



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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QUO VADIS, AUSTRALIA?

Quo vadis, where are we going, Australia, blessed land of the south, with our azure blue skies and sun-drenched beaches, our rugged mountain ranges and wide brown plains, our bustling cities and towns, our forests and rivers and valleys? We once abounded with prosperity. We were the world's number one for quality of living. Our waving wheat and golden fleece and mountains of iron ore brought prosperity to these faraway shores. Our laws were just for they were based on the Bible. Past generations enjoyed a faith in God that anchored their souls to reality, purpose and hope for the future.

Sadly, however, we are losing that Christian culture, that invisible network of values and beliefs that sustained us in the past. Now, through pinning our hopes on a materialistic humanistic scientific outlook to life instead of a spiritual one, we are suffering cultural decay. Science has undermined our faith in God and replaced it with the belief that as we progress technologically life will be more exciting, healthier and wealthier. But this is not happening for many of us. Life is becoming more anxious as we embark on a new millennium with its possible unknown terrors of nuclear and environmental destruction, drugs, family breakdowns, AIDS, escalating crime and high unemployment. As a consequence many are living today as if there were no tomorrow. A what-the-heck attitude is pervading our society, as though nothing really matters, that everything is meaningless. The ubiquitous credit card has opened up a vast treasure house of "today" consumption. Get it NOW, pay later (if ever). Cars, fridges, boats, TVs, VCRs, holidays (you name it) are bought on credit with no real consideration of the financial millstone we are tying around our necks. Even the nation is trapped in the same snare as the national debt continues to soar unabated and we steadily sell ourselves to the IMF and other international investment institutions.

In the words of social critic P.J. O'Rourke, "awful decadence reigns". Our tastes are steadily growing more perverse. The beautiful works of the past have been replaced by fakery in art, cacophony in music and pornography in literature as the ugly abounds. Instead of uplifting and edifying, the media constantly degrades and debases the higher values with its portrayals of sexual perversion, murder, rape, infidelity, nudity and profanity. Everyone it seems would do his own thing, regardless of its morality so that as our moral fabric disintegrates and pornography floods across the land crimes of lust and passion escalate. Moreover, easy divorce laws shatter countless families spawning thousands of single parent families, juvenile delinquency and teenage crime. Social welfare payments to wayward youths and laws equating promiscuous behaviour with marriage undermine the family unit, the cornerstone of society. Like Ancient Rome, Australia is headed for disaster --- unless we rapidly change our ways.

God is not mocked, whatever we sow that shall we reap. Every word and deed we sow now, good or evil, will produce a harvest when the time is ripe. We may talk of a "new morality" and live by different standards to the tried and tested ways of the past but God's order remains constant forever.

Fellow Australians, wake up! The Philistines are upon us! Unless we return to the Giver of All Blessings He will pour out His wrath upon this fair land. We will be shaken so that only that which is based on the Rock of Christ Jesus will survive. Technology will fail us in our hour of greatest need and we shall be found wanting. We predict that the early years of this new millennium will see a great shaking of this and other lands as God brings judgement on the world's sins. The prophecies of Scripture will soon begin to materialise. The weather will be more extreme and out of control than ever before. Earthquakes and volcanic activity will increase, the sun will adversely affect this planet as never before. Terrorism will escalate, stock markets crash, computers fail, causing much chaos and distress not to mention the very real possibility of a nuclear war. However, for those who trust in Christ these things should hold no fear. In fact they find comfort and strength in the promise of the Lord: "There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On earth nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. Men will faint with terror at the thought of all that is coming on the world, for the celestial powers will be shaken. At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with great glory. Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift your heads because your redemption is near". (Luke 21: 25-28).

Where are we going, Australia? It all depends on our relationship with the Saviour who loves everyone of us. We must return to Him in faith and repentance if this fair land is to escape God's judgement. We believe that many will do just that and be saved despite the great falling away we see today. There will be a fervent search for truth and an insatiable hunger for God for this is the hour of harvest to prepare us for the coming of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, Jesus Christ.

Quo vadis, where are *you* going? Are you ready? Remember, He's coming ready or not!

OUR PRAYER

Our loving Father in heaven, we gratefully thank You for loving the world and Australia so much that You gave Your only begotten Son, JESUS CHRIST, the Man behind the Millennium, who died for our sins, was buried and rose again the third day according to the Scriptures 2000 years ago – that whosoever believes and receives Him as Lord and Saviour should not perish, but have everlasting life in Your kingdom by Your amazing grace and limitless mercy. Holy Father, help all Australians to repent and humbly respond to Your blood Covenant Love, Joy and Peace to have a genuine love relationship with You, Lord God and to love one another through JESUS CHRIST so that He becomes real to us when our living faith in HIM becomes real. Father God, breathe Your Spirit of repentance into the heart and soul of our nation so that our minds are renewed by Your Living Word as we yield to Your omnipotent Spirit to pull down the rulers of darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places, against principalities and against powers in Jesus' name. Sovereign Lord, help us to obey and study Your Living Word in the counsel of Your Spirit of Truth to be an overcomer in the adversity of spiritual warfares.

Gracious Father, in John 5:22-27, You have commanded all men, women and children to honour Your Son, JESUS CHRIST, for You have entrusted all authority and judgement to HIM to judge because He is the Son of Man. We are indeed grateful and thankful to You, Father, for having a Man, JESUS CHRIST, seated on the throne of God as our Lord, Saviour and great High priest interceding for us to abide in His Spirit – "He in us and we in Him" – to spiritually save us from this evil and wicked world through our personal relationship with Him by His Spirit. In 1 Corinthians 1:30, Your Word states that "in Him are you in Christ Jesus who of God is made unto us wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption". Father be glorified. We pray that your Spirit of Love and Truth will envelope and strengthen our nation's leaders' hearts in full surrender to Your will, in full assurance of living faith and a teachable spirit in Christ Jesus who is the Author and Finisher of our faith. Father God, help our leaders to steer and lead Australia into Your will by taking Your Living Word, JESUS CHRIST, into schools, homes, institutions, communities and prisons so that all Australians are given the opportunity to respond to Your grace, unconditional love and mercy in a personal relationship manner to pray and study Your Word and be ready and be prepared to meet their glorious King of Kings and Lord of lords, JESUS CHRIST when He comes in the midst of the coming storms and destruction – for Your Word pertains to Life and Godliness. Help us, Lord God, for our time is in Your hands. We ask this in Jesus' Majestic 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