

Challenge

THE GOOD NEWS PAPER

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

Psalm 145 — Part 2 — Declaring the greatness of God

You will remember that last month we had two key points that we wanted to focus on in terms of praising the Lord. First of all we wanted to be able to praise God from day to day in verses 1 and 2 and then secondly to praise God from generation to generation, verses 3 to 7. This month I just want to finish our meditation on this psalm with three important points that we need to pursue.

So thirdly, we need to praise God from nation to nation and we can see this in verses 8-13. We need to recognise that this awesome Jehovah or Almighty God is not just for an elite few but potentially experiencing Him is for every single person on earth. So in praising God from generation to generation and then from nation to nation, that is as we reach out in our missionary endeavours through evangelism in Jerusalem and Judea and Samaria and the outer parts of the world, we need to see a number of key things that are very important.

But before I mention those I think it is really worth while taking time to acknowledge that we have much to praise God for what He has done in reaching out through His people to the nations. It is fair to say that the gospel is making great inroads into many of the nations that were once locked out from it, if you will. One of the obvious places is of course China where we now have somewhere in the vicinity of 80 to 100 million Christians and at last count allegedly something like 20,000 people per week coming to the Lord. Whilst that sounds a lot of course there are 1.3 billion people in China and therefore we can do a lot more to get out the gospel into that country. And there is also Albania which was once absolutely closed to the gospel endeavours other than via radio and even then I think that was done with difficulty.

So there are a number of things that we need to see as we praise God from nation to nation. **First of all** we need to see that **God's grace** extends to all people's and nations. As we have experienced the goodness of God in drawing us to Himself we must acknowledge that with the blessing comes the responsibility to make known the good news of Jesus Christ to all peoples and nations so that everyone gets an opportunity to respond. **Secondly** we need to see that **God's compassion** extends to all peoples and nations. In my recent trips to Africa in particular I really believe that extending the compassion of God through food and other means of helping people opens the way for incredible opportunities to spread the gospel. But we must see that extending this compassion is not a solve for our conscience in the sense that we are doing something if we don't take time to share the gospel.

Then thirdly we need to see that **God's mercy** is on all peoples and nations. We worship an amazing God who does way beyond what we could think or imagine, and I think it is just wonderful to know that we have a merciful God who is ever wanting to see that none should perish but that all should come to repentance. I love the way David appeals to God in **Psalm 51, verse 1** when he said: **"Have mercy upon me O God, according to your lovingkindness; according to the multitude of your tender mercies. Blot out my transgressions."** I think that verse speaks for itself where David was so overwhelmed by the mercy of God and was able to appeal to Him on the basis of that mercy. We need to see that God's goodness is on all peoples and nations. There are times when we may look at nations and the things that are happening and may wonder if God's goodness is on all the nations of the world. Even now when we look at a country like Australia where we are experiencing drought and fires and floods as in recent days

who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth." We can praise God from prayer when we are willing to come to Him in **honesty** and **sincerity** and call out to Him in the truth of our own spiritual lack and in the truth of His own wonderful spiritual victory. Then we can experience that the Lord is righteous in all His ways and gracious in all His works and that the Lord draws near to us to help us in those difficult and struggling times. It is wonderful to know that God hears the cry of the Christian wherever he or she might be and in whatever difficult situation they might be experiencing.

We can be encouraged and praise God from prayer to prayer as we recognise that He preserves all who love Him.

Praise Points

1. We want to praise the Lord for the way He has been blessing with quite a number of gifts coming in for different aspects of the work. We are so thankful to God for the way in which He uses His saints to fund the gospel going out around the world.
2. We want to praise the Lord for our faithful team at Challenge who have served the Lord over many years. We also want to praise Him for our new staff addition being Abdul Moorehouse who will be taking on a desktop and computer role here at Challenge.
3. We want to praise the Lord for the way He is opening up opportunities for promotion of the work in the United States and we are trusting and praying for a great outcome as far as the ongoing development of the paper is concerned.
4. We want to praise the Lord for our first US edition of the paper that has gone out this month and we are trusting and praying for a great response to it. It is hard to believe that we as it were are putting the gospel out in the US which has been traditionally a bastion of strength for the gospel.
5. We do praise God again for all of our partner organisations in South Africa, Kenya, Botswana, Argentina, and in the USA. It is fair to say that without the involvement of these organisations and people very little would happen in terms of the spread of the paper as it is happening.
6. We do want to praise God for His ongoing provision for other areas of ministry that we are involved with such as the Impact Africa short term mission and also our Living Grace Conference that is happening later on in the year.

The Lord preserves all who love Him but unfortunately for all those who reject Him the opposite is true. But in all of this we as God's people must recognise that critical to our daily walk is a heart of praise of thanks and gratitude and worship to our Heavenly Father. And when we come with that sort of attitude it seems to be the key that unlocks so much of the blessing that God wants to pour into our lives and ultimately not only into our own lives but out of us into our communities.

My prayer is that as the Lord's people you will experience the reality of what it means to praise the Lord from day to day and moment to moment.

— Carl Carmody, Editor of Challenge



Prayer Points

1. We would really value your prayer for our first edition into the USA and for a good response from those who are using it and from those who receive it.
2. We would value your prayer for the ever increasing need for finances to continue funding and developing our overseas outreach ministry work. The problem we face is that we are unable to meet the demand for what we do which is certainly encouraging but also can be extremely frustrating when the opportunities present themselves and then seem to slip by. We are looking to double our overseas budget to \$120,000 this year to enable us to be able to increase our print runs in the various places that we have moved into.
3. We would value your prayer for new opportunities that are arising into Nigeria and Egypt. Egypt will be our first Arabic edition and then we can reach other countries in Africa like Chad, Algeria, etc.
4. We would value your prayer for the ongoing needs of families in the Challenge team. We are trying to get all of our staff on personal support, fully supported which is a difficult task at best. But we know it can be done with the faithful prayer and giving of the saints throughout the different churches in which we work.
5. Please pray for the ongoing ministry work that we are doing with our partner organisations. We would value your prayer for that oneness of heart and mind and spirit and that we are able to get the necessary funding to do what we need to do particularly in the area of follow-up. An urgent need at the moment in Kenya is for a Toyota Hi-Ace van so that we can equip our partner organisation with a vehicle to pick up and deliver the papers. We are also in desperate need of Bibles for Kenya and at this stage are not able to get them for the follow-up for the commitments we are getting.
6. Carl and Carolyn Carmody are at present in the USA and would value your prayer for safety in travel and good health and effectiveness in ministry. Slowly but surely we are developing a good support base in the USA and we can only give thanks to God and would value prayer for an increasing amount of support to help us meet our ongoing needs.



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