

## PRAISE

the Lord for:

- ★ Our team of writers, who have done a fabulous job this year. They are an integral part of the team and we know we couldn't function effectively without them
- ★ God's faithfulness throughout 2015. We praise Him for His encouragement in the growth and development of Challenge ministry.
- ★ His amazing financial provision for staff needs, and ongoing literature projects we support around the world
- ★ Great news from the USA, with 289 prisoners coming to know Jesus in the first three quarters of the year

## VISION, COMPASSION

One of the greatest needs of the church today is to see the world as God sees it. You have to go to the heart of God and to His Word and begin to see man through the eyes of God.

A vision of the lost is the prerequisite for compassion for the lost. Christ is the perfect example of both, for of Him we read, "But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them" (Matthew 9:36).

The word "compassion" in the original means that Christ was moved to the depth of His being. It is the same Greek word as that used by Paul when speaking of Onesimus, the slave who had run away from his master Philemon – only to run straight into the arms of Paul in Rome!

Paul tells Philemon that he is "mine own heart" (Philemon 12), that is, as dear and as cherished as himself. To have compassion is to love sinners as much as you love yourself.

We will, however, only begin to experience such Christ-like compassion when we see the multitude and mass of lost humanity as He did.

As vision is to see man through God's eyes, so compassion is to love the world with God's heart.

No greater example can be found of a man whose life, belief and conscience were controlled by Christ's compassion than the apostle Paul.

He can declare, "I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit—that I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, my kinsmen according to the flesh" (Romans 9:1-3).

He reminds us of Moses' degree of burden for lost Israel when he was willing to have his name taken out of the book of life that their names might be written there in his place (Exodus 32:32).

So likewise Paul, who formerly hated these Jewish Christians and persecuted them to death, is willing to be separated from Christ and accursed for ever if it will gain their salvation.

Paul shows us the complete Christian, seemingly a paradox – rejoicing and sorrowing in the same heart at the same time. He, who could "rejoice in the Lord always," could equally say, "I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart" over his lost people.

God give us a like heart! Then it will be written: "When they saw the multitude, they were moved with compassion."

*Continued over*

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PLEASE TURN OVER

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

Email: info@challengenews.org

## PRAYER needed for:

- ★ Pray for wisdom for deputation for 2016. A number of opportunities are opening up; we just need confirmation
- ★ Don and Lillian Kennedy as they continue with promotion throughout the Eastern states of Australia. We are very thankful for all the hard work and many kilometres they put in for the ministry
- ★ The Trezona family in the USA. Pray for Karen and the girls as Andrew is away a lot promoting the work. Pray for Andrew as he meets and works with churches etc to promote and grow the ministry there
- ★ A number of requests (Cuba, Moldova, Ghana) asking for the paper to be distributed in these countries. Please pray with us for the Lord's confirmation and the finances needed to get these projects off the ground

## AND PRAYER

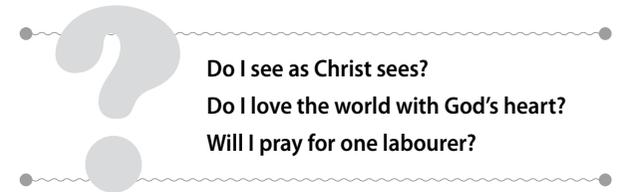
"Then He said to His disciples: the harvest truly is plentiful, but the labourers are few" (Matthew 9:37).

It is interesting that Christ did not say the Christians are few, but the labourers are few. For, if the church could produce such men, Christ would not command us to pray for them.

In Christ's estimation, "the harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few". We are called to pray to the Lord for a very special person, for a very special work: for someone who possesses the Lord's vision and the Lord's compassion, who realises at the outset of the work of evangelism that he is overwhelmingly outnumbered by the lost.

If Christ has promised labourers in answer to prayer, they will come.

Adapted. From *God's Way* by Paul Bassett; Evangelical Press 1981



Do I see as Christ sees?

Do I love the world with God's heart?

Will I pray for one labourer?

workersfew workersfew workersfew  
workersfew workersfew workersfew  
workersfew workersfew workersfew pray

## 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: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

To be used for \_\_\_\_\_

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

Credit Card:  Visa  Mastercard

\_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry Date \_\_\_ / \_\_\_

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