



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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TROUBLE IN THE CLASSROOM

Last year in Western Australian schools the number of suspensions issued to problem students rose a disturbing 25% over the previous year. No doubt, the same kind of figures would apply nation-wide. Many teachers are struggling to cope. Innumerable students are woefully inadequate in both numeracy and literacy to face the outside world. Drugs abound and crimes escalate. Obviously there is something drastically amiss in our education systems. Well, what is it? The behavioural problems, of course, are not exclusive to schools. They are part of a wider malady that afflicts the community at large. Not a few parents have abrogated their responsibilities as dutiful providers of loving discipline, resulting in troublesome students. This, however, is just one side of the equation. In fact, it is the outcome of our education systems going haywire years ago.

To-day's problems were born with the introduction of the "new" education philosophy of the so-called Father of American education, John Dewey, who replaced traditional values and teaching methods with his pragmatic "learning by experience." Beguiled by his advance guard of modernists who infiltrated our universities between the wars, Australia was steadily indoctrinated with this humanistic philosophy. We reaped what we sowed! By the 1970's humanist educators had pretty well gained control of public education. Many changes were made to the curricula. There was a new emphasis on social issues such as the environment, nuclear disarmament, land rights, peace studies and values clarification on such controversial topics as homosexuality, abortion, drugs, police brutality, racism and family conflict--- every one a potential minefield for impressionable young minds and a golden opportunity to indoctrinate un-Christian values, hence losing their faith fight in the arena of their minds. Literacy and numeracy lost their importance. Spelling and grammar were considered impediments to a child's creative ability. Discipline became a dirty word. Counselling replaced corporal punishment. Egalitarianism supplanted excellence; streaming of classes was forbidden and bright pupils languished in the ruck. So-called sexism was attacked as boys and girls were expected to be equal in every aspect of learning.

Traditional values were assualted. Humanist philosophy --- especially the Theory of Evolution (not creation by God) --- was hammered into youngheads until children truly believed their ancestors were apes. Courtesy and respect for others, kindness, goodness, faith and integrity were generally ignored. We ignored God's laws. No wonder we now have the dilemma that is in education today! No wonder children are not showing respect for parents or others when they can engage in swearing battles with their teachers! No wonder teachers are at their wits' end trying to cope with their charges! They are caught up in a moral vacuum!

Some 120 years ago, when controversy raged in Australia over the introduction of secular education, Bishop Moorhouse of Victoria said this: "How can children be moral without determinedly fixing their attention on the higher motives; and how can they do this if we carefully keep such motives out of sight? By withdrawing all the higher motives from the minds of children you are most surely, however unintentionally, preparing for us a future of vice, confusion and disaster."

Education today is a clear reflection of that "foresighted" prediction, as educators have thrown out the wisdom of the ages for a mess of pottage. Every school in this land should have emblazoned across its portals these words of the great Samuel Johnson: "*The supreme end of education is expert discernment in all things--- the power to tell the good from the bad, the genuine from the counterfeit, and to prefer the good and genuine to the bad and the counterfeit*". Or perhaps these words of Scripture: "*Whatever is true, whatever is honourable,*

whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, whatever is excellent and admirable --- think on these things." (Phil. 4:8) It is high time we restored these Godly principles to education

Wake up, leaders of Australia! At the end of broken dreams, people need the Lord. Let us return to the tried-and-true paths provided in God's Living Word before we are overwhelmed by a flood of illiteracy, rebellion, drugs, hopelessness, spiritual ignorance and death. Only as we teach true Christian values to our children to completely trust in our Living God through Jesus Christ shall they be truly educated. Only then shall the Holy Spirit of the Living God change and develop them into moral, law-abiding good citizens of this beloved country. Only then will they be able to stand in God's love, peace and joy in the midst of turmoil to walk in His victory by His amazing grace and mercy which only comes from Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Jesus said, "Heaven and earth shall pass away but My Word Shall Not Pass Away"

OUR PRAYER

Father of Creation, Lord of Life, Lord of hosts, You are our foundation in pure love, light and truth through Jesus Christ our risen Lord and Saviour. Holy Father, we humbly join in one accord with all the hosts in heaven to earnestly love and worship You with all our hearts saying: Blessing, glory, wisdom, thanksgiving, honour, power and might be unto our Lord God forever and ever. Amen.

Sovereign Lord, we thank You for making Yourself so available to us through Jesus Christ and Your gift of the Spirit of Love, Truth and forgiveness to set all mankind free from all sin and all bondages so that we can live lives to the fullest on earth as it is in heaven by Your abounding grace and limitless mercy. We thank You for being our covenant God who continuously wants to increase us in health and in the prosperity of our souls. We thank You, Father, for the protection and sensitivity You have built into us to preserve and to heal so that we may feel what is good and what is destructive. Thank You, Lord Jesus for being our Prince of Peace and we can rest in Your peace and joy in an evil, hostile and turmoil world for the battle is Yours.

Great and mighty God of Israel, may our lives be a humble, joyful and intimate prayer as unto You, Lord. We pray for sincere repentance for our nation's government and civic leaders who are justified by faith in Jesus' obedience to God's will when He died on the cross of Calvary to birth them spiritually into His Kingdom of Light and Righteousness. We pray our leaders will not compromise but make a total commitment of their lives to our Lord of hosts on His terms to implement His Laws and the study of His Living Word to spiritually feed our nation's youth and children. We ask that the evil one and his cohorts be bound in Jesus' Name. Father, You are able to do exceedingly and abundantly above all that we may ask or think. Meet this need for our nation --- that our children, youth and parents can humbly commit their lives to rest in Your will and be filled with Your Holy Spirit's love, peace and joy of knowing the risen Christ and to experience an abiding faith through Jesus in their daily lives. In Jesus' powerful Name, we pray. 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.