

## DEVOTION

**“Do not weep for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children.” Luke 23:27 – 28.**

Jesus had just experienced the most inhumane treatment that left Him unrecognisable (He was “marred more than any man”, **Isaiah 52:14**). At this time, instead of feeling sorry for Himself, He turns to those who were weeping over His treatment and says “do not weep for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children.”

**Firstly**, Jesus was speaking to many who wept for His natural suffering, not perceiving the spiritual victory that would result. Their sorrow was *worldly*. Jesus’ suffering on the cross was our *deliverance* from the righteous judgement of God, and the purchase of eternal life for us. In John 16:20, Jesus said to His disciples, “your sorrow shall be turned into joy” because He would appear to them in bodily form, and they were later empowered with the Holy Spirit. We share in that joy today!

**Secondly**, Jesus was speaking to the daughters of Zion, an often used symbol for the Jewish nation, that they should weep for themselves because they had not believed in Him as King and Saviour and will thus suffer God’s judgement.

We must declare to every soul that Jesus will return again as the appointed Judge of this world (Acts 17:31). Jesus says that when this world is judged those still alive will “call to hills and mountains” to shelter them from God’s wrath, yet stubbornly they will not cry out to Jesus Christ for refuge. In the end, all who reject Christ will be cast into the Lake of Fire (Revelation 20:15).

**Thirdly**, and more personally, let us weep for our own sins, and the sins of our children, that were the cause of His death. Let us weep for fear (such were the tears here prescribed) of the miseries we shall bring upon ourselves, if we slight His love, and reject His grace, as the Jewish nation did, which brought upon them the ruin Jesus foretold.

The great cost Jesus paid for our sin should challenge us about the lack of intimacy many Christians have with the Lord, including our prayer life and private devotional time. The growing mediocrity with which so many professing Christians live their daily lives is alarming to say the least, choosing to run with their own will, instead of submitting to God’s perfect will.

Let us rejoice in the Lord this Easter, remembering His provision for us and the price that was paid for us to enjoy the Lord for all eternity, and honour Him by surrendering ourselves to Him.



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PLEASE TURN OVER

# POINTS TO PONDER

## ■ PRAYER

**Argentina.** Will and Ale Herndon: Pray for the future direction of this couple with Challenge and the possibility of a greater role with us.

**World Cup edition.** With a demand for 1 million copies, costing thousands of dollars we are challenged to step out in faith to meet this request as we trust the Lord to provide for this strategic opportunity in South Africa and South America.

**John Palandri.** Pray for John, his wife Jenny and their family, as John commences his role as Impact Mission Teams Director. This role will also include a variety of work within Challenge.

**South Africa.** Please pray for *Multi Ministries* and its director Harold Peasley as they face some very difficult challenges financially. As our partner organisation they are critical to the success of the paper both in the general community and into prisons. Also pray for their staffing needs as we are looking for the right younger staff to take on the mantle of leadership at the appropriate time.

Pray for the Challenge Representative *Cobus Britz* who has just come on board with the work in February. Pray for him as he endeavours to raise personal support and for opportunities for him to promote the paper into churches as well as for preaching opportunities.

**India.** We have just done another print run of 100,000 papers which have been well received. Pray for real results for the distribution of these papers. Please pray for the right printer as the one we are using is a sheet fed press which is much slower and work intensive than a high speed web press. Pray for our partner organisation *Asia Evangelistic Fellowship* as they, like us, struggle to raise the funds necessary to not only sustain this project but to grow it. Pray for the first Hindi language edition, and for the right testimonies to come in that we can use in India.

**Testimonies.** Please consider contributing your testimony for the Australian edition, as your testimony may also be used in international editions. You have a testimony that may speak into the lives of many.

Pray for our Easter edition as it goes out and that God will use it to speak to many about their eternal destiny. We have printed almost 65,000 papers for Australia, which is a lot of seed and we are trusting God for a rich harvest in due course.

## ■ PRAISE

A response to the **Indian** edition of the paper.

*I on behalf of Dwarka Community Church would like to thank you and the "Destiny" team for sending us the magazine. We put 3000 copies in the English News paper at Dwarka. We haven't got any immediate response but we believe that we have sowed into good soil. And the Spirit of God is working in the hearts of the people. We are glad to be part of this endeavour. Many of our church members have given good feedback.... Once again, thank you "Destiny" team for your excellent job and the sacrifices you have made for spreading the gospel. May God provide all your needs and may He bring people of high calibre who are sold out for God.* – Khaning, Pastor Dwarka Community Church

Praise the Lord for a steady flow of encouraging gifts that we have received for the work in various parts of the world.

Praise the Lord for the opportunities that Andrew and Carl had to promote the Challenge paper in Sydney late February into March.

Praise the Lord for all our faithful volunteers and writers who give generously of their time and skills to spread the gospel.

Praise the Lord for all our partner organisations who wonderfully assist us to get out the good news.



## 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 \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Name on card: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make all cheques payable to **Challenge Literature Fellowship**