

PRAISE

Praise the Lord for a number of gifts that have come into the work recently for specific overseas projects. This funding enables us to continue developing and growing the paper in the nominated countries.

Praise the Lord for a number of commitments sent in over the Christmas period. From the slips [page 11 of the newspaper] sent in, one came from a 14 year old and another from Papua New Guinea.

Praise the Lord for churches, groups and individuals who use *Challenge* month by month. It is encouraging to hear feedback from churches that have been blessed by the response to the distribution of the paper.

PRAYER

Please pray with us for the continued growth and development of the work overseas. We have various requests for the paper coming in from around the world but need the necessary funding to commence distribution.

When I read God's Word I see a God who is huge God who can hold the oceans of the world in the palm of His hand God who put all the stars and planets in their place in the cosmos, and keeps them there God in whom all things exist.

As we gain this awesome picture of God we could be drawn into thinking that meeting with such a God we would despair for our safety and security. However nothing could be further from the truth. As we consistently read the Word of God we find the size, power and authority difference doesn't cause us to be fearful as we understand fear, but to bow the head in humble worship. We stand in awe of God who demonstrates His amazing love by sending His Son to rescue us from the consequences of our sin. We stand before God acknowledging just who He is. For example we are humbled to realize that the Lord holds our existence in the palm of His hand (see Isaiah 49:16).

But how do we come to this conclusion regarding the Christian life. It comes primarily from our daily reading of the Word of God. When you read though **Psalm 119**, ten different words are used to address or describe the Word of God. These words relate to the nature or function of God's Word.

The opening eight verses capture what should be the normal Christian life. When we see God in His holiness, sinlessness, power and authority we stand in awe or fear of God. The fear of God comes from a growing love relationship and recognition of Almighty God. It is not a cringing frightened attitude, but one where we are overwhelmed by just who God is and what He has done to bring us back into a right relationship with Him. We are moved to revere and worship God.

Thus the opening verse in Psalm 119 exhorts the Christian to walk blamelessly, to obedience and to allow God to direct our ways. If we do not fear God we will not have the above desires. For us to have a growing fear of God involves the fundamental discipline of daily reading God's Word. This allows us to have a growing intimate love-relationship with Him.

Continued over

Challenge Direct Deposit details :

BSB: 066162 (Commbank)
Account: 00900455

WWW.CHALLENGENEWS.ORG

PLEASE TURN OVER

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

Please continue to pray for the Newell family as they prepare to come to Australia in February 2014. Prayer is needed as we work with the Immigration Department in relation to the family's visa application.

Pray for Challenge Board as they seek to invite a number of new Board members. Wisdom is needed as they explore new overseas projects and also the day to day running of the ministry. We would value your prayer for funding needed to replace one of our work vehicles, required especially when promoting in country areas.

Please pray for Carl and John as they head to India (February 11-19) to meet with staff to discuss the future development of the work there.

Please pray for this latest edition of *Challenge* as it goes out that each paper will be a valuable seed and bear fruit.

It is sad to realise that many Christians in the church in Australia do not read their Bibles. Thus for these the fear of God is all but non-existent, resulting in a liberal attitude to sin. We have Christians today who can steal from their workplace and not have a pang of conscience or conviction. We have Christians who think telling "white" lies is not a problem. We have Christians who think divorce is not a problem, to the extent that the divorce rate in the Christian church mirrors that of the rest of our society in Australia.

Why are we seeing these things happening in a church that is supposed to be holy, supposed to be sanctified? The answer is horrifyingly simple. Christians are just not walking with God, having imbibed the lifestyle and teaching of the world. What is even more tragic is that they are content with such demise.

Gone is the passion and desire to really count for God. This is reflected in church attendance. We have Christians who think attending church is an optional extra. Thus they go to church once a fortnight or once in three weeks or a month.

My prayer for 2013 is that Christians in Australia will have a renewed passion and desire to walk with God. This involves reading God's Word and prayer on a daily basis.

My concern is that Christians have become so busy; they believe that they don't have time to spend with God. If that is your situation then you are just too busy. You need to trust God that as you put Him first, He will wisely direct your steps and stops, and as a result you will achieve much more than you thought was possible. Matthew 6v33 "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."

- CARL CARMODY, EDITOR OF CHALLENGE



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: \$ _____

To be used for _____

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

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