

Challenge

THE GOOD NEWS PAPER

February 2005

PRAYER LETTER OF CHALLENGE LITERATURE FELLOWSHIP (AUST.) INC.

Last year was one of the most exciting years that I have spent in Challenge. To see God do things that I had only dreamed about was an incredible privilege and certainly gave me a taste for more. I want to say a warm thank you to all you precious people who have been praying so hard for the work of Challenge, especially in southern Africa. There is no doubt in my mind that prayer has been the driving force behind all that has been happening, and yet so often in our churches we relegate it to the optional category. So I want to encourage you to keep praying this year as things continue on at an exciting rate. It is my firm belief that we will see God doing a special work not only in Africa but also in New Zealand and Australia.

This year we are looking to further establish the paper in southern Africa and expand the distribution as we are able. We have recently doubled our distribution into Zimbabwe and are managing to get a trickle into Zambia, Swaziland and Lesotho. In South Africa we run our main edition plus a special prison edition making up a total print-run of 250,000 papers. Both editions have met with amazing success with our prison paper getting some 600 responses per month and the main edition getting around 700 responses. This has created a crisis in our ability to do effective follow-up, however, God has wonderfully blessed us with the bibles needed via the NSW Bible Society. Their projects manager is Chris Melville and he has been a delight to work with and has shown great enthusiasm for this project. We worship a wonderful God whom does far beyond what we think or imagine.

Late last year we re-established our distribution into Botswana after about a year's gap. We have an excellent Australian couple in Andrew and Sandra Freeman who have taken on overseeing the distribution of the paper around the country. We are committed to providing 20,000 papers per edition and would value prayer for the Lord's provision financially.

Also, late last year I visited the town of Messina close to the South African / Zimbabwe border where the pastor of the church, Paul Richardson is doing a great job in his church and coordinating outreach to truck drivers who gather in the hundreds at the border. Some of these truck drivers are marooned on the border for as long as a week as they get their paper work in order. Our plan is to produce an industrial chaplain and truck edition of our African edition to reach out to them. We think that we should print around 20,000 per edition to do the job effectively.

Discussions for the paper to go into other African countries are continuing. At this stage we are speaking with the Reverend Philip Tutu in Ghana. Philip is very keen to get the paper and we feel that we should start with 10,000 papers. Philip is the National Director for Global Recording Network in Ghana.

Most recently we have had talks with Pastor Paul Dondoh in Kenya and have received an excellent quote to print the paper there. We are planning to start with a print-run of 20,000 papers, with the aim in mind to expand that to 100,000 as we reach into other countries surrounding Kenya.

Finally we have had good discussions with Pastor James Mwale who is based in Malawi. For both Kenya and Malawi it is planned that I will visit both countries mid-year to check out how best to get the distribution started and deal with the follow-up as commitments come in.

We are also continuing our negotiations to get the paper into Argentina. This will be a little more difficult as we will probably be doing our first language edition of the paper in Spanish. We are hopeful of partnering with another ministry organisation which has a very strong presence in Argentina.

With all this happening you may have thought that we have lost our burden for Australia. Well I can assure you that nothing could be further from our minds. As a ministry we are as concerned as never before to reach out to our nation with the good news of Jesus Christ. We have just completed discussions with Outback Focus based in Toowoomba Queensland. They specialise in reaching out to folk in the remote outback on cattle stations and farms, where there is little or no contact with the gospel. We have targeted the

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south-west corner of Queensland to start with and will be distributing approximately 4,000 copies per month. Greg and Jill Lanyon head up this invaluable and strategic ministry and it is a delight to partner with them as they reach out to this very poorly reached group of people.

Lastly we are continuing our work in New Zealand in partnership with the Challenge Weekly newspaper. There is much work to be done to develop the distribution in NZ as our monthly print-run is modest to say the least but we are very hopeful that this will begin to change considerably this year. We do a number of special occasion editions for NZ and have had an excellent response to these. We are looking for even greater things this year.

— Carl Carmody, Editor of Challenge



Praise:

1. Praise the Lord that He is blessing the ministry and staff in ways that are so amazing. We have seen the Lord's provision in ways that have been staggering and overwhelming.
2. Praise God for an excellent response to our Christmas / holiday edition of the paper. Between Australia, NZ and South Africa we produced almost 400,000 papers.
3. Praise God for all our partner organisations that make it possible to achieve the breath of outreach that we do at present.
4. Praise God for the Lord's on-going provision financially. We are so thankful to those who give to us on a regular basis. We are also very grateful to all the Christian farmers who have put wheat into the silo on behalf of Challenge.

Prayer:

1. Pray for our Australian edition of the paper. We are trusting God for our print-run to go to 85,000 per month.
2. Pray for this new venture with Outback Focus as every step that we take is a step of faith. We are calling this our Outback project and we need to raise \$1,500 per month to properly fund it and we would be most grateful for your prayer for this project.
3. Pray for the other countries in Africa that we want to get into as this needs wise planning and a constant growth in our financial support to make it happen.
4. Pray for our partner organisation in Africa, Multi Ministries. They are doing an excellent job. We have two new men come on board who are very keen to promote our paper and would value your prayer for the Lord's blessing in doing their job well and getting good results.
5. Pray for the Lord's leading and wisdom as we look to moving into Kenya, Ghana, Malawi and Argentina. There is a lot to think through and plan so that we can establish and maintain the distribution of the paper once we have started.
6. Pray for the continued care and protection of the Challenge building, equipment and staff. Ministry life is very busy and one requires godly wisdom in maintaining a God-ordained work schedule.
7. Continue to pray for finances to pay for the purchase of a replacement Challenge vehicle. We need approximately \$24,000 to clear our debt.



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