

PRAISE the Lord for:

- ★ Responses – Again we see many coming into the Kingdom through the paper and at the end of the day, this is why we are here
- ★ An amazing response while in South Africa with Impact Africa mission. Final figures reported are 900 prisoners beginning discipleship courses, and 108 children asking Jesus into their lives
- ★ The ministries around Australia who continue to use the Challenge paper. We received a letter from a couple working in the port of Melbourne with ECM. They say the paper is accepted well by sailors from around the world, asking for the paper to be sent to their home addresses
- ★ Partnerships – Thank you for partnering with us both prayerfully and financially

Recently I was asked what I saw as the single biggest obstacle to evangelism. I responded by indicating a one-word answer – relationship. There is no doubt in my mind that the quality of our relationship with God will be reflected in our desire for, and quality of our evangelism.

I have talked often about our need to read and study God's Word; in our desire to know God better. A companion to this is our prayer life ... it is important to acknowledge our need of prayer both corporately and individually.

The trend, it seems to me, is a move away from corporate prayer during the week and indeed during church services. Also combined with that is the tragic situation that so few Christians spend time in prayer on a daily basis. As I read through the scriptures and in particular the Psalms, prayer is and should be, an integral part of a vibrant relationship with the Lord Jesus.

Psalms 145 is the last of David's Psalms and the last of his writings in the Old Testament. It is significant that it is a PSALM OF PRAISE, which I think, gives us a great model for beginning our church and individual prayer times.

DAVID FOCUSES ON 4 AREAS :

1 We praise God for His greatness v1-6. David declares that his praise would be a daily occurrence not an occasional, spasmodic or hotchpotch affair. David expressed his determination to praise God for His greatness forever. He also acknowledges that praising God can only be done with a finite human comprehension. That is why David says in v3 that God's greatness is unsearchable – it is beyond human understanding. This expression brings us to that passage in Philippians chapter 4:6-7 *"Be anxious for nothing but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus"*. The phrase 'surpasses all understanding' can be expressed as being beyond human comprehension; and the peace of God is a wonderful aspect of the greatness of God. Further to this our praise needs to incorporate the greatness of God in His wonderful works and acts. For example His work in bringing about your salvation. Another area of God's greatness is the area of His wonderful and amazing creation.

Continued over

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PRAYER needed for:

- ★ Upcoming promotion and development trip for Carl travelling to New South Wales and Queensland for September/October.
- ★ The commencement of paper distribution into Australian prisons through Prison Fellowship. Finances continue to be a hurdle
- ★ The continued growth of paper here in Australia as we have had a number of cancellations recently
- ★ Finances – This is a recurring theme at the moment as we look to honour our current commitments. We value prayer for the Lord's provision for our various projects as well as staff support
- ★ The Walker Family in Perth. Please continue to pray for Tessa's healing in her battle with cancer

2 We praise God for His goodness v7-10. The idea is that we overflow and bubble forth with praise to God for His great or abundant goodness. We praise God for His goodness to us in forgiving our sin. This is a constant theme in the psalms. For example Psalm 103:10 says *"He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor punished us according to our iniquities"*. I have been so grateful over many years for God's compassion and mercy (loving-kindness). How many times have we come before God with the same sin seeking His mercy and forgiveness and He has given it? We can praise God for His goodness which is universal. The scripture clearly indicates that God is good to those who have rejected Him.

3 We praise God for His divine government v11-13. We can praise Him for His government is powerful and eternal. We can look at this in the light of the nation of Israel, the church and heaven our eternal destiny.

4 We can praise God for His grace v14-20. We can once again recognise that God is gracious to all who fall into sin. He is also wonderfully gracious to those who are weighed down by trials, struggles and conflict. God can be praised for meeting our practical needs such as food, clothing, shelter and so on. The psalmist praises the Lord for satisfying the desire of every living thing. God is gracious to those who pray and those who fear Him, to those who have a wholesome dread of hurting and offending God with sin. Finally we can praise God because He is gracious to those who love Him.

Once we start to think through what we can praise God for, it is thoroughly amazing how much there is to praise Him for. True spiritual prayer begins with genuine praise.

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: _____

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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):

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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