

PRAYER LETTER OF CHALLENGE LITERATURE FELLOWSHIP

DECEMBER 2013

PRAISE:

- We continue to thank the Lord for a number of new orders for the Christmas edition of the paper for Australia.
- Praise the Lord for Carl's recent trip to USA working with Andrew Trezona ... plenty of opportunities to share about the newspaper and how it can be used.
- As we approach the end of 2013 we want to acknowledge how thankful to the Lord we are for our amazing volunteers who give their time each week and month in various roles from office work to our monthly Challenge wrap. We so value their contribution and commitment to this ministry.
- We are so grateful to the Lord for a number of opportunities given throughout the year to go into new countries and to continue to grow the work of Challenge around the world.
- We want to constantly praise the Lord for His faithful provision for the Challenge ministry and for staff.

PRAYER:

Please pray with us regarding a new Editor for Challenge. Unfortunately the Newell family have indicated working from UK will be too difficult and have withdrawn their offer.

Christmas is here again although it feels like Christmas 2012 was only a few weeks ago. It is a time when families get together and presents are exchanged to express love for each other.



It is a time when we like

to put all our concerns behind us and enjoy a few days without pressure, without stress, without deadlines.

Christmas is a time when we look forward to the start of a New Year: a time to set new goals to achieve.

Christmas is also a time of excess. It is a time when we are hit with an avalanche of advertising, cajoling us to buy bigger and better, to buy extra and more expensive. It is a time when retailers hope to see record turnovers to help balance the ledger for the year.

Unfortunately the commercial pressure, Christmas tinsel, and the associated parties can mask the true reason for the season.

In Matthew's gospel chapter 1 verse 21 we are told why Jesus came in human form as a fragile baby: "And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sin."



Christmas is a celebration

of the most wonderful gift of all – the gift of God's only Son, so that we may be saved from our sins. We are celebrating a gift that has eternal consequences unlike the gifts we give to each other.

Continued over

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PRAYER CONTINUED

- Pray for new contacts made in the USA, that interest will translate into much needed orders and that as church leaderships consider paper it will be seen as a valuable tool.
- Pray for our partnerships around the world [USA, India, Malawi, South Africa World (including Hope Prison ministry), Zimbabwe, South Americal, Uganda, that God will continue to grow each ministry with new orders and also the gathering of testimonies for the paper.
- Please pray with us for every newspaper distributed over this Christmas period, that the paper will continue to be used of God in opening people's hearts and minds to Jesus and His claim on their lives.
- Please pray for the team as we take a couple of weeks off to refresh and regroup for 2014. We want to always be sensitive to the Lord's direction for every story and article placed in the Challenge newspaper.

I found on my desk recently a very sad statistic coming out of the USA which indicated that for the year 2013 (at 10 November) there have been 315 mass shootings (a mass shooting is when four or more people are shot in an event, or related series of events, likely without a cooling off period. e.g. 10 November 2013, three incidents: • 1 dead 3 injured, Phoenix, Arizona; • 4 dead 1 injured, Brooklyn, New York; • 1 dead 3 injured, Canton, Ohio).

For me personally this brings home the urgency of accepting the free gift of God's Son Jesus, by faith. It is a vital decision that determines where we will spend eternity. This commitment involves acknowledging that we are sinners, believing that Jesus was born, died on a cross to pay the penalty for our sin, and to deliver us from



the bondage of sin and death. Lastly we must commit ourselves by accepting Jesus Christ as our personal Lord and Saviour and to walk in obedience to Him.

This year when you give your gifts of love at Christmas, remember you are acknowledging and celebrating the greatest love gift of all – Jesus Christ.

CARL CARMODY, EDITOR OF CHALLENGE

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Post to: Challenge Literature Fellowship, PO Box 978, Cloverdale WA 69	985 or Fax to (08) 9453 3006				
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