



# Church of Perth Intercessory Team

*"If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land." 2 CHRONICLES 7:14*

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HEART TO HEART

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## GOD'S GREAT PROMISE

It's Easter again. The shops are full of Easter bunnies, chocolate eggs and hot cross buns. It's holiday time --- four wonderful days to escape from the daily grind and relax at the beach or somewhere in the country. But of course, it's much more than that. It's that time of year when the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ are remembered --- and sadly ignored and forgotten. To many, the very idea that someone should rise from the dead is preposterous, a fantasy about as real as the tooth fairy. And even if He did, so what? This forgotten truth has a solid foundation for all mankind.

Two thousand years ago the crucifixion of Christ was a stumbling block to the Jews and foolishness to the Greeks. Today it is the resurrection that is both a stumbling block and foolishness to an unbelieving world. In the main, the Western world doesn't believe in life after death. Yet the resurrection is the very core of Christianity. It is the hope of all who believe in the One who said, "I am the Resurrection and the Life; he who believes in Me though he is dead yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die." (John 11:25-26) That is God's great Promise that all followers of Jesus Christ will be raised.

What was remarkable about Jesus' resurrection was not that God raised Him from the dead but that He fulfilled the prophecy recorded in John 2:19 which states: "Destroy this temple (His body) and I will raise it again in three days." The resurrection is a sign that shows that Jesus is truly God and that God is loving, caring and personal. If we have a personal God, then difficulties in life are not handled alone and prayer and Bible study are operative tools for daily living. Life then does have meaning. God's immanence has a dramatic eternal plan into which we fit. In Romans 1:4, Paul writes that Jesus "through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by His resurrection from the dead," and this confirms that God through Jesus Christ did indeed become one of us to interact with humanity in such a manner is evidence of His personality. The immense, unconditional love and unconditional forgiveness God in Jesus Christ displays are attributes not found in an impersonal force or energy. (Psalm 45:7-9).

With Jesus' resurrection, we discover that there is a personal God and that each one of us is significant to Him in a seemingly meaningless world. It wasn't contrary to the law of life; only its time was out of the ordinary. The miracle of the resurrection was not a violation of the course of nature by the power of God but a quickening of the Spirit. It is the foundation of self-esteem - to raise you up, make you feel human and spiritually alive and give you courage and faith in Christ.

When a farmer plucks the first ears of grain from his crop he has evidence of the coming harvest. Months before he had planted the seeds in the soil when there were no visible signs that nature possessed any power to change those seeds into a field of waving wheat. But in due season, the rain fell and the sun warmed the soil. Soon there was a blade, then the ear; after that the full grain in the ear and then the first ripe sheaf heralding a harvest at hand.

We are all familiar with sowing From age to age "earth has been sown thick with graves" but there has been no harvest. Earth has swallowed up an enormous quantity of seed without showing any sign of a harvest --- except Christ the Lord. Like the first ripe sheaf, Christ is the first fruits of those who have died, the infallible proof that we shall have a resurrection from the gloomy winter of death.

The first sheaf is a sample of the coming harvest. If the first-fruits are poor and withered then the after-fruits will be too. If they are rich and full, the harvest will be excellent. When the Scriptures tell us that the Lord will raise our bodies at last so that they might be fashioned after His own, we can envisage something of the glorified humanity that God has planned for His future Kingdom.

The true message of Easter is one of hope, encouragement and empowerment by the Holy Spirit. No matter what our circumstances or our fate, it declares the most significant person in the universe, the Lord Jesus Christ loves us. God entered the world for us. It is the same hope that inspired past generations. It is a hope that elevates, strengthens our innermost beings and heals. In an age when many have succumbed to hopelessness and despair the glorious hope of Christ's resurrection -- and ours -- is the divine antidote.

During this Easter, spare time to remember God's great promise given to us all in His Son and our Saviour. The resurrected Christ is alive and knocks at the door of your heart. Will you let Him in to be your Lord, Saviour and Healer?

Repent, for the Kingdom of God is at hand for each one of us. Let us not mock God's Truth accurately recorded in the New Testament Gospels and the Book of Acts. It's about the extraordinary reality of the Man Jesus Christ who brought Heaven and earth together. Why not help this nation which is wandering in the wilderness to come to grips with God's great promise and completely trust Jesus and let us walk through the door together as a nation of "the Great Southland of the Holy Spirit." Glory to God.

### Our Prayer

*Our loving Father, we humbly come in one accord joining the hosts of Heaven to declare and celebrate the glorious crucifixion and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We thank You, Lord, that our lives come from trusting the LIFE --- JESUS CHRIST, whom You have sent to love and forgive us unconditionally, and give Himself for us when we were yet sinners. We thank You that by His grace and mercy He empowered us into the New Covenant with our Lord God giving us authentic values for joyful and peaceful living to be overcomers in this evil world by the power of His blood, His Holy Spirit and His Word. Holy Father, we thank You that Jesus' Resurrection guarantees us that we have the ultimate Friend in High Places guiding our spiritual lives daily. Do you know Him? Would you help our nation to know Him?*

*Sovereign Lord we rejoice in loving You and our neighbours. We are eager and waiting for our nation to receive Your Holy Spirit of Truth, love and peace to convict, reprove and restore us to completely trust Jesus for the will power to obey. As Your Word says in Romans 6:7-8: "For when we died with Christ, we were set free from the power of sin, the evil one and death. And since we died with Christ, we know we will also share His new Life." It is then we can stand complete in Christ Jesus that His Holy Spirit fills our temples and empowers us to worship our Lord God in Spirit and in Truth. (John 4:24)*

*Gracious Father, we pray that our government and civic leaders will not compromise but will repent and receive Your great promise and lead Your nation of Australia to completely trust Jesus and study Your Word giving all glory, honour and power to You, Father God. We ask this in Jesus' powerful Name Amen.*

**C.O.P.I.T. Led by our Lord Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit to glorify the Fatherhood of God with the Brotherhood of Man, in love and faithfulness to bring glory to our Eternal Father in Jesus' Name. Amen and Glory.**