

PRAYER LETTER OF CHALLENGE LITERATURE FELLOWSHIP

APRIL 2013

PRAISE

Praise the Lord for a successful trip to India in February. Carl and John spent much time with the staff looking at future vision and direction for the Divya Destiny (Challenge) paper

Praise the Lord for His help in enabling us to meet our monthly expenses

We are so thankful to the Lord for His ongoing protection, encouragement and care to the Challenge ministry and the families involved

Praise the Lord for the much needed two year visa extension for the Trezona family as the Challenge ministry continues to grow in the USA **Psalm 85** is one of those precious portions of scripture that puts into words, what I think so many Christians are feeling right now – a desire for biblical restoration, biblical revival.

The authors of this psalm picture for us the joy of God's restoration, and that we don't have to allow our lives to end up on a spiritual rubbish dump.

The Sons of Korah have a rather sad and unpleasant coverage in the book of Numbers. They, along with others, spoke out against Moses' leadership and wanted him replaced. God validated Moses' leadership and judged the Sons of Korah by a consuming earthquake.

From a human perspective we would be reluctant to use the Sons of Korah in any sort of ministry again. But with God the opposite was true. Eventually God raised them to even greater heights by allowing them to author scripture. It really goes to show that God's ways are definitely not our ways. His forgiveness is as far as the east is from the west. Once we confess our sin, God not only cleanses, but forgets.

The depth of this forgiveness is expressed beautifully in Micah 7:18-19, "Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He does not retain His anger forever, because He delights in mercy. He will again have compassion on us, and will subdue our iniquities. He will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea."

Why would God cast our sins into the depths of the sea? Two reasons; (i) the depths of the oceans are dark and thus the idea that God no longer sees our sin. (ii) When something is thrown into the depths of the ocean it is not washed up on the shore because it is beyond the effects of the currents and the waves. Thus our sin should not be washed up on the shore of our lives if it has been genuinely confessed. If it is, then Satan is endeavouring to bring us under bondage to guilt.

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

PRAYER

We value prayer for our production team as they work each month on putting together an exciting edition

Please pray for the different partnerships around the world that there would continue to be a oneness of vision and purpose

We would value prayer for a much needed replacement vehicle for the work as we do need reliable transport especially when visiting country areas for deputation work

We value your prayer as we submit our visa application for the Newell Family. The government requires so much information to be gathered and we pray the Lord will enable our application to pass through without further problems

Please pray for the continual flow of good testimonies for each different edition of the paper

Most commentators seem convinced that Psalm 85 was written after the return of the Jewish remnant to Jerusalem. The history of this return is found in the books of Ezra and Haggai. This remnant no doubt was keen to return to the days of God's blessing. However, when they came to Jerusalem it was not a pretty picture. The temple lay in ashes; the wall around the city was just a pile of burnt rubble. The rest of the city was a shambles.

Work was started on rebuilding the temple but didn't get any further than the foundations. The rebuilding of the wall was abandoned and left in the too hard basket. So the remnant concentrated on rebuilding their own homes, which the prophet Haggai took them to task over.

With all the opposition and disappointment the Sons of Korah penned Psalm 85

In verses 1-3 they want to see their desperate plight turned around. Have you ever been discouraged in your Christian walk? I know I have. Sometimes it can be a little difficult to emerge from it.

The Sons of Korah saw one way as to take time to look back. They began to look at how God had blessed Israel in the past, particularly with reference to how God had forgiven and cleansed them of sin. It is significant that they remembered that God deals first with the forgiveness of sin, and not the restoration of the land.

Remembering God's past blessing helps us to focus on the unchanging character and nature of God. Once we begin to get our focus on God our own situation doesn't seem as bad. Also if God blessed in a certain way in the past, then we can trust Him to bless again.

Signature:

- CARL CARMODY, EDITOR OF CHALLENGE

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