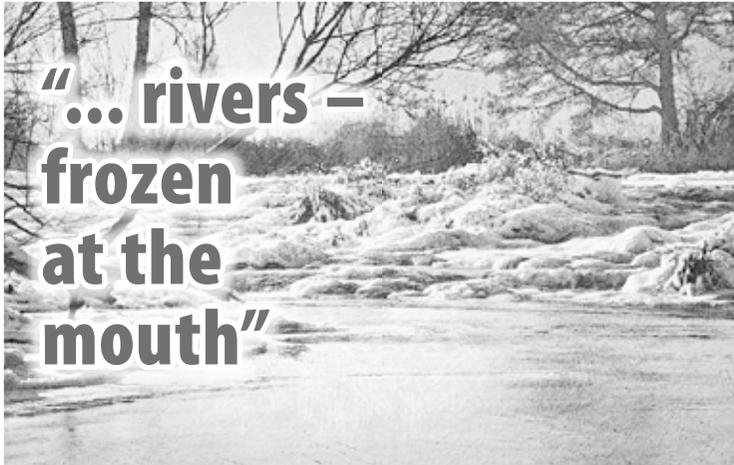


## PRAISE

the Lord for:

- ★ A fantastic Impact Africa mission trip. Each year we are very conscious of people praying for us
- ★ The various opportunities the team had while away to share Christ, to deliver food parcels, distribute Bibles and clothing, and to encourage believers
- ★ Our wonderful volunteers who come each month to help with the wrap and mailing of the newspaper. Without them the paper would not go out
- ★ The privilege of serving Him in reaching thousands both here and overseas with the gospel of Jesus Christ each month



In Paul's "swansong" to his son in Christ, Timothy, he opens up in 2 Timothy 1:5 how he remembers Timothy's beginnings.

One of the things he earmarks is Timothy's genuine faith, and the Christian heritage he had enjoyed.

Now it would seem to me that the majority of Christians have good beginnings, but unfortunately as one writer puts it, "Few men or women run well to the end."

It would appear from verse 7 [*God has not given us a spirit of fear ... NKJV*] that Timothy was struggling with a spirit of fear.

As a young pastor Timothy no doubt felt a sense of being overwhelmed by the task that God had called him to. You may have heard that any pastor "worth his salt", resigns at least once a week!

What is important to distinguish here is that being overwhelmed by a task is not wrong, as long as it drives us to depend totally upon the Lord.

If our sense of being overwhelmed leads us to despair we need to rethink and repent.

Timothy began to be ashamed of the gospel of the Lord Jesus.

This problem can reveal itself in the church, and the Lord's people stop witnessing.

It is sad to say that Christians have no difficulty in talking about their favourite football team as Stephen Olford says, yet when it comes to

*Continued over*

## PRAYER needed for:

- ★ Cobus and Christa Britz as they head up the work in South Africa. This is our largest hub where we distribute around 2 million papers annually to not only South Africa but other African countries. The work load at times is enormous
- ★ Our Military edition of the paper. This edition goes into around 10 different countries. Pray for its continued growth and fruitfulness.
- ★ The prison work in Kenya and also Malawi. Pray for continued opportunities to go into the many prisons in these two countries with the paper. Pray for the growth of the church behind bars
- ★ The Cuban edition of Challenge. We still require more funding for this edition of the paper to commence. At this stage we will be producing 80,000 papers every three months

witnessing, "They are like arctic rivers - frozen at the mouth." We Christians can dream up a myriad of reasons not to witness.

I sense this comes from confusing the gifting of the Holy Spirit and our responsibility to convey the gospel. For these are indeed days for good news to be proclaimed.

The thing that many Christians miss is that God has provided everything necessary for us to get the task done.

Paul says to Timothy in verse 7, *For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.*

The root word for power in that verse is "duna", which means ability or willingness.

Paul was saying to Timothy there is no need to be fearful, because if we are willing to trust God to use us in ministry, God will give us His willingness and ability to do the task.

Exactly the same word is used in Acts 1:8, *"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me..."*

So we don't have to feel guilty or driven about witnessing. Rather we need to trust God to impart His willingness and ability to evangelise.

Each day we can start by saying, *"Lord I am available to be used of you whenever and wherever you want. I am trusting you for your willingness and ability to serve you effectively."*

May God make this a reality in each of our lives.

CARL CARMODY, EDITOR OF CHALLENGE

## Ongoing supply of testimonies

If you would like to share your testimony through the printed page please email [carl@challengenews.org](mailto:carl@challengenews.org) for further information

## MY RESPONSE

Post to: Challenge Literature Fellowship, PO Box 978, Cloverdale WA 6985 or Fax to (08) 9453 3006

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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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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