

# Challenge

THE GOOD NEWS PAPER

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

I have read the story of John Hyde or Praying Hyde as he was called. Certainly you cannot read such a life story and not be challenged to a deeper prayer life. I have of late been challenged by God to deepen my prayer life because it is the only way to see consistent victory over the world the flesh and the devil.

As I was reading through the book of Exodus, chapter 17 seemed to highlight so many important aspects of prayer. As the nation of Israel is entering into the district of Rephidim they are faced with one of the many trials they faced. Their response provides us with an important contrast between themselves and Moses.

Israel, when faced with a trial, responded by first complaining or murmuring against God. Moses, however, turned to God in prayer. I know that most of us know that this should be our response, at least in theory. How many of us are like the nation of Israel? When we are faced with a trial we can only see our problem, and so we complain to God.

I find prayer is a wonderful way of remembering what God has done in the past. In fact a number of the feasts Israel were instructed to keep, were specifically designed to help the nation of Israel remember the faithfulness of God. Why? Because we are fickle and appear to forget so quickly the many blessings of the Lord.

Israel, it seems had an incredible ability to forget the most amazing miracles of God's deliverance and provision. I think that part of the problem lay in their shallow relationship they had with Jehovah God. This was born out in their response to trials.

Again and again, we read of Moses communing with God and in particular praying to God. It would seem in today's spiritual climate, that prayer has become something of an after thought rather than a vital ingredient of a dynamic Christian life. For Moses it appeared that prayer was such an important part of his walk with God, it was all but a reflex action no matter what the circumstances.

How do you respond when beset by a trial of some kind or another. Are we a complainer or a prayer?

Why then is prayer so vital to our Christian walk? There are a number of reasons that we can see from this chapter.

1. Prayer transforms the person. Remember when Moses went up onto Mount Sinai. He came down with his face shining. So much so that he had to cover it up with a veil.
2. Prayer transforms our relationship with God. As we pray God is pleased to reveal to us more of His character and power.
3. Prayer transforms our relationship with other believers. I am absolutely convinced that the majority of the problems we are seeing in our churches can be attributed primarily to a lack of prayer corporately and individually.
4. Prayer transforms our desire and power for service. When we pray God is able to work in our lives to remove whatever it is that hinders our desire and power for service.
5. Prayer transform our effectiveness in service. We begin to see God do things in and through us that we never dreamed were possible.

(Please turn over)

It is my heart's desire that we regain a fresh passion and willingness to pray, because, as we do God will do things far beyond what we can think or imagine. As we pray God is able to impart His willingness and ability to effectively serve Him. Some how we have lost sight of the fact that we worship a supernatural God. Prayer brings this back into sharp focus. This passage in Exodus also heavily underlines the fact that Christian victory is won in the prayer closet not in the heat of the battle.

— Carl Carmody, Editor of Challenge



## Praise

1. Praise God, for the excellent success of the Global Impact Celebration held in Athens, Alabama, USA, where Carl and Carolyn Carmody have been promoting the work of Challenge.
2. We continue to thank God for all that He is doing through the African edition of the paper. We continue to be staggered by the number of responses that we are seeing on a consistent basis.
3. Praise God for the excellent response to the 2005 Impact Africa Mission Trip, from the 1st to the 19th of July. At this stage we have 25 people coming and looking forward to a really life changing trip. Some of the team members coming from N.T., Qld. and N.S.W.
4. Continue to praise God for Harold Peasley and his Multi Ministry team, who are doing a fantastic job in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Botswana, with crusades, training and evangelism of various sorts, which includes the distribution of the Challenge newspaper.

## Prayer

1. Pray for all the contacts that have been made by the Carl and Carolyn Carmody on their recent trip to the USA. And may the Lord bless for the good responses made.
2. Continue to pray for the Impact Africa Mission team as they prepare to leave in July. Pray for each of the team members as they gather their prayer partners together and prepare themselves for a very exciting time of ministry.
3. Pray for each of the staff families. Pray that we will each keep close to the Lord in all areas of our lives, especially through these winter months when storms that can damage our homes.
4. Pray too for our regular volunteers who come in each month. Without them the work would be made much more difficult.



*Send your testimony to Challenge – Your conversion to Jesus Christ is a miracle, and is a wonderful means of witnessing to a lost world – Ring or write or email to Challenge for a testimony outline sheet.*



Challenge Literature Fellowship

PO Box 978, Cloverdale 6985

Phone (08) 9453 3311 Fax (08) 9453 3006

Email: challenge@clf.org.au