



# REPENT AUSTRALIA

*"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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## Advance Australia---Where?

The predominant view among politicians, economists and the business community is that Australia is doing very well, especially economically. Yet is that all we need to be a successful society? No! In fact, ironically, while many are enjoying boom times and the unemployment rate is the lowest for three decades many others are struggling more than ever. Our 5% unemployment rate conceals the 8% of the population receiving a disability pension. It also doesn't take into account the large numbers on single parent and other benefits. Increases in household bills and soaring petrol prices have hit the most disadvantaged hardest and many can no longer afford the most basic goods and services. On the other hand we are wallowing in a mire of handouts that destroy initiative and personal dignity, turning vigour into lethargy and industry into idleness. But all this is just the tip of a massive iceberg of basic problems facing us.

### Code of Behaviour

As a civilised society we have slipped a long way from the long-accepted code of behaviour that marked us as a Christian country. In fact, boorish behaviour and a lack of good manners have now become a part of everyday life in Australia as we see an increasing collapse of dignity and decency. Common courtesy is no longer common anymore. The media has inflicted an increasing vulgarity upon us without so much as a murmur of protest on our part. Television has become a canker in our midst, perpetrating mischief and bias, feeding us a steady diet of sex and violence, lies and half-truths and setting standards of behaviour and language that appal and degrade. The powerful women's lib movement has undermined the respect once held dear between men and women by claiming "equality" of the sexes which has reduced the weaker sex to the man's competitor instead of helpmate. But if we are to lift ourselves above the animals, true respect between the sexes must be restored. Otherwise we shall slide further into a morass of uncivility, vulgarity and violence.

### Unparalleled Debt

Once among the world's leaders we are choking ourselves in unparalleled debt. As a nation we now owe some **\$470 billion** to international lenders and are sinking deeper into indebtedness each month as our current account continually falls into the red. Moreover, as a people we have succumbed to the lure of the fast buck. Australians are spending a record \$135 billion annually on gambling, being well and truly hooked on poker machines, race-track betting, casinos, TABs and Lotto. Not to mention raffles, Scratchies and bingo. Then there is the disturbing fact that we are getting fatter and drinking more alcohol. A recent study has found a big rise in obesity rates as well as more risky alcohol consumption and fewer teetotallers---making this one of the most important health issues confronting us.

### Family "Mansions"

Undoubtedly we are enjoying ever-rising living standards, evidenced by the increase in family "mansions" popping up in all the main cities. Yet we are experiencing more lawlessness in the form of divorce, drugs, crime, depression and suicide. Why? Professor Martin Seligman, a top US psychologist, tells us why. Firstly, we are increasingly centring our lives on ourselves whereas in earlier days we devoted ourselves to worthy causes larger than ourselves, be it God, the needy, family or the nation. Secondly, the rise of the self-esteem movement in schools wherein children are made to feel good about themselves through the dumbing down of education, "Pollyanna" report cards and the abandonment of class streaming and IQ tests---depriving them of a true sense of their worth as they

live in a land of make-believe. Thirdly, the rise in victimology---blaming our failures on others---rather than accepting personal responsibility. Aided and abetted by voracious lawyers we have little compunction suing people for our misfortunes, be they self-inflicted or not, in courts that are often merely travesties of justice. Lastly, we have developed a hunger for instant pleasure and happiness without any real effort on our own part. Consequently, we are forever indulging in junk food, escapist television, drugs, alcohol, shopping sprees, loveless sex and spectator sport. In other words, we have succumbed to the false lure of hedonistic materialism, which can never satisfy the longings of the soul. Only spiritual values and pursuits will do that!

### **National Identity**

And to cap off all our troubles we are losing our national identity. Despite the prolonged barrage by politicians and the media on the so-called benefits of multiculturalism, we are on the rocky road to increased violence, dysfunctional families, social problems and even national disintegration. In falling over backwards not to upset anyone or be branded racist, we deny our unique Christian culture and claim we are a rainbow coalition of all colours and creeds in which all cultures are equal. Moreover, as we are aborting up to 100,000 babies a year we are well and truly preparing the way for a Muslim majority in the foreseeable future. But even now we are seeing the true effects of multiculturalism, to the point where we are quite concerned about terrorist bombings being perpetrated by members of alien cultures among us. And so we should. How interesting that Professor Zubrzycki, who helped draft the blueprint for multiculturalism in Australia, should admit that it "is a good idea gone wrong. Ethnicity has been cynically exploited for electoral and civic advantage. Morality rather than social engineering is now required to make Australia a better place."

### **Losing Our Soul**

Morality. That's where we've slipped up! Through a process of deception we are losing our very soul because we don't realise why we have been one of the most blessed nations on earth. Many give credit to our cleverness or to the god of luck but not to the God of the Bible whose laws and institutions we inherited through our British heritage and the English common law. Abraham Lincoln once said, though referring to America but he could well have meant Australia 150 years later, "We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven. We have been preserved these many years in peace and prosperity. But we have forgotten God. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us."

### **Advance Australia Fair**

Most of us know the first verse of our national anthem, Advance Australia Fair. Now we must adopt and take to heart another verse of the song if we are to advance Australia to prosperity and true greatness. This is the verse: *With Christ our head and cornerstone/ We'll build our nation's might/ Whose way and truth and light alone/ Can guide our path aright/ Our lives, a sacrifice of love/ Reflect our Master's care/ With faces turned to heaven above/ Advance Australia fair/ In joyful strains then let us sing/ Advance Australia fair.* Where we are going depends on our relationship with the Saviour who loves every one of us. If we really know what's good for us both individually and as a nation we *will* return to Him in faith and repentance. It's up to us!

### **PRAYER**

Omniscient Father, Lord of infinite grace, mercy and power, hallowed be Your name. As covenant children in Your great family of faith, we worship You in Spirit and in truth as we offer thanksgiving and praise to Your holy name. Sovereign Lord, accept our heartfelt thanks for Your free gift of salvation as found in Your Son Jesus through His sacrificial death on the cross and resurrection 2000 years ago. We gratefully thank You, Father, for giving us Australia as our birthright and claim it in His name for Your glory and ask You to fill us with the Spirit of wisdom and power to be prayerful warriors and watchmen in this fair land. May we fight the good fight of faith and pull down every stronghold of satanic deception---injustice, apathy, corruption, immorality and unbelief---that righteousness, decency and justice may have dominion here. Dear Father, send the refining fire of Your blessed Holy Spirit to cleanse out the dross of sin in our midst as we repent, one and all, so we may rejoice together as Jesus Christ is enthroned in countless hearts across the land. O gracious Lord, pour out the riches of Your mercy and grace upon us, release Your fountain of Life throughout the nation to Advance Australia fair and enrol the lost into Your glorious Kingdom in readiness for the coming King of kings and Lord of lords, JESUS CHRIST, to the glory of God. Amen.

R.A: Led by our Lord Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit to glorify God with the Brotherhood of Man and in love and faithfulness to bring glory and honour to His holy name. Amen.

**REJOICE AS YOU SHARE THIS MESSAGE WITH OTHERS AND BE BLESSED TO BE ONE IN CHRIST JESUS.**