enclosed for you in written form.

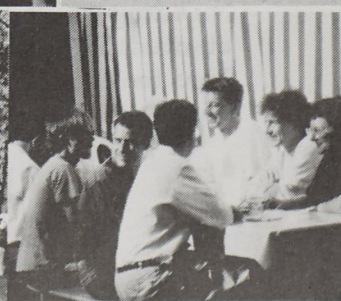
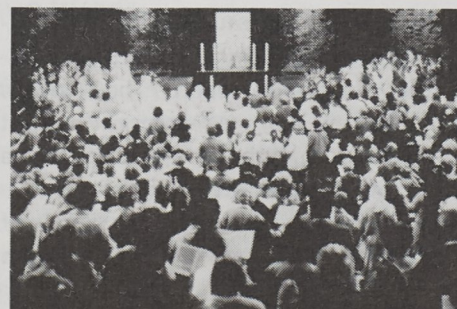
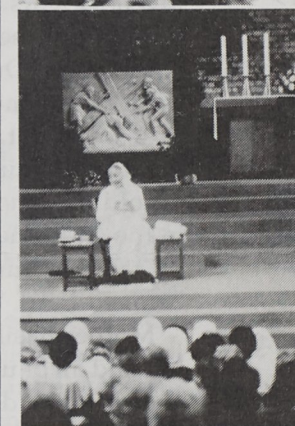
But now for some close-ups. At the airport it was deeply moving to see friends arriving from the four corners of the earth. All were filled with the same expectancy and lovingly greeted each other, even if they hadn't met before. At Canaan a shout of joy went up: "We are one family, a heavenly family!" For "old-timers", it was often a moving reunion — a real homecoming after many years. There were tears in many eyes. Age and sickness were no hindrance either. Some even walked with crutches through the Garden of Jesus' Sufferings or up the altar steps in the Herald Chapel on their way through the "golden gates" during the Heaven Festival. Jet lag and the strenuousness of that busy weekend were forgotten in the atmosphere of joy and love for God and for one another.

This oneness of spirit was striking. Here was a group of people whose home is the heart of God and who love and worship the holy triune God. Most of them were veterans experienced in fighting the Lord's battles in these end-times. Watching them wave their banners during the "battle of faith" session before each meeting, one couldn't help thinking of those who follow the Lamb (Reve-

lation 14:4) and whose ranks we are called to join as never before. In their countries, too, the Canaan Friends have been a spiritual force over the years. They are ready to stand up and be counted for the Lord whenever He is blasphemed in screen and stage productions, or to step into the breach for God's chosen people Israel.

The love of God was shed abroad in everyone's heart — ardent bridal love for Jesus, love for the Holy Trinity, and love for one another. Almost every encounter reflected the fellowship of love binding believers together in the end times: whether it was the small groups of people praying together, the prayer partners meeting with the sisters representing their branches, the meals in the festival tent, or the farewell scenes of buses and columns of cars returning to the hotels at the end of the day. And if language barriers hindered communication, the warmth of Christian fellowship made up for it. In the Herald Chapel simultaneous translation was available in eight languages. Most of the songs and prayer texts were translated and duplicated by our sisters or friends.

During the Adoration Service on Saturday evening we experi-



enced the joy that floods our hearts when we seek only the glory of God. Many of the Canaan Friends were already familiar with the new melodies. So from almost a thousand hearts and voices a mighty anthem was raised in unison in various languages. At the end many of the friends left their pews and gathered in the chancel, standing or kneeling before the altar. There was a spontaneous time of worship with song verses, citing of scriptures and singing in the Spirit. We could have continued for many hours. While singing "Glory to the Lamb" and similar songs, one could sense a deep love for the Lamb of God, who carried away the sins of the world, including our own.

Most of the friends spoke of having had a special experience with God during the Saturday morning session when Mother Basilea movingly depicted the present-day sufferings of God, a theme very close to her heart. It was as if the holiness of God descended upon us and deeply impressed upon our hearts something of His grief over our countless sins and the abominations of our times. Many who were not given to tears began to weep for the sufferings of God today. The sound of lamenting filled the chapel. Afterwards, Dutch friends commented that among them strong men, whom they had never before seen in tears, wept openly. Confronted with God's immeasurable suffering because of the satanic sins, untold blasphemies and widespread apostasy now in the end times, many resolved to prove their love by their willingness to endure suffering for their beloved Lord.

Mother Basilea also shared how God was leading her and all of us at Canaan along His pathway as we encountered disloyalty, hostility and slander. The spirit of glory (1 Peter 4:14) was present, and the whole meeting closed with a hymn which holds true for the personal way of the cross every child of God is called to follow in the end times:

Glory shall come from suffering!  
Oh, what glory God the Father has prepared  
For those who chose the path of the cross!  
Glory, glory, glory, glory!

The Sunday morning Communion Service attended by people of so many nationalities and administered by nine clergymen, each robed in his particular liturgical vestments, was unforgettable. It was a foretaste of heaven, where the multitudes representing all tongues, races and nations will be united before the throne of God. The presence of God was almost tangible, and one was gripped with longing for the wedding feast of the Lamb.

During the closing meeting Canaan Friends from all over the world expressed their gratitude to the Lord for their calling and the impact of the Canaan message on their lives and countries:

I... want to give glory to God for the message of Canaan, the message of repentance and reconciliation, which for us South Africans offers God's way at a time like this in our nation's history... ● In 1978... the Lord laid it on our hearts to take the Canaan message to Singapore... And I know that many lives have been transformed... ● Thank God for the Canaan message! It offers clear orientation at a time when terms like "repentance" and "discipleship of the cross" are being discarded in Christian fellowships and movements throughout our country, simply because they are uncomfortable... When we part from each other, let us take this message to a dying world...

Everyone received spiritual "emergency rations" from Mother Basilea for the coming hard times. And we closed with the "Prayer of Dedication: Living to Bring Glory to God". Someone commented, "Not even Satan can rob us of what we have received here."

The farewell scenes on the last day of the festival and the following week can best be summed up in the oft-quoted words of Mother Martyria, who much to our sorrow couldn't be with us, as on former occasions, owing to the infirmities of old age:

Although it hurts to say good-bye, let us thank God that the pain is there. This shows that God has bound us together as a loving family. Otherwise, saying good-bye wouldn't be so painful.

All of us who were there could sense the significance of this parting — especially for those who had come so far. Having seen the glory of the Lord during these few days, we pray that He may continue to be glorified in our lives. May He find us at His side as the way leads down from the mountain-top into the valley.

## *Mother House Extension — A New Venture of Faith*

Some of you have seen our Hall of Zion and dining hall. We are very thankful for these rooms, where we meet daily. But although our numbers have grown, as we wrote in our last newsletter, the size of these halls has not. That also applies to the Mother House kitchen and the sleeping quarters. Now that there are more applicants wanting to join us, something has to be done. An extension to the Mother House has become necessary.

Naturally, we asked ourselves whether such a project is at all feasible in view of the uncertain world situation. But it would all be for the Lord's work. And if He were to give us the confirmation to go ahead with this extension, then we would be able

to take in more sisters. An extension would also solve other problems concerning our limited space. For us, it would be a real token of divine grace and a great joy, because it would be unthinkable if we had to turn away those who really love the Lord and have a clear call to the sisterhood. Many prayers went up to the heavenly Father to intervene Himself and give a sign of confirmation for the project.

And now we have a wonderful story to relate. Forty years ago when we were building our Mother House Chapel and the surrounding area was hardly built on, a neighbouring house with a long strip of garden lay to the north. Later it separated the Mother House grounds from the House of God's Goodness, where our publishing department and recording studio are located. All these years there was no hope of our ever acquiring part of this garden plot, though we were very grateful that the owners granted us access to the publishing department through the farthest end of their garden. In 1990, however, we were suddenly offered the back part of this garden at a very reasonable price.

This was the most suitable building site imaginable in view of our acute shortage of space. With this incident the heavenly Father was encouraging us to go ahead with the building project and to embark on a new avenue of faith. As with the building of our Mother House and Chapel, we have no financial covering and are completely dependent upon God. He has already given us enough for the beginning, and because He is the same as back then during our first experiences of "realities", we commit the whole project to Him. The building plans are being worked on, and we hope to begin with the extension in 1992.

In the over-all design, which excellently combines the old and the new, various building phases have been planned to relieve the space shortage. This applies primarily to the publishing, tape, radio and video departments. But for the present we are thankful if the first stage can actually begin, involving the extension of the dining hall, kitchen, reception office and sleeping quarters. With this method we are not committed to continuing with any further phase in the building project. We can stop at any point if the time of testing, for which the Lord has so long prepared us, should suddenly break in upon our world.

## ***What's Happening in Eastern Europe and Russia?***

The surprising turn of events in the Soviet Union showed once again that the world scene can change "overnight". With all our hearts we thanked God that the August coup did not lead to large-scale bloodshed and violence and that the sorely tried people there can still be reached with the message of

Jesus. Churches report thankfully of outreaches in the streets, parks, hospitals, senior citizen homes and orphanages, and request material for distribution. Christian lending-libraries are being opened. Letters are pouring in, often beginning with the words, "I have recently come to Christ and want to know more about Him..." A nineteen-year-old in Siberia related that someone gave her the book *Father of Comfort* in her darkest hour, when she thought there was no point in living any longer. Her life was transformed as a result. A young soldier saw a comrade with the same book and wrote, "Actually, I'm not a believer, but he told me you would be sure to send me a Bible." From a hospital: "My wife hardly noticed the pain any more when I brought her the parcel. Patients and nurses alike were amazed that total strangers in another country should send us such literature, which can't be had for money here."

The Lord also heard our prayers for a competent translator, so that one Russian translation after the other is going to press. Apart from that, manuscripts in five other East European languages are ready for print, and we are trusting the Lord to provide for the printing.

## **Major Outreach in Kiev, the Ukraine**

A minister in Australia sent us a fax: "Our church is currently involved in a very major outreach to Kiev ... planned for sometime in September and God has opened doors marvellously. However, the time may be short... They have 4 nights booked at the stadium... [which] seats 150,000. I recalled the evangelistic printing material... in many languages that the Sisterhood produced, and wondered what was available in the Russian language... I hope you can help?" Yes, gladly, but how? How were we to deliver such a large shipment of literature to Kiev? Some items had to be printed first. What about customs and visas? In spite of all the difficulties, we saw the wonderful intervention of God, and thousands of books and bookmarks arrived in Kiev just before the outreach began — thanks to the efforts of Norwegian friends.

## **Estonia**

One day in August, at five in the morning, a bus stopped in front of our branch in Norway. A group on their way to Estonia were keen on seeing the Garden of Jesus' Sufferings. It turned out that three young Estonians had been staying in Norway to learn how to operate a new printing press, the gift of a Norwegian church. And now their hosts wanted to show them round the prayer garden. "Would they be allowed to print your Russian, Ukrainian and Estonian bookmarks and leaflets there?" inquired

the Norwegian group leader. He had already delivered large quantities of our literature to Estonia. Some of the material, as we now learnt, had been shared with pastors and evangelists from all over the Soviet Union attending short seminars at a Christian centre in Estonia.

We were able to provide large supplies of Estonian bookmarks for a big summer outreach. Meanwhile the long-awaited Estonian editions of *Praying Our Way Through Life* and *The Hidden Treasure in Suffering* are on their way to Estonia.

## Romania

A team of 32 young people from the United States were preparing for a six-week outreach in Romania. "Our team will be doing much ministry among the orphanages as well as street evangelism. I am sure there will be a great hunger for your literature... We are hopeful you may be able to supply us with enough so we don't run out after just a few days." Again, the main problem was delivering the goods. But one day after we had packed 11 big boxes, we heard from someone else that a truck from Ireland would be stopping by on the way to Romania and could take all the supplies along!

## Czechoslovakia

"You preach to us here on television every Sunday," a Czech woman joyfully wrote to Mother Basilea. (Ten years ago she had received one of our leaflets, which she has since prayerfully read over and over again.) Nor was she mistaken. Since February 1991 programmes from Canaan with Czech subtitling have been televised on Sundays in a religious programme. The minister in charge commented, "In view of all the difficulties in transmitting Christian programmes, it's like a miracle of God."

## Croatia

In these fear-ridden days the believers in Croatia are in need of comfort as never before. We praise the heavenly Father that some time ago we were able to arrange for Croatian translations. *The Hidden Treasure in Suffering* recently came off the press and was distributed to the churches there. The leaflet *God Comes When All Is Dark* was printed and circulated, and *Father of Comfort* (daily devotional readings) well received.

## New Freedom for Cuba

The Pan American Games in summer 1991 provided Christians with an excellent opportunity to minister in Cuba. From our sisters in the United States an American youth group received large quantities of

our Spanish literature, bookmarks and cassettes, which they planned to pass on mainly to Cuban clergy. All went well. They enjoyed much freedom as tourists and reported that there is a real hunger for the Gospel in Cuba. The cassettes were especially in demand, and a man working in a cassette-lending-library will be lending them throughout the island. Up till now radio broadcasts have been the only help we could provide, but whenever a letter got through, we were aware of the great appreciation. For instance: "... I am a young Christian and ... love your radio programme. It is so good. It is a big blessing to my spiritual life and I tell you this from the bottom of my heart. Your programmes are listened to here by Christians of all denominations and their pastors. There are many of us just waiting until your programme comes on. We know that you must spend a lot of money in order to get this programme on the air and for us to receive it here. Let me tell you that your efforts are not in vain. They are of much blessing and spiritual edification to us and our families."

## Marching Under the Banner of the Lamb

From **Brazil** our sisters report:

In the southern part of our country a New Age Congress was to be held on a grand scale. Believers from various denominations and fellowships responded by organizing a Prayer and Outreach Week simultaneously in the same city. Months in advance they prepared themselves by reading our booklet *New Age — From a Biblical Viewpoint*. Prayer warriors arrived from all parts of the country, forming small groups at strategic points or mingling with the congress participants in order to pray. And Jesus demonstrated His victorious power. The planned witches' night had to be cancelled, because a well-known witch invited as the star attraction had to withdraw at the last moment. At another session the audience was asked if someone would come forward and put his hands on an apparatus that supposedly registers the energy of the human mind. A Christian volunteered. The indicator on the apparatus went so high that the sorceress shouted in alarm, "Get your hands off! It'll explode." But it was too late: a fuse was blown. Later a young woman was supposed to regress into her "former life" through the incantation of a medium. Someone in the audience was invited to come forward and hold the woman's head during this experiment. Again, a Christian volunteered. Nothing happened, because the man kept praying. When challenged about this, he took the microphone and witnessed to the audi-

ence about Jesus Christ. The leader tried to interrupt him, but some of the audience called, "Let him talk." So on those evenings the "masters" were not able to achieve anything. It all ended in a fiasco for them, and many people left the hall early, obviously bored.

During a smaller New Age event here in Curitiba, young Christians totally confused the speaker with their questions.

We have to reprint the booklet on New Age continually. Recently a bookshop rang up to inquire if the booklet could be obtained from us, because "All the believers in our town are talking about it." Almost daily we receive phone calls from ministers, doctors and many others placing orders. At a Catholic university a play with occult and New Age overtones was to be staged. Once again Christians met in prayer and distributed thousands of copies of this informational booklet. When a woman professor talked to the board of directors, using this publication as a reference, miraculously the play was banned there — one week before it was due to be performed. How thankful we are to see that in our country, which is so plagued by spiritism, Jesus has His band of warriors!

Our sisters in Paraguay write: Three suicides in a row among the students at a state school were a shock for the principal. Seeking spiritual aid for the young people, he ordered 3000 copies of our youth leaflets and the video *It Began at a Party*.

The influence of the occult is very noticeable here in Paraguay and a constant challenge to spiritual warfare. A youth group was visiting us over the weekend and one young girl stood out especially. Although she was a Christian, she led a troubled existence because of a curse that had been put on her. Up till then she had not found spiritual help anywhere. So it was a relief for her to discover the books, songs and prayers about claiming Jesus' victory, and at the end of her visit you could see the difference in her.

Some time ago we sent the songbook *Songs for Spiritual Warfare* to a woman with marriage problems. This was her story: Whenever she was alone in the house, there would be noises in one of the rooms. During her quiet times a rapping sound could nearly always be heard on the ceiling above her, and often the chickens belonging to the next-door-neighbour would come and cause damage in her vegetable garden. She could always sense something sinister about these occurrences. Then she felt an inner compulsion to pray the songs for spiritual warfare more intensively — for the situation as well as for her husband. And what happened? A change came over her husband. The clatter in the house ceased, and the chickens were usually gone before she had finished praying the first verse. The song

she used the most in claiming the victory of Jesus was:

No power of hell can greater be  
Than Jesus Christ, our Lord and King...

## Israel

The Lord used the booklet *Israel at the Heart of World Events* to bring comfort to many of His chosen people in the tense situation in Israel. Our sisters in Jerusalem are so thankful that at the 1991 Christian Celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles they were able to pass on this booklet in five different languages — for the first time also in Russian — and accept orders for other forthcoming foreign translations. An excerpt from their report captures something of the atmosphere in Jerusalem:

Going into the city, you can see with your own eyes the fulfilment of God's promise, "I will bring them back to their own land." The street scene has changed completely: Russian immigrants rub shoulders with native-born Israelis and Ethiopian Jews — a colourful mixture.

With one of our guest groups we followed "Operation Solomon" closely. The joy was so great that no one wanted to go to bed. In 33 hours and 27 minutes, 14,400 Ethiopian Jews returned to their ancient home. God had heard their age-old prayer: "Do not separate us, O Lord, from the elect. Let us see, O Lord, the light of Israel." In the Kibbutzim young people moved out of their rooms, making them available for Ethiopian Jews, and newcomers from Russia helped to get the rooms ready.

Ten minutes away from "Beth-Avraham" is the large Diplomat Hotel which was used as an integration centre for approximately 1000 Ethiopian Jews, including many children. It was wonderful to see so much joy, hope and expectation concentrated in one place. But we also encountered much suffering and privation, for on the plane only half a kilo of belongings was allowed per passenger. Through donations we were able to buy much-needed clothing and sandals in every size for them. In our shopping excursions we experienced the goodness of the Lord, for some of the items could be bought at reduced prices. We felt privileged to help supply some of the basic needs of these people. Beaming, grateful faces met us whenever we explained that friends who love Israel had made this possible.

## Africa

"In 24 African countries Christianity is to be annihilated" announced a press report at the beginning of 1991. The article revealed that the governments concerned had agreed to introduce Islamic Law and to

wipe out all other religions in their countries. Reading this, we felt a new burden in view of the many requests reaching us from Africa.

Meanwhile, more than 100 churches have been burnt down in **Nigeria**, with people sometimes killed in the fires. We receive letters from every part of the country and from a wide variety of groups. We know of a keen Christian and leader of a prayer fellowship who is frequently invited to speak at universities, where he distributes literature from Canaan among the students. Someone wrote: "The tracts are super and were distributed among the prisoners at the Maximum Security Prison... The prisoners express their heartfelt appreciation... We would be grateful if you could send more tracts to help us reach the prisoners on death row who are hungry for the Word... We use *Father of Comfort* as our daily guide."

A minister described the situation in **Ethiopia**: "In our country things seem dark. It is a nation that lacks identity and unity... These days we need your prayers more than ever before." ● A man running a newly opened bookshop attached to the Mekane Jesus Church commented: "We received your precious Amharic leaflets — a special joy at this hour.

Please support our ministry with your literature."

● Another letter said: "The heart-warming book *My All for Him*... has been the source of my ever-increasing love for Jesus... It has given me strength in everyday problems and troubles." ● Someone else wrote: "These silent missionaries [i.e. books and leaflets] have been a great blessing... while we were undergoing serious persecution." ● The Ethiopian church in Rome requested a large supply of our Amharic leaflets for refugees: "The leaflets make our testimony so effective that many souls are coming to Christ."

A missionary in **Tanzania** wrote: "While ministering in the churches, I have repeatedly come across your leaflets or bookmarks in Swahili. The bookmarks are very popular. I could distribute them not just by the pound but by the ton." She ordered copies of the booklet *Praying Our Way Through Life* for the students at a Bible college. Unfortunately, it was out of print again. In fact, everything we have been able to print so far in the vernacular for Tanzania has been insufficient. So great is the demand.

And so we could continue the list of countries from which we receive a constant stream of letters thanking us for the literature.

With all our hearts we wish you God's richest blessings, dear friends, in return for all your love and faithfulness. With warmest greetings from our Mothers and all of us at Canaan and in the branches,

Yours in the fellowship of our Lord Jesus Christ,

The Sisters of Mary and Canaan Franciscan Brothers

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CHURCHES

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