

DEVOTIONAL

Isaiah 55:5 *“Behold, You shall call a nation that You do not know; a nation that did not know You shall run to You because of The Lord Your God, and for the Holy One of Israel; for He has glorified You.”*

The promise is that the Gentile nations shall be called out of their ignorance and from their former idol worship and pagan ways into a personal knowledge of the Holy One.

It is the Lord who calls them, it is He who seeks them and calls them by name: *“You shall call a nation that You do not know”*. It is not that God did not know them, but that this nation was not formerly called *“Your nation”*, and that You did not send Your prophets to them, as You did to the nation of Israel. The Gentiles shall now be shown and see The Lord as they never did before. Jesus has called all believers to proclaim the good news of the gospel to all peoples and all nations in the same way that the prophets were sent to the nation of Israel. They Gentiles will be shown God and His unmerited favour, His grace, given to them through Jesus Christ.

They shall respond to The Lord and come at His call: Nations *“that did not know You shall run to You”*; They previously did not know God but now they will know Him. Their knowing God is actually their being known and chosen by God. Those that had pursued other gods and been far from The Lord shall be called by Him and those that had been running from him shall now run to him.

Why will the Gentiles run? It is because of the Holy One of Israel; Jesus said in, John 12:32 *“And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all men to Myself.”* As the prodigal son ran to the father that he knew, so too will the peoples from every nation run to their Heavenly Father. They will now understand the mystery of the gospel that was previously hidden but has now been revealed to us. The Gentile nations will understand who God is, His character and nature. They will desire to know Him as He knows us.

Their eyes will be opened and they will now see that The Lord is Holy and that He calls us to be holy. Those people and nations will understand who Jesus Christ is, and when they understand that He is the only Mediator between God and Man, they will surely run to Him.

John 17:3 *“And this is life eternal, that they might know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. (Continuing vs. 6) I have revealed Your name to the men whom You gave to Me out of the world. They were Yours, and You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word.”*

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IMPACT AFRICA TRIP

A BRIEF OVERVIEW

PRISONS: In 2003 World Hope Ministries was working in approx 10 prisons in South Africa. Since commencing the use of the paper they have been able to gain access and work in all 252 prisons and have had response slips returned from 185 of those prisons. Once a prisoner returns the Response Slip they commence a discipleship course, currently there are 25,000 prisoners being disciplined. At the present time our bi-monthly print run is 70,000 papers. We have had a request for an additional 50,000 papers and for more Bibles as the demand far exceeds our ability to supply. We had approx 270 responses over the four days the Impact Africa team worked in the prisons.



Prisoners with the Challenge prison edition and a hardcover Bible

RAILWAY STATION: We distributed 16,000 papers in just under 3 hours and also had a great opportunity for some one on one discussion. The JW's have a very large presence, and people are taking their material because it is often the only "christian" material available. There is also a huge problem with the "health/wealth gospel". The other issue is syncretism which is a blending of the gospel with traditional beliefs. There are many who claim to be Christian but who have no real understanding of the gospel, who Jesus is and how we have/get a right relationship with God.

MUSINA: Is a small town on the border of Zimbabwe. We went and did several days work there in prison, hospital, street work and with the approx. 3000 truck drivers waiting to cross the border. Again we saw the same issues, there are so many who know about Jesus but do not know Him personally and have a confused understanding of the gospel. The opportunities again are amazing and the paper has had a great impact but they also desperately need people who can accurately teach/explain the gospel. After reading the paper and hearing the gospel message, approx. 30 people responded. Again these will be followed up and disciplined by the local churches.

STREET MINISTRY: It was amazing to see the acceptance of the paper everywhere that we went, including the Muslim areas. We distributed the papers one day and the following day Pastor Willy Dengler from the Mayfair Baptist Church received a phone call from a Muslim man. He met Willy at the church and gave his life to Christ. He knew the cost, now he has no family or job, and has to move to another town for fear of his life. The next Sunday

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they had 16 new people at church and had 6 people come forward to give their lives to Christ. It was truly an amazing time of ministry.

V.B.S. KIDS CLUB: Again an amazing opportunity to minister not only to the kids but also to the parents. Each day we averaged about 250 children in the two locations where we ran a VBS: Pennyville squatter camp and Mayfair Baptist Church. The kids also took a paper home with them and one Indian boy who gave his heart to the Lord took the paper home and shared with his parents. On the following Sunday he brought his parents to church and it turns out they were back-slidden Christians. They have now recommitted their lives to Christ and will be followed up and disciplined. At Pennyville squatters camp, whilst the kids club was on, we distributed approx 3000 papers to the parents and also had some good one on one opportunities to share the gospel. The initial work at Pennyville was with a view to doing a church plant and the work at Mayfair was for outreach. From the VBS at Mayfair 20 kids responded, and from the youth Chill zone approx 20 kids responded.



Gathering at a Gospel Outreach church service

GOSPEL OUTREACH, CENTRAL JOHANNESBURG: We distributed the paper throughout the high rise flats and had great opportunity to share one on one with many different people. Again the people are so open to the gospel and many responded and also many came to the midweek church service. Carl preached and 37 people came forward to commit their lives, these people will start a discipleship course and once again upon completion of the first book will be given a bible. This church works on volunteers doing the outreach, the food ministry, the clothing and running the church. We hopefully have a church here in Perth that will sponsor the paper and possibly some bibles for them to continue this great work. We had 49 responses in two days from the church plus approx 15-20 from the flats.

There are many more stories of the work in South Africa but space does not allow us to tell you all that happened.

KENYA: We work in Kenya with Peace Makers Fellowship headed up by Paul Dondoh.

In 2002 P.M.F. had one church of approx 10-15 people and Paul said that they were really struggling. In 2005 they started using the Challenge paper which is now sponsored by CNEC Partners International and they have used the paper to start 18 churches. From one of these churches the pastor has now 15 different places

that he preaches. PMF have also started a nursery school using the paper for the kids and also the parents. The issues in Kenya are the same as South Africa, one is, that everyone thinks that they are a Christian but again have no real understanding of the gospel. Even some of the pastors have a limited understanding due to a lack of resources. They have an earnest desire to learn and to teach but have



PMF church gathering in the Rhonda township

not always been taught well themselves. In one new settlement area (Rhonda) that has formed since the tribal violence last year there are now approx 100,000 squatters and PMF have just planted a new church. They are using the paper to reach the community and have no teaching or training material and only a few bibles. It is amazing to see the way that the Lord has blessed the paper in many of these countries and the many commitments that are coming in as a result.



Paul Dondoh (left) with PMF pastors

We also met the headmaster of a private Christian school in South Africa who had received an invitation to visit Liberia to see the education system. He was shocked to see that they have nothing and wants to use the Challenge paper as a teaching tool in the schools. Initially he will take 1,500 papers with him but he indicated if he can raise the finance they will look at a minimum of 50,000 papers. Again the Lord is opening another country to Challenge and presenting great opportunities.

- **Thank you for all your support as you partner with us.**
- **Please continue to pray for the Challenge Team and for all the Ministry work going on.**



MY RESPONSE

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

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

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