

Challenge

THE GOOD NEWS PAPER

July 2007

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

Once again I wanted to take the opportunity to update all our prayer warriors on the work that God is doing with the Challenge newspaper around the world. It is really amazing as I think back all those years ago when Eric Evans started the work of Challenge in his lounge room. To think that he was a man who had no experience in journalism, no staff, no equipment and no real measurable means of getting the paper up and going. However what he did have was a vision in his heart from God that was like as Jeremiah described; the Word of God was like a fire in his bones. What speaks to me more than anything else is the incredible faith that Eric had and the wonderful way in which God used his obedience for the vision that God gave to him. The fulfilment of this vision has been underlined in the fact that when I first came into the work part time back in July 1982 we were putting out about 3,500 papers mainly in Western Australia. Well since then we have seen God do remarkable things both here in Australia and overseas where this July edition of the paper will see us generate both here and in various places around the world close to half a million copies of the newspaper. Now whilst that may sound like a lot of newspapers it is barely a drop in the ocean. I can't help but be overwhelmed and thankful to God for all that He is doing and for allowing a team of workers both here and overseas to get out the good news paper in this way. Let me give you another brief update on each country that we are involved in and hopefully that will give you some food for prayer and praise.

1. AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND.

Australia's distribution continues to be around the 55,000 mark and we are hopeful to see this distribution grow. I have been speaking with a family for sometime now, who I have asked to prayerfully consider if God is calling them into the work of Challenge to do the promotion work for Australia. Some people have said to me that because we are seeing so much success overseas why bother with Australia. My response to them is that I am now more burdened than ever for this nation and I am praying and asking God to boost our distribution to 300-400,000 per month around this needy country. So I would value your prayer for this couple and also for the churches that are using the paper as well as the individuals and mission organisations that find it helpful.

Also in New Zealand we would value your prayer for the Challenge Weekly as they endeavour to get out the Challenge good news paper in conjunction with their Christian newspaper. They desperately need someone also to help promote the paper there and we are trusting God for great things.

2. SOUTH AFRICA/CENTRAL AFRICA.

It is fair to say that South Africa has been such a wonderful encouragement for the growth of Challenge. Our next edition will well and truly exceed 300,000 papers both for South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia and Botswana. We are really praying that we can continue

to get more churches on board especially those who are willing to give a donation or indeed pay a nominal fee for the paper. We would value your prayer for this as the more funds that come through in this manner the more papers we can print. We would also value prayer for our partner organisation Multi Ministries who do a wonderful job in using the paper and promoting it around South Africa and beyond. We would ask that the Lord would bless us with one million papers bi-monthly in the next year. This seems like an overwhelming vision but I call it the God factor because the only way it could possibly happen is if God is in it.

On top of this we would give praise and thanks for the wonderful response we continue to get from the Prison Edition of Challenge. This paper is distributed via the partnership between Multi Ministries and World Hope Prison Ministries and goes into all of South Africa's prisons some 252 in all. At last count we were getting somewhere between 600-700 responses from this edition of the paper not only from prisoners but also from prison staff and visiting families. Our prayer now is that we can increase this print run from its present 65,000 to 100,000 per edition.

On top of this July will see us going to Johannesburg for our fifth Impact Africa mission trip and we would greatly value your prayer for the team of 31 that will be working in South Africa for three weeks. We will be doing ministry into squatter camps, holiday club and school ministry, work into the prisons sharing and communicating the gospel one on one. We will also be doing distribution of the paper into taxi ranks and hospitals and wherever we can get opportunities on the street. We would value your prayer for the Lord's care and protection as we go about this mission work.

The Southern African edition also goes into Botswana where we distribute 15,000 of our main edition and 5,000 of our prison edition. This month we hope to have one testimony in the local language of Setswana. This is to really make the paper more acceptable amongst the locals. Please pray for Andrew and Sandra Freeman as they head up Botswana Ministries and are overseeing the distribution of the papers. They are a quality couple that do a really excellent job in what is a nominally Christian country.

Zambia is a new country for the distribution of Challenge where we are now placing 10,000 papers per edition and are working with an organisation called Pro Christo Global Outreach. We are also doing one story in this edition in the local language of Chechwa. We are really excited about the opportunity of working with Coen Scholtz and to have his passion and enthusiasm for the gospel behind the distribution of the paper. I will be attending a Conference with Bob Walker (involved with paper production at Challenge) at the end of our Impact

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Africa Mission trip into Zambia and with Pro Christo and we are really seeing how God will open up other opportunities for us.

Then in Africa the last nation we are really seeing great things happen is Kenya where we are working with Peace Makers Fellowship International headed up by Pastor Paul Dondoh. Paul is so enthusiastic about getting out the gospel and especially using the Challenge paper to develop church plants around different parts of Kenya. At last count in Kenya we have seen 15 new churches planted in a year and a half and have another two that are going to happen shortly. Paul has some particular needs for the development of this ministry. He has a real need for a Hi-Ace van and we have seen some gifts come in for this but need somewhere around five or six thousand dollars to be able to get him a road worthy vehicle. We also need more funding for bicycles as the need for equipping distributors grows with every church we plant. For a hundred dollars we can give one of these distributors a bike, a heart of man chart and a way of salvation booklet. So for very little money we can make a huge difference in a country like Kenya. Please continue to pray for Paul as he has a very busy schedule in overseeing these new church plants as well as try and keep down his job as a teacher.

3. SOUTH AMERICA.

We have been distributing some 10,000 papers in Argentina for the last year. Following my visit to Argentina we are now pleased to announce the distribution there will move from 10,000 to 25,000 as of this print run. We would really value your prayer for Will and Ale Herndon who are the Word of Life missionaries we have been working with in Argentina. We are very excited about the opportunities of putting another 10,000 extra papers into Argentina and 5,000 into Uruguay. As mentioned before I think in a previous prayer letter, the biggest opposition to the gospel in Uruguay comes from the Mormon Church. They are literally pouring millions of dollars and resources into these South American countries to obtain as many converts as they can. We want to praise the Lord for the encouragement from the Word of Life leadership in South America who have given us the seal of approval to develop the work further under their banner. Please uphold our partnership, not only with Word of Life but also all the other ministry organisations we work with because it is critical to the ongoing development of the work.

4. UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Continue to pray for the development of our USA edition of the paper which has been well received so far. With the production of our second edition in June we printed 30,000 papers and are really hopeful for an ongoing growth of this print run. We are seeing God do some great things with the paper and opportunities that come up for outreach using the newspaper. We would value prayer for Urbancrest Baptist Church and

pastor Tom Pendergrass and his team who have taken on Challenge and are going to be our headquarters in the United States. They are committed to helping us in all sorts of ways for which we praise God for this provision. We are also grateful to quite a number of churches who have started to support the work of Challenge and in particular our overseas work. So we would value prayer for the growth of this edition and also for the growth of support out of the United States for our overseas work plus for staff appointments that will be coming up in the not too distant future.

5. FUTURE PROJECTS.

Finally we have a number of other countries we are looking at with the possibility of developing new editions. Next year it is hoped in July to put out our first Hindi edition of Challenge under the banner of Asia Evangelistic Fellowship in India. Jonathon James who heads up the work here in Perth has got a ministry happening in India called Destiny Communications and it is under this name that we will put out our first Hindi edition of the paper in the city of Hyderabad. We would really value prayer for both ministries as we launch ourselves into the huge population in India with the good news of Jesus Christ. We would really value prayer for Jonathon and his wife Elizabeth as they have had some family struggles which we believe is very much tied into their commitment to the gospel. Like every ministry organisation the enemy is never happy when the good news is going out. Pray for us that we would have wisdom in terms of how this edition of the paper is done and for ongoing support.

Two other countries where opportunities may open to start distribution are Nigeria and Egypt. Nigeria is the most populace nation in Africa at 130 million people and we would love to work with Jim Gillett and the work of Ireland Outreach International. They distribute the Emmaus Bible study courses and are meeting with wonderful responses. It is our hope that the distribution of the Challenge paper with an advert for this course in it will dramatically improve the distribution on top of what is already happening. Also we would like to put out an Arabic edition of Challenge for Egypt. Probably what will be done here is a combination of English and Arabic in the one paper as English is widely spoken. We would love to see this opportunity open up for us in the not too distant future.

I hope and pray we have been able to give you something to think about as you read through this prayer letter and see what God is doing around the world with the paper. Whilst I am careful not to get carried away with all that is going on and I am very aware that we are extremely fragile, I know that we can do great things because we have wonderful prayer warriors around the world who uphold us before the Throne of Grace day by day. Thank you for praying and thank you for the way you give to the work not only here but indeed overseas.

— Carl Carmody, Editor of Challenge



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