



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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A CHILD IS BORN

"For unto us a child is born, to us a Son is given." These words prophesying the birth of Jesus Christ were given by the prophet, Isaiah, over 700 years before they were fulfilled at Bethlehem. Even then it was in God's heart to send His Son to earth. The question is: why did the Son of God come to that remote Judean village to a world that had no room for Him but could offer Him only a borrowed cradle at His birth and a borrowed tomb at His death? In His own words, He came to seek and to save the lost. His was the greatest mission ever recorded. For it did not end with His death; His ministry still continues. Jesus went forth from His heavenly home to come to a problemed world which He knew would reject, scourge and crucify Him, to seek and save the lost. He was full of unfailing Love and Faithfulness (John 1:14) He is the Living Word of God. (Rev. 19:13)

He came to save. But from what? He came to save mankind from its evil, foolish ways, to rescue us from the sin which so easily entangles us, to blot out our past and give us a new beginning. He came to reconcile us to God, our Creator and Father. He came because the human race had wandered far away from the Father's house and like sheep had nibbled the world's delights and found itself lost. Lost! The word conjures up a plane long overdue at its destination, a liner torpedoed by an enemy submarine, a hunter trapped in the snow of northern Canada or a child missing in the dense Australian bush. An awesome word, it sends anxiety coursing through our veins. But until we are united with the Father through the Son, Jesus Christ, we are lost, lost to ourselves, lost to heaven and lost to God. Jesus came to save the millionaire lost in his luxury, the prostitute lost in her permissiveness, the intellectual lost in his knowledge, the atheist lost in his unbelief, the rebel lost in his anger and the average citizen lost in his or her humdrum existence. Jesus came not only to save the lost but those who are lost to the fact that they are lost. He came to save everyone. He came to save you!

When Jesus was born, shepherds in nearby fields were visited by an angel who told them, "Be not afraid. I bring you good news." It was a timely message and one that is needed as much now as then. For the world today is fearful. People fear the future. They fear nuclear annihilation, environmental destruction, economic calamity, worldwide pollution, overpopulation, famine, AIDS and other killer diseases. The media constantly bombards us with a litany of bad news: earthquakes, hurricanes, wars, bombings, murders, rapes, assaults, burglaries etc etc. The world can offer little good news. But God offers the best news of all – a Saviour has been born who says to us, "Let not your hearts be troubled neither be afraid." There is no need to be fearful of the future. Once grounded in the Son of God, Jesus Christ, the Saviour born in Bethlehem, we have an eternal hope, come what may. Sadly, however, even as there was no room for Him in the inn at His birth, many had no place for Him during His life here on earth. When He preached at Nazareth they thrust Him out of the city. When He healed the madman at Gadara they begged Him to leave their coast. When the soldiers arrested Him in the Garden of Gethsemane He was deserted by His disciples. The Jewish leaders planned His destruction and the Romans crucified Him on a cross, forsaken and alone. Surely, "He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with suffering."

In our busy world today we make room for many things: room for wealth, pleasure and pride; room for business, trade and industry; room for ambition, greed and worry; room for families, friends and finances. But for Christ Jesus there is little room; room perhaps in the stable but not in the inn. Christ the Saviour is not wanted in this materialistic, hedonistic age of ours. His promise, the Holy Spirit is rejected and blasphemed.

Christ is crowded out, and why? Because He crowds out that which would crowd Him out. The Holy Spirit crowds out sin by convicting and revealing its horrid ugliness and compels us, by the holy compulsion of His love, to keep it out. Indeed, the bottom line of the rejection of the Holy Spirit of Christ today is this presence of sin in our lives and in society. For He represents right in a world of wrongs, truth in a world of deceit, justice in a world of injustice, and love in a world of hate. But the present world order is to come to an end and the Babe of Bethlehem who became the Saviour of the world at Calvary will one day rule as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. As Saviour He even now saves all who come to Him in faith and repentance. As King He will soon rule the earth "and the government will be on His shoulder and His name will be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, upon the throne of David" (Isaiah 9:6-7). As we come to the end of the second millennium since His first advent, time is fast running out, this age of grace is nearly over. It is time our leaders lead our nation to repent, forgive and prepare for Jesus' second coming. It's time to get right with God and have a personal relationship with Christ. It is time to be on His side by surrendering our all and yielding to the Holy Spirit of truth to convict and set us free from the sinfulness of our hearts and to grow and live in love, humility and gratitude in Jesus Christ who bore those sins in our place on the cross of Calvary; and to understand who we are in Christ Jesus – the Creator and Sustainer of the universe and this is what makes CHRIST's love and grace so amazing! This is the good news of the Gospel as we can all rejoice and be prepared to meet our glorious King of Kings and Lord of Lords, JESUS CHRIST when He comes.

OUR PRAYER

Our gracious and heavenly Father, we humbly and reverently come in one accord before Your Holy Spirit's presence in the righteousness and name of JESUS CHRIST to sincerely say we love and trust You, Abba Father, for who You are with our whole being – spirit, soul and body. Father God, we gratefully thank You for giving us Your all – Your only begotten Son, JESUS CHRIST, born to bring Your Light, Love, Hope and Promise into the world. We celebrate His death on the Cross of Calvary, for by it we are saved from the penalty of all our sins. We celebrate His resurrection for by it we have the promise and assurance of eternal life when we have a personal relationship in Christ daily. Jesus Himself said, "You have seen Me, you have seen the Father. My Father and I are ONE." "Let no flesh glorify in my presence!"

"Holy, holy, holy is our Lord God Almighty." Holy Father in an attitude of awe, gratitude, reverence, honour, adoration and dependency, we praise and worship You in words, music, spiritual songs, hymns and psalms to raise JESUS CHRIST higher in the splendour of Your glory for Your acts of omnipotent and omnipresent power in the Holy Spirit to draw all souls to You. Sovereign Lord, we stand in deepest awe to understand Your transcendent Majesty of Your Holiness and we faithfully thank You for being our almighty deliverer, and a righteous judge of individuals and nations who reject and oppose You in CHRIST. Father, we know You play for keeps! Lord God, Your transcendent majesty gives weight to Your moral purity and Your ethical holiness gives beauty to Your majesty. Lord Jesus, Your anointed indwelling Spirit of life, love and mercy in us, is our authority to claim what the devil has stolen from us – our health, prosperity, peace in ourselves, our homes, communities and righteousness from our governments – because the forces of hell are involved in spiritual warfare and You defeated them on the Cross. We thank You, Lord JESUS that the Holy Spirit who indwells in us is an experienced general in God's army. Holy Spirit, as individuals and collectively we give all of ourselves to You for we are all Yours in Your army. Have Your way in us so that we can be spiritually transformed, empowered and fully equipped under Your omniscient command for the plan and purpose of God's kingdom today.

We invite You, Lord Jesus, to make Your manifest presence very real to our leaders, for in Christ they will experience all things are possible. We invite Your precious Holy Spirit to come and envelope every leader of our nation with God's grace, mercy and glory to prepare our nation to earnestly repent and receive JESUS CHRIST as LORD and SAVIOUR and to enthrone JESUS CHRIST as KING in this "Great Southland of the HOLY SPIRIT" to God's glory. For Australia is a stronghold of Christianity and is a high tower of the Lord in which the righteous shelter. We pray this in JESUS' Majestic Name. Amen.

We joyfully wish you and your family a blessed Christmas and a fruitful millennium year, 2000.

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.