

Challenge

THE GOOD NEWS PAPER

April 2008

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

There are times when people ask me why we actually produce the Challenge newspaper and how effective is it. Well when I received this email from Paul Dondoh who is the Director for Peacemaker's Fellowship International in Kenya, I think his little story sums up very much what we are about as a paper and how important literature is as a seed. Again and again I am reminded that the Spirit of God can take a seed like Challenge and as it were like an arrow to the heart bring conviction and ultimately conversion into the life of a needy unbeliever. So let me just relay the email that Paul has sent with some minor editing so that you can see exactly what God is doing.

Clement's testimony

Clement and his family have lived in Nakuru for the last 25 years and he had developed a thriving little business as a bicycle repairer where he had a big garage with many customers, so he was able to adequately supply the needs of his family. His children went to the best schools in town and he had a dream of buying a piece of land to settle his family and continue enjoying life. Clement's wife is a believer, but not Clement.

Clement became ill and when I visited him at Afraha Stadium he was an IDP (Internally Displaced Person) because of the violence we had been experiencing in Kenya. Clement narrates his story as to what happened that fatal morning:—

“The post election violence brought about many changes. I am a Luo by tribe and most of my customers were from the Kikuyu tribe. We had lived together for the last 25 years peacefully. After the December Election Kikuyu's were heard saying all Luo's will have to go back to their ancestral home in Kisumu. The rumours spread like wild fire but I did not take them seriously. So I continued to go to my workplace each day.

“That fatal morning as I arrived at my garage, word went round that all Luo's should get out which led to tension everywhere. A group of rowdy youth's chanted anti-Luo slogans. Sensing danger I decided to go home but it was too late. A group of about 50 youths followed me and caught up with me as I entered my house. They had pangas, knives and crude weapons, with which they attacked me mercilessly. I tried my best to block the weapons from hitting my body, but to no avail, they broke my arms and I fell down losing consciousness. They thought I was dead and left me there. Thankfully my family had taken off and were in hiding. I regained consciousness about an hour later, only to realise that I was covered in blood and I could not walk or raise my hands. I was taken to hospital and admitted for 13 days. My family sought refuge in the Chief's Camp and after two days in the cold, the Red Cross evacuated them to the IDP camp in Afraha Stadium where I later joined them, to start a new life – a life of being an IDP in my own country.

“One sunny afternoon, word went round the camp that there was a Pastor by the name of Paul Dondoh coming to preach and give out a gospel newspaper called *Challenge*. I was thinking about going along to listen to him when my son came in carrying a *Challenge* paper – entitled “PLANTING SEEDS OF HOPE” – I really wanted this hope – so I requested that Pastor Paul should visit my tent, which he did. I told him my story, and after speaking to me for some time he led me to the Lord Jesus. I am now a born again Christian.

“I have forgiven the people who tortured me. I am planning to go to my rural home. Please pray for my family as we leave the IDP Camps and return to Kisumu.”

— Carl Carmody, Editor of Challenge



Praise Points

1. First of all let me say a huge thank you to all of the people who have given gifts towards the work of Challenge this month. We have received some generous gifts which are very much appreciated and much needed.
2. Secondly we want to praise God for the work of Mobile Mission Maintenance and all that they have done in our office this past month. We have now got some very nice partitions for office space. It really has made a big difference to the look of our office.
3. Praise God for a second hand Hi-Ace van for Paul Dondoh, for which we have been praying, for some months. Also praise God for some new bikes and Bibles for Peacemakers Fellowship International and their 17 churches. The Bibles are also used for those who have made commitments and require a brand new Bible to help them in their growth.

(Please turn over)

4. Praise God for the Explorers magazine that is used by Outback Patrol ministry based in Sydney and headed up by Les and Martha Nixon. They have indicated that this magazine is a vital part of their ministry to outback schools.
5. Praise God for our first edition of the paper for Malawi which is our first genuinely bi-lingual edition. We are really excited about this and are delighted to be working with Jonathan Newell and Charles Tembo.
6. We praise God too for the Evangelism Conference for the Southern Baptist churches of Ohio in the US. Doug Cornelius our US representative and Tom Pendegrast the senior pastor of Urbancrest Baptist Church were there with a team to promote the work of evangelism through the US edition of *Challenge*. We praise God for the some 15-20 churches who expressed a keen interest in the paper and we look forward to ongoing fruit from this conference.
7. We do praise God for a great response to the Easter edition of the paper and it is our great delight that we have sold out of this edition. We printed almost 80,000 papers and we trust and pray that God will bless each paper as it is distributed.

Prayer Points

1. Please pray for the upcoming visit of Carl Carmody and Graeme Jacques to the US for further promotion and development of the US edition as well as the raising of mission funds for other overseas ministry work. Please pray for safety in travel and effectiveness in ministry.
2. Please pray too for the Easter edition of Challenge that has been distributed and that there would be many responses to the gospel as a result of that.
3. Please pray also for the Explorers magazine and the ministry of Australian Outback Patrol. These magazines are used in remote outback schools where the gospel is being brought into the lives of primary school kids. We print 4000 copies of this magazine each month and each one goes to every 3 students which means we are reaching somewhere around 11-12 thousand students each month. They need a big improvement in giving.
4. Please pray for the Australian edition of the paper as we look to grow and develop it this year. Pray for Andrew Trezona and his wife Karen and family who come into the work on 5 May to take on the development and promotion of the work here in Australia and New Zealand. We really want to see a lot of improvement in our distribution over the next year or so as Andrew takes on this important role.
5. Please pray for the needs that we have to provide for Andrew with a vehicle for transport as well as funding for a computer etc.
6. Please pray for the Lord's care and protection of the building and contents as we are in a spiritual warfare and I can assure you that the enemy is never happy when the gospel is going out.
7. Please pray also for the Challenge team and their families as they continue to work together in getting out all the different editions of the paper in the different parts of the world.
8. Please pray for all our partner organisations around the world as they are a key part of what helps to get the paper distributed and do the follow-up for the various commitments that are made.
9. Please pray for a much needed increase in funding for South and central Africa and South America. We need to meet a budget of \$120,000 to cover our present needs.



Special Request: We are still collecting books to send to African Pastors. If you have any good quality books on Christian Living, Commentaries, Biographies, etc, that you are no longer using, please contact us here at Challenge.



*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 to Challenge for a testimony outline sheet.*

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