

## PRAISE the Lord for :

- **The privilege of serving Him in reaching thousands of people both here in Australia and around the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ each month**
- **Provision of funding to produce another edition of Challenge for South Africa**
- **Continued speaking opportunities for Carl and other staff, to promote and develop Challenge**
- **The positive feedback we get from churches and individuals as they use the paper for evangelism**

## PRAYER needed for :

- **Our Impact Africa mission trip July 3-23. There are a few ministry opportunity changes this year so value prayer for things to run smoothly**
- **Impact Africa team as we prepare for orientation weekend in June. It is important we connect well as a team particularly being a large team of 33**

The book of Isaiah covers the time of Israel's exile, and presents for us the unfailing love of God for Israel and for Christians today.

In Isaiah 41, Israel expresses concerns for her future as a nation. Further on in chapters 49 and 50 they cry out to God in the belief that He had forgotten them in their exile.

There are many Christians going through incredibly difficult times, and I am sure, have been tempted to think God is not aware of their particular circumstances, or worse still, has forgotten them. Often one of Satan's most effective tools is one of causing a wrong perception of being isolated; the idea that no one cares or no one is interested in my problems, are fired like flaming arrows into our minds.

However, God has an answer for every Christian, particularly when things are difficult spiritually, emotionally and physically. Isaiah 41:10 has been a verse that has brought such comfort to my own heart and soul. Many times I have prayed this promise back to God because God is faithful. **"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand"**.

For some of you who are reading this prayer letter you need to know that, regardless of your circumstances, God says; **"Fear not..."** God can say that because of who He is. Just think that Almighty God who said this has not only created this universe but sustains it. Colossians 1:17 says this: "And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist".

If God does this amazing thing day after day it puts whatever our struggles are into a right context. Just for interest, the Bible has 366 "fear nots"; one for every day of the year and one extra for a leap year. So we should not fear. Why? Because God says; **"...I am with you"**. He never allows Satan to paint you into a corner of perceived isolation ... that is a lie.

*Continued over*

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Contact us by phone (08) 9453 3311 or fax (08) 9453 3006

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## PRAYER CONTINUED

- **Latest edition of Challenge that every paper will be a vital seed speaking to Australian hearts**
- **A replacement Editor for Carl Carmody. This will allow Carl to concentrate on promotion and development of the ministry**
- **The commencement of paper going into all prisons around Australia. Funding is critical to this project working with Prison Fellowship**
- **Please pray for Bob (production manager) and Julia Walker as they travel through a difficult time with their daughter's health. Tessa (in her mid-20s) was diagnosed with stage 4 bowel cancer which came as a shock to family and the Challenge team. Please pray for Tessa and her husband Nathan as they go through this journey and for the Lord's complete healing on Tessa and as she goes through the necessary treatment.**

Fear not because if we allow fear to take root it cuts the nerve of faith and we become "dismayed" or anxious. Notice how God personalises His love for us; **"...for I am your God"**. He develops this in verse 13; **"For I, the Lord your God, will hold your right hand, saying to you, fear not I will help you!"**

The picture of taking or holding our right hand infers that God will lead us through our battles, struggles and difficulties. One of the things I have discovered in my walk with God is that He rarely delivers us out of our struggles; instead He leads us through them. The main reason for this is that God wants to teach us to depend upon Him more and more.

What is the result of this in our walk with Him? In verses 17-20 God declares; **"I will hear them, I will not forsake them, I will open rivers in desolate places, I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water, I will plant in the wilderness, I will set in the desert."**

As you cry out to God, in genuineness of heart, He hears you. As you come to Him, He will turn your desolation, your spiritual deserts into springs of living water which will cleanse, renew and revive you in your walk with the King of Kings.

"Fear not, for I am with you" says the Lord. Friends, God wants you to look to Him, trust in Him, have confidence in Him, follow Him, and He will restore you and keep you from an anxious heart.

CARL CARMODY, EDITOR OF CHALLENGE

## 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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FINANCIAL: PLEASE RECEIVE MY:

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