

## Devotion

“There are times when solitude is better than society, and silence is wiser than speech. We should be better Christians if we were more alone, waiting upon God, and gathering through meditation on His Word spiritual strength for labour in his service. We ought to muse upon the things of God, because we thus get the real nutriment out of them.

.... Why is it that some Christians, although they hear many sermons, make but slow advances in the divine life? Because they neglect their closets, and do not thoughtfully meditate on God’s Word. They love the wheat, but they do not grind it; they would have the corn, but they will not go forth into the fields to gather it; the fruit hangs upon the tree, but they will not pluck it; the water flows at their feet, but they will not stoop to drink it. From such folly deliver us, O Lord. . . .”

— Charles H. Spurgeon

## COUNTRY IN FOCUS

**AUSTRALIA** – In the 2006 census, 64 per cent of Australians listed themselves as “Christian”, including 26 per cent as Roman Catholic and 19 per cent as Anglican. About 19 per cent of the population cited “No religion” which includes humanism, atheism, agnosticism and rationalism, which was the fastest-growing group from 2001 to 2006, and a further 12 per cent did not answer the question. Weekly attendance at church services (all denominations) in 2004 was about 7.5 per cent of the population.

Further to this an international survey, made by the private, not-for profit German think-tank, The Bertelsmann Foundation, found that “Australia is one of the least religious nations in the western world” and that “Nearly three out of four Australians say they are either not at all religious or that religion does not play a central role in their lives.”

It is interesting to put these two observations together and note that whilst people have some acknowledgement of religion it seems to be based on the fact that they live in a “Christian” country rather than a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

We should be greatly encouraged that this presents a great platform for us to present the gospel as the census shows that people do have a concept of God, just not the right one.

At Challenge we are endeavouring to encourage churches and individuals to see how they can be involved in local ministry and to see how the Challenge paper can be an integral part of any outreach. The Challenge stands located in shopping centres continue to be a great way of getting the gospel out. The response to the paper continues to amaze us for while many have declared the day of the printed page finished, yet the take up rate of the paper is increasing.

Challenge Direct Deposit details :

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Account: 00900455

[WWW.CHALLENGENEWS.ORG](http://WWW.CHALLENGENEWS.ORG)

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Contact us by phone (08) 9453 3311 or fax (08) 9453 3006  
Email: [info@challengenews.org](mailto:info@challengenews.org)

## PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for our Nation, for our National and State leaders, for Pastors and chaplains, for individuals and groups who are actively communicating the gospel message.
- Local Churches to catch the vision for their local community and how they will share the Gospel with them.
- First edition for Uganda for the printing and distribution of the paper and for the follow up of commitments made. For resources to disciple new believers.
- India – The ongoing partnership with AEFI, distribution of the paper, staff requirements and funding, the printing of the paper and print quality as the last edition has a problem.
- Staff in the Australian office, as well as an Editor/Journalist and a writer to replace Charissa, for ongoing personal support, and for the Challenge Board.
- Project support for the existing global work and for long term funding commitments, also for the many opportunities that we have to extent projects and requests to commence new ones.
- Challenge Papers - for suitable copy for each different edition, for local testimonies from each country.

## PRAISE POINTS

- Mission Trip – Willy Dengler (Director) World Hope Ministries South Africa has advised us that there are now more than 32,000 prisoners being disciplined in South Africa. We praise the Lord that He is raising up leaders in the Church behind bars and for their testimony to other prisoners.
- Finances – Again we praise the Lord for the way that He always provides in His time and in His way so that He alone gets the glory. Thank you to all who have partnered with us in this ministry financially and prayerfully.
- First edition for Uganda to be printed September, for the Financial support of Genesis Aid (Australia) to commence the work. Monies given to Genesis Aid for this project are tax deductible. Contact the Challenge office for more information.
- India – For the commitment we have in seed funding for three years to enable the work to be established further.
- Charissa Mitting is still with us and we rejoice in that. The position that she was to take up overseas has been delayed until the end of the year and so she is continuing to write for us until her departure.
- The South American soccer cup edition was a run-a-way success with 250,000 papers being distributed. We look forward to hearing the outcome of this endeavour.



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## MY RESPONSE

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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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):

Prayer: Please send me updated payer information

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

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

To be used for \_\_\_\_\_

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