

DEVOTIONAL

Luke 12:36-37 *"And you yourselves be like men who wait for their lord, whenever he will return from the wedding, so that when he comes and knocks, they may ready for him immediately. Blessed are those servants whom the Lord will find watching when He comes. Truly I say to you that he will dress himself to serve and make them recline; and will come and serve them."*

Jesus' words tell us so much of His delight in blessing 'the watching ones', but many people today are sadly unaware of the great importance of being alert to Christ's return.

Blessed – Where God is referred to, this word has the sense of "praise", but where man is in mind it is used in the sense of "happy" or "favoured". It is to be Supremely blest; or, by extension, fortunate or well off.

Who are blessed of the Lord? It is the servants of the Lord.

Servants – A very common word with a variety of meanings, all imply a greater or lesser degree of inferiority to the master and freedoms. The most frequent meaning is the equivalent of "slave", but it can also mean an attendant or "hired servant" in the service of someone, or one who is distinguished as obedient and faithful to God or Christ.

Why is it that the servant is being blessed by the Lord? It is because he has been found faithfully watching and obedient.

The key is readiness

Watching – to keep awake, be vigilant, and be watchful.

Waiting – does that mean sitting and doing nothing? Certainly not – it is waiting patiently – as when your wife is having a baby you wait expectantly, looking forward to hearing the news and seeing mother and child.

What is it that we are watching for? Christ's return. Should not the immanency of this encourage us to work even more diligently and fervently in sharing the good news of Jesus Christ while there is still time? Will He find us in His service being faithful to the call He has placed on our lives – loving the lost and longing for their salvation, being Christ to the poor, the down trodden, the hungry, the widow and orphan? And why is it that we do these things? Is it for our benefit, for our prestige, or that the Father may be glorified through Jesus Christ as He works in us? Have I invested my life wisely for His eternal purposes or have I wasted it seeking temporal satisfaction?

Is He my joy and delight, do I long to see Him and to be in His presence forever? Faithfully abiding in Christ and desiring to continually improve my relationship with Him as I learn to strive less and abide more in Him, loving the Lord with all my heart, soul, mind and strength.

Will we be found watching at Christ's return?

The key to it all is readiness for Christ's return whenever that may be.

Challenge Bank Account direct deposit details

BSB: 066162 / Account: 00900455

AROUND THE WORLD

WITH CHALLENGE



Honduras – A team distributing the *American Hispanic Challenge Paper* on the streets of a predominantly Roman Catholic village were blessed with 177 new converts and 100 recommitments. A new church has subsequently been planted there.

South Argentina – a team visited 460 homes door to door distributing *El Desafio (Challenge)* received a huge response. 110 people made first time commitments to Jesus Christ and are presently being disciplined.

USA – The results there regarding the use of the paper locally and with use on mission trips has been nothing short of amazing. To see the way the Lord has blessed



the paper and the passion these people have for sharing the good news of the gospel is a real blessing to us. Approximately 125 American churches have used the paper.

India – The response to the first edition of the *Destiny (Challenge)* paper has exceeded our expectations. Have received lots of new orders for the next edition of the paper and need to double the next print run.

New Zealand – Ran with the Easter edition and have been greatly encouraged by the response that they have received to the quality and content of the paper. It is hoped that they will run with another 5 editions for the remainder of the year.

South and Central America - Christian workers in these regions are desperate for the *El Desafio* paper in Spanish and Portuguese, which we hope to provide later this year, once God provides the finances.

Fiji - Several hundred papers are sent there every month. In light of recent unrest please pray about the effectiveness of the paper.

Australia – We have received wonderful feedback from our 2009 editions – both an improvement in the quality of the content and its effectiveness for evangelism.

Stuart Bonnington, pastor of Fremantle Presbyterian church, told us: "Handing out 400 April edition papers in three hours at a local shopping centre was easier than we have ever experienced".



If you would like to join the next Impact Africa trip for 2009 please contact the office:

Challenge Literature Fellowship
59B Kelvin Road, Wattle Grove 6107
Phone: (08) 9453 3311 • Fax: (08) 9453 3006
Email: info@challengenews.org

POINTS TO PONDER

PRAYER AND PRAISE POINTS

- The India *"Destiny"* edition with an initial print run of 50,000 English language papers has been extremely well received. The printing was delayed by a week, due to various printer issues. Please pray with us that any niggles will be ironed out and the distribution by local churches will be greatly effective.



- Please also continue to pray for finances and God-appointed sponsors to meet the ongoing staff and printing cost of the Destiny paper. The currently monthly cost of \$3000 will rise dramatically as we print twice as many papers next edition. We hope to print Tamil and Hindi languages in future also.

- Carl and Graeme have just finished their trip to USA, UK and Ireland. They have been able to meet a number of potential partners. Sometimes it was just a mutual need for expertise and experience in evangelical literature, while other meetings were strategic, building relationships and partnerships.



- Carl spoke at many churches throughout USA, please pray for all those who were encouraged and challenged. After previous trips some have written to share their testimony as a result of hearing Carl. Please pray that all of these meetings will help to bear fruit of new orders and more people hearing the gospel. God knows how He wants the ministry to grow.

- Please continue to pray for our staff needs here: With Carl away so much, Darryl would appreciate someone to work with who has had experience – either a managing editor or fellow assistant editor. We also need



a desktop/layout person. We have had a few enquiries and interviews, but no-one seems to fill the role yet. We are very grateful for Di Chapman, who has begun to take on the momentous tasks of illustrating and designing the children's pages. In future, we may increase them to 4 pages, and print overruns of just those pages for children around the world.

- Please pray specifically for:
 - (1) The paper distribution globally
 - (2) The people faithfully distributing the paper
 - (3) The people who are receiving the paper that their hearts are prepared to receive the good news of the gospel.
 - (4) The workers who follow up these people and that they are ready and equipped to receive new converts
 - (5) That we all work expecting the Lord to bless and add to those being saved
 - (6) That countries that use the paper, where practicable, will eventually be financially self-sufficient.
- Finances are always an ongoing issue and we have the opportunity to extend the Kingdom work into many more nations as the Lord has opened many new doors. As always it seems that the funding is our single greatest hurdle at present.
- One final thing, we have a few thousand extra papers left over from the Easter edition, please pray these will all be used! These papers are not too Easter themed that they can't still be used after April.



MY RESPONSE

Post to: Challenge Literature Fellowship, PO Box 978, Cloverdale WA 6985 or Fax to **(08) 9453 3006**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Post Code: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

with God's help I would like to be a partner in supporting the ministry at Challenge in the following way(s):

Prayer: Please send me updated prayer information

Financial: Please receive my: Monthly Quarterly Yearly One time contribution of:

\$50 \$75 \$100 \$200 Other: \$ _____

Credit Card: Visa Mastercard

Credit Card #: _____ - _____ - _____ - _____

Name on card: _____

Signature: _____

Expiry Date
[]/[]