

a year like no other

I think it fair to say that Covid 19 has made a drastic change to the year 2020. For many families and businesses there has been fear, pain and suffering.

While reading through the book of Revelation I read this small devotion – *In the conflicts pictured in the Book of Revelation, Christ's victory is certain. As the lamb who was slain, He won the victory over sin; He holds the keys of death and hades, and He controls history as the only one worthy to open the seals. John begins and ends his book with Jesus as ruler over all, and throughout he portrays Christ as reigning supreme. Our Lord God Almighty reigns. Christ is the victor – all glory and praise to Him. As we celebrate the birth of Jesus this Christmas, lets also remember Christ is ruler over all, He has victory over sin, He has paid the price for our sin and He is returning at God's appointed time.*

AUSTRALIA has been holding its own. We have been running at around 25,000 print run for a few months as churches have put their orders on hold and we continue to **pray** they will come back on board in due time. **Pray** for the continued increase of this edition. **Pray** for the production team as they seek God and His direction each month. **Pray** for Challenge staff as they take a week off to refresh over Christmas period.

A new arrival for our Australian office is the appointment of a new staff member in Kevin Taffurelli. Kevin comes from a business background. He came to Christ in recent years

and is passionate about evangelism. As a team we stepped out in faith and we have been overwhelmed with God's goodness and provision in recent months, and are thankful to the Lord for the many who continue to support and **pray** for the work of Challenge.

Impact WA. A new concept designed to bring the family of Christ together. Giving team members an opportunity to fellowship with churches in WA, and share the gospel in many locations in a variety of situations. Through short-term trips with Impact WA, varying in length from a day to a week, the participants will gain experience and exposure to local and remote communities and be involved in ministry, evangelism, Bible teaching, and even prison ministry. We trust the skills gained during these trips will allow participants to help serve their local churches more effectively in its involvement in missions and evangelism. **Pray** for the project as we work with several churches to get this ministry off the ground.

SOUTH AFRICA has experienced difficult times with the Covid lockdown. We have only been able to produce the main edition of the paper at this stage for those who are definite subscribers to the paper, and have been delivering them where we are able. It is hard to understand how lockdowns will affect the distribution over time, but we are hoping there will come a real hunger from churches to get out and evangelise their communities in a more effective way. **Pray** for Cobus & Christa who head up the work.

Continued over

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Pray for more staff to help with the promotion and development of paper in South Africa. **Pray** for the increase of the paper distribution

World Hope Prison Ministries – Pastor Willie Dengler informs we continue to see about 400-500 responses each month from the prison work, and we are very grateful that God is giving us a steady flow of first time responses to the gospel. **Pray** for the team as they counsel the prisoners. **Pray** for the finances required to keep this vital ministry operating.

Other countries in Africa – We continue to deliver the paper into Zimbabwe, Botswana and Malawi although as per all the other places they have been on hold through this pandemic. We have just recently delivered papers to Botswana (Henry and Patricia Mwewe) to go into prisons. It is hoped by the beginning of 2021 we will recommence all these editions. **Pray** the Lord will open the door again into these countries.

KENYA – We work with Paul Dondoh from Peace Makers Fellowship. Paul continues to see responses to the gospel wherever he goes with the Challenge newspaper although at present we are unable to send new editions. An encouraging development has been the translation of discipleship notes [the material we use in South Africa] for Kenya.

USA – The USA edition has been restricted but we are still able to put out papers for a Main, Prison and Hispanic editions. Recently we only produced Prison and Hispanic editions due to a small demand for Main edition. **Pray** churches in the USA will see the benefit in using the Challenge paper in their outreach programs.

Pray we see the main edition pick up and grow.

It is hoped we can bring on a new staff member for the USA office to help Andrew Trezona with the promotion and development of the paper.

Pray the Lord will provide the right person for this task.

For the global development of a Challenge website we have engaged Karen Trezona to take on this task. The goal is to have a global website that will be easy to navigate and look attractive.

Pray for wisdom as Karen continues to develop this website.

UNITED KINGDOM – We continue to work closely with the UK Challenge office as they have been battling this pandemic like ourselves and have been in lockdown for a number of months. We are **praying** they will be able to get back to their normal distribution of 75,000 per month soon.

Other interested countries – We have had an initial enquiry regarding an online Greek edition of Challenge and we are looking at this closely.

The other area of great interest has been the Philippines. Due to Covid 19 this project has been put on hold but we are keen to explore further once restrictions are lifted as we already have contacts in place regarding the translation into Tagalog.

We have had requests for a Nigerian, French and Portuguese Military edition and continue to wait on the Lord for the commencement of these projects.

{ CARL CARMODY
EDITOR CHALLENGE }



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