

PRAISE the Lord for :

- **Thirty-three people have committed to the July Impact Africa trip**
- **For the people who have committed their life to Christ through the testimonies in the paper**
- **A letter received recently from Trevor Vosloo who heads up Gospel Outreach in Johannesburg. It read....."On the streets we gave out the Challenge paper but could not keep up with demand for the paper. People came from the other side of the road to get one. It was truly exciting to see them reading the paper as they walked back down the road"**
- **Confirmation from Andrew Trezona that the paper has been given the tick of approval to go into every prison in the state of Florida. This adds to what we are also doing in prisons in Texas, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio and Alabama. In the last 6 months 116 responses have been received from this edition**
- **India – During their recent visit to India, Carl and John were able to hand over the 'reigns of ministry' to the Indian staff, formally ending our five year partnership. Divya Destiny will now continue as a uniquely Indian ministry**

I can't help but come to the conclusion that we live in a world beset by fear, stress, anxiety, worry and at times despair.

For the non-Christian many things are used to avoid these conditions. One technique is meditation: get yourself in the right frame of mind, play the right music or chant something. However, time and experience reveal that these things simply do not have a lasting effect.

For the Christian, God gives us a clear directive in Philippians 4:4-9 on how to avoid worry and anxiety:

1 Paul declares that we are to **rejoice** in the Lord! How often should we do that? Always says Paul. In fact rejoicing is such an important element of Christian living that Paul repeats the refrain to rejoice.

2 So when difficulties come along we are not to be anxious. From my own personal experience that is not easy to do. A loved one is seriously ill, or there is a problem with paying bills, or you have been made redundant, which seems to be far too common these days. How is it possible to keep rejoicing in the Lord and not become anxious? My Bible has a marginal reference to v 5 which says in the last sentence: "The Lord is at hand." Basic to not becoming anxious or stressed is that the Lord is at hand, the Lord knows your situation and is in control. The marginal reference to this statement is James 5:7-9. The key point it makes is that we must be **patient** in times of trial and difficulties.

3 In times of difficulty and struggle we need to **pray**. In fact Paul says; "... in everything..." So we need to realise prayer should be our first response. Over the years I have met people in the middle of a crisis who have abandoned their walk with God altogether, or have stopped praying and reading their Bible.

Continued over

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Email: info@challengenews.org

PRAYER needed for :

- **Upcoming trip for Impact Africa. With a large team logistically it is a lot harder. We appreciate prayer as we begin to put programs and people into ministry areas. As usual we look forward to witness what God has in store for each team member**
- **Don & Lillian Kennedy as they continue to promote and develop the newspaper particularly in Queensland. We continue to see a steady flow of new orders from their ministry**
- **The appointment of new Board members. If you feel you would like to be involved please email Carl at carl@challengenews.org This is an important part of our ministry as we look to the continued growth of Challenge both locally and throughout the world**

Paul indicates that we should become even more fervent in our prayer. The word supplicate means to pray for specific benefits (not generalities).

4 Our prayer should contain **thanksgiving**. It is not the thanksgiving that says, thank you I've broken my leg, but rather a thanksgiving that in the situation God is working out his perfect will and purpose in your life; and others as well. We forget what impact we can have on non-Christians in the way we travel through a crisis with the Lord. Paul encourages us again in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-17 "Pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

5 What is the result of taking this approach in times of crisis? Our lives are characterised by the **peace** of God. Peace here indicates a divine deliverance and freedom from all that distresses. It is a peace that is beyond human comprehension, human explanation; it is a peace that can only come from God. This peace then, guards our hearts and minds from worry, stress, anxiety which so often comes from an attitude of unbelief.

The prayer of the Challenge team for all of you who use the paper, who pray for our ministry, who support us financially is that you may know the peace of God which surpasses all human understanding, in a new and fresh way each day.

CARL CARMODY, EDITOR OF CHALLENGE

Ongoing supply of testimonies

If you would like to share your testimony through the printed page please email carl@challengenews.org for further information

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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