



KENYA

CHRISTIAN CLASSICS

John Ng'ang'a, of Njogu Gitene Publications in Nairobi, Kenya, explains why he will focus on reprints of Christian classics.

Njogu Gitene Publications (NGP) was registered by Daniel S. Ng'ang'a, a non-Christian publisher, in 1970. NGP published ten books between then and 1973, five in English, three in Kiswahili, and two in Kikuyu. Among the ten titles, four of the English, and two in Kiswahili, were targeted at schools and were stories with moral applications. The remaining books were novels, primarily teaching that crime does not pay. Since the publishing could not support itself, Daniel Ng'ang'a shelved it and only sold the books already printed.

Years later, Ng'ang'a's son, John, accepted Christ. John had the opportunity to work in Christian publishing with an Assemblies of God missionary, Rev. Dewey Huston. Huston was instrumental in training the younger Ng'ang'a in editing and marketing of Christian literature. As part of the Assemblies of God Literature Center, John Ng'ang'a helped to publish some classics, including *How to Experience Revival* by Charles Finney, *Power Through Prayer* by E. M. Bounds, *The Full Blessing of Pente-*

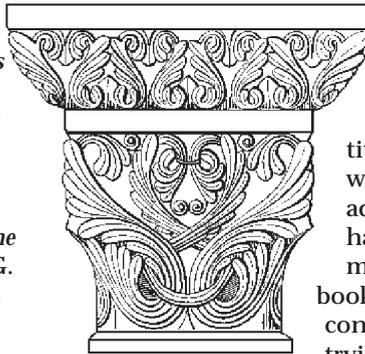
cost (retitled *Rivers of Living Water*) by Andrew Murray, and *The Voice of the Devil* by G. Campbell Morgan.

Later, the Center ceased its publishing efforts.

A few years later, John Ng'ang'a chose to restart his father's company, Njogu Gitene Publications, this time focusing on Christian classics.

"I felt called to this venture," he says. "I love the classics and really feel that more Christians should be reading them," he adds. "Most of our books today are not solid reading."

NGP has published five books since 1997, all of them reprints of existing classics: *Absolute Surrender* by Andrew Murray (1997); *Which Way, Lord?* (formerly *Discover God's Will for Your Life*) by S. Maxwell Coder (1998); *The Blood of the Cross* by Andrew Murray (1999); *The Man God Uses* by J. Oswald Smith (2000); and *Victorious Faith* (formerly *What is Faith?*) by C.H. Spurgeon, D. L. Moody,



and others (2000).

Two additional titles are in the works, and an advisory team has chosen more than 20 books for future consideration, trying to vary

the subject matter to give as wide a spectrum as possible to NGP's editorial line. Authors for future books include F.B. Meyer, H.A. Ironside, Frances Havergal, D.H. Whittle, Horatius Bonar, Andrew Bonar, and Ruth Paxson.

John Ng'ang'a initially decided to restart his father's company "because the books done abroad are too expensive. Besides," he says, "even when the classics are edited, most of them retain archaic language which most of our people cannot understand."

All of NGP's books are published with high editorial and production standards. Though some have suggested use of newsprint, the books are published with 70 grams white bond paper and full color covers on 240 grams cover board.

"I realize that if I am to compete with imported

books," says Ng'ang'a, "I have to give the best possible quality."

"We are dedicated to communicating the truth of God," he adds, "even as it has been communicated to us by those who came before us in the faith."

NGP would like to put out at least four titles a year but the work is slow, mostly because of financial constraints. Though Ng'ang'a works with a team of advisors and editors, the company cannot support a full-time staff at this time.

NGP is having some success in working with a distributor, Keswick Wholesale. The biggest success John Ng'ang'a can attest to, however, is not financial.

NGP's books have impacted the company's founder, Daniel S. N'gang'a. He is now a born-again Christian, thanks in part to his son's determination to publish these Christian classics.

"It is my prayer," says John Ng'ang'a, "that God will continue to use these books to edify the people of God and to impact lives for eternity." ♦