

DEVOTION

Luke 10:2

“Then He said to them, the harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few. Therefore pray to the Lord of the harvest that He may send forth labourers into His harvest.”

The harvest is truly great: With the current world population now exceeding seven billion people, it is estimated that 2.24 billion people have never heard the gospel. There has never been a greater opportunity in history to be involved in the harvest.

Labourers few: The Lord is willing to send labourers into the harvest but the labourers are not willing to go, as less than 10% of born again Christians share their faith.

Therefore pray: Prayer is not in response to the harvest being truly great but the labourers being few. We are to pray that labourers will hear the Lord's call on their life and will respond faithfully going out into the harvest.

South Africa

We are again preparing for another Impact Africa short term mission trip. The team of 23 ranging in ages from 17-69 will be in Johannesburg from 4th to 24th July. Ministry will involve holiday club, prison work, door to door ministry, street evangelism, squatter camp visitation, hospital and newspaper distribution.

We took time recently to review the past ten years of ministry with Impact Africa and were overwhelmed at how God has changed so many lives: six going into full time mission; 14 in part time ministry including overseas work for up to two years, to weekly committing to street evangelism, or working for us at Challenge office. We have 31 who have married, 17 babies have been born and two have gone to be with the Lord, what a journey!

A few comments received from last year's team are as follows:

“I am always encouraged by the way the Challenge newspaper can be used as a great tool of evangelism. It was fantastic to openly share the gospel with people on the streets of Joburg, in the prisons, hospital and train station but to also be able to direct them to the newspaper for more answers. Even just to leave a paper in their hands was enough for me, knowing God would take care of the rest. The value of the paper in South Africa was really highlighted on the trip, making me more eager to support its work over here.” (Caitlin)

“The highlight of the trip for me was sharing the gospel in prisons and tenements and subsequently leading some people to Christ. Since coming back I have a more sharpened focus on evangelism and know that I need to lay this before God in prayer and ask Him to lead me. I must do what I see and feel He wants me to do and to overcome the barrier, which is me!” (Gemmel)



Continued over

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“God taught me a lot about myself, he showed me how blessed I am and also how important it is to actually tell people the gospel. I loved going into prisons and seeing how open everyone was to hearing the gospel...the singing was also incredible. I loved how people who had next to nothing could worship with such fullness of heart, when some people who have everything don't even show their thanks through worship.” (Jessica)

“I really enjoyed going into prisons in South Africa, where I got to share my testimony to a whole bunch of prisoners who were eager to hear what I had to say. When I was talking with the Christian men in there it felt like I was talking to family. I sat and talked to a man who had been a rapist and when he spoke of how he came to Christ I was greatly encouraged. During the whole trip I really felt the power of prayer in keeping me safe and helping me to overcome my fear of sharing the gospel with people, especially the prisoners. I didn't realise how much I had changed until I came home and felt a strong urge to tell my unsaved friends about Jesus. It really was a life-changing trip for me.” (Christina)

“This trip has refreshed my heart for both God and reaching the lost. My view of God is considerably larger. I always knew He was great, but I now truly know that He is everywhere, that He is always at work, and that He hears all our prayers. The need to reach the lost once again holds a real significance in my life; and I do not think there has been a time when I've been so aware of the Holy Spirit's work in me.” (Mark)

Our motto this year is to 'worry about nothing and pray about everything'. We would greatly value your prayer as we step out of our comfort zone and allow the Lord to grow us in our walk with Him.

PRAYER

- Pray for physical, mental and spiritual health for the team
- Pray for safety particularly for the teams travelling to and from ministry areas each day
- Pray for team unity and a oneness of mind as the enemy does not want this work to flourish
- Pray for open doors and opportunities for share the gospel with people
- Pray for the paper distribution that God will use each seed to draw people to Himself
- Pray for the prison ministry that we will have daily access to prisoners
- Pray for VBS ministry to children that they will understand the message of salvation and respond



MY RESPONSE

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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):

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