

PRAISE the Lord for:

- ★ An encouraging trip to USA for Carl and John. Weather was shocking and itinerary changed due to flight cancellations but the Lord opened doors. In Dallas they had an opportunity to share for the first time about Challenge
- ★ The great time with Andrew Trezona (USA Director); and many opportunities to share with pastors regarding the newspaper
- ★ The 347 commitments out of USA prisons for Oct - Dec 2014. Each prisoner is followed up with discipleship material through Crossroad Bible Institute
- ★ Praise the Lord for a very generous gift received recently towards our Kenya project

Learning afresh just who God is

Have you ever been asked to do a task or a job that you know is well and truly beyond you, or at least that is your perception? Imagine being asked to captain the Australian Test Cricket team, and you have never played first class cricket.

This sort of dilemma happened on a number of occasions in the Bible, when God asked people to do things they clearly believed they were not capable of doing. One example comes to us from the book of Exodus when God speaks to Moses via a burning bush.

Basically God wanted Moses to return to Egypt, and lead the nation of Israel out from slavery. God had heard the cries of His people and saw the oppression they were experiencing. In **EXODUS chapter 3** Moses receives the call, and the encouraging aspect of this call was that Moses would not have to do it on his own.

God says ... Verse 8: *"So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians"*. Verse 12: *"I will certainly be with you"*. Verse 17: *"I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt..."*

Moses though, feeling the pressure of the task, had said to the Lord in verse 11, *"Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?"* In other words, Moses was politely suggesting that God had made a mistake.

Why? Well he felt he wasn't important enough to confront Pharaoh. He didn't have the qualifications to lead Israel out of Egypt. God responds by telling Moses that all he needs to know is: **I will be with you**. The New Testament sums up the importance of God being with us in Romans 8v31: *"If God is for us, who can be against us"*

MOSES NEEDED TO LEARN AFRESH JUST WHO GOD IS. In verse 13 he asked: *"who shall I tell the children of Israel has sent me?"* God responds with what have become classic words: *"I Am who I Am. You shall say to the children of Israel, I Am has sent me to you."*

Let us look at the meaning in this extraordinary use of grammar: God [Jehovah], which comes from the same root words as I AM, is declaring that He is the ever present one, who stands outside of time. He has no past, no future, and to whom everything is present.

Moses could take great encouragement from this response because there was no need to worry or be stressed out as the saying goes, because the always existent One would be there in the midst of his major challenge to bring Israel out of bondage.

Continued over

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

Email: info@challengenews.org

PRAYER needed for:

- ★ Latest report from USA re 347 prisoners coming to know Jesus. Please pray for their growth as they learn more about Jesus and courage to stand up for their faith
- ★ Each contact that was made in USA that orders would come in and churches would see lives changed
- ★ Impact Africa team as numbers at this stage are low. Pray for wisdom as leadership considers mission opportunities
- ★ Carl with Bob Walker as they travel to Adelaide to share at a Easter Convention and promote the newspaper
- ★ Please pray for the Trezona Family in USA. Growing the work takes time so please pray for open doors and growing orders plus good health and protection for Andrew and the family

The use of the phrase I AM reveals God's ready desire to provide for His people's every need. So when Moses announced to the nation of Israel, "I Am has sent me" they could be confident of God's care. However, you can see that the expression I AM is a phrase or incomplete sentence, so it would be fair to ask the question: **I am ... what?**

We discover as we read the Bible that Jehovah God is saying to every child of God: I AM WHATEVER YOU NEED. He has deliberately left us with an incomplete sentence, so that whatever our many and varied needs are, they can be brought to Him to complete the sentence. It is through meeting these needs that our God, who appears at times to be incomprehensible, distant, and inactive, reveals Himself to us in His glory and majesty.

These needs provide us with the necessary objects to complete our sentence. For example

- Is your life marked by fear and anxiety? God says to you ____ "I Am your peace"
- Do you, like Moses, feel weak and inadequate? God says ____ "I Am your strength"
- Do you lack insight and understanding of issues? God says ____ "I Am your wisdom"
- Do you feel vulnerable? God says _____ "I Am your protection"
- Are you feeling hurt, bruised and battered? God says to you ____ "I Am your healing"

Where there is a need, God is ready to meet it, if we are willing to trust Him. Where there is sorrow, misery, unhappiness, suffering, confusion or oppression, there I AM is, yearning to turn your situation into joy. It is not merely that I AM supplies our need, but in fact He Himself is the fulfilment of our need.

Whilst we may feel overwhelmed, or grossly inadequate for whatever God has called us to do, we need to remember He is with us continually. Also we need to remember that whatever our need, He will meet it as we trust Him for it.

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: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

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: \$ _____

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Please make cheques payable to **Challenge Literature Fellowship**

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