



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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GONE OFF THE RAILS

Something is drastically wrong with education in Australia. A significant example of this is found in the implementation of what is known as outcome-based education (OBE) in Years 11 and 12 in different parts of the country. Despite the fact that parents and teachers have shown a huge lack of confidence in the way high school students are taught English it is nevertheless being imposed on them in various states. But, one must ask, why are so many people (including the prime minister who calls it "gobbledegook") opposed to this new innovation? The fact of the matter is that it completely disregards the old basic requirements of spelling, grammar and punctuation. Moreover, instead of requiring students to study Shakespeare, Dickens or any other of the classics they must examine pop culture such as portrayed in film posters of Gandhi and Spiderman, as well as analysing the internet tool Google using diagrams, tables and dot points!

Dumbing Down Our Youth

Why is it that this latest experiment in learning methods leads many to think that education has gone off the rails? Because it has! When basic literacy is thrown out in the name of progress and students are no longer adequately prepared for university studies nor can they even convince employers that they possess the rudimentary skills of written communication then something is drastically wrong. However, the latest move to dumb down our youth is merely the end of a long trail of deliberately replacing traditional teaching which focussed on organised and systematic subject matter; literacy and numeracy skills; personal responsibility; absolute values; belief in the God of the Bible; diligence and industry; and developing individuals to their greatest potential. Now, in this so-called enlightened age, there is little systematic subject matter; less emphasis on skills; group consensus; situation ethics; no absolutes, no eternal truths; man is his own god and is not responsible for his actions; and morality is doing what the group decides is best.

Pragmatic Education

Why has education gone off the rails? Because the seeds of its destruction were sown many years ago. The real problem began with the pragmatic "new" education conceived by John Dewey, the so-called Father of American Education. A humanist, Dewey inculcated his atheistic beliefs into education in the United States in the early 20th century through a system of teaching that rejected the traditional methods and replaced them with "learning by experience". Then between the wars the Carnegie Foundation of America invested \$2 million to implant the seeds of this pragmatic education into several Australian universities. And steadily, decade after decade, those seeds continued to germinate and grow. By the 1970s humanist educators had gained control of education in Australia. Many changes were made to curricula. An emphasis on social issues such as the environment, nuclear disarmament, human rights, values clarification, peace studies, non-sexist and multicultural education replaced the previous stress on the skill subjects of maths, science, English grammar, history and geography. Literacy and numeracy lost their importance. Spelling and punctuation were considered impediments to the free flow of the child's creative ability. Discipline became a dirty word. Counselling supplanted corporal punishment. The old standards lost favour. Egalitarianism replaced excellence. Streaming of classes was abolished and the bright students languished in a morass of mediocrity. Underlying all these changes, however, was a monumental *putsch* to subvert the traditional foundation of a relatively homogeneous society with alien ideology to undermine our Christian way of life.

Traditional Values Fall by the Wayside

Of course, traditional values also fell by the wayside. Children were taught new values as humanist philosophy was thrust down their young throats. Evolution---not creation by God---was hammered into their heads until they truly believed their ancestors were monkeys, birds, reptiles and fish. Courtesy, respect for others, kindness, goodness, faith in God became optional, certainly not to be presented as desirable. No wonder we have reached the point today where education has gone completely off the rails. No wonder children are not learning respect for others when they can swear at their teachers with relative impunity! No wonder many teachers are at their wits end, robbed by misguided bureaucrats of the authority necessary to control their pupils and no longer an authority to be respected. Moreover, not only has the present curriculum deprived students of a basic understanding of the fundamentals of true learning but it has also led them into a nihilistic view of life that, by rejecting life's spiritual dimension, deprives them of an understanding of its real values and ultimate purpose!

Convention on the Rights of the Child

Since a previous Federal Government signed the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child many students now believe they have practically total freedom to do what they like in spite of their parents' wishes to the contrary. No wonder we have children in lower primary classes with ADHD! No wonder we have large numbers of young people unrestrained by the discipline of school or parent roaming the streets at night stealing cars and gate-crashing parties. No wonder we are producing more and more illiterates, many unable to qualify for a good job or even have the skills to apply for one. What is the future for our children? If we continue to allow the present system to proceed on its merry ungodly way we shall have an increasing percentage of illiterates, ill-equipped for the workaday world and its many personal demands and drifting aimlessly through life. In their inability to cope far too many will seek escape in drugs, alcohol, sex, crime, occult practices and suicide (which in WA alone is running at an alarming five a week for an annual total of 250 in the last year and much more than the road toll). Or they will become just plain layabouts living on the dole.

Time for a Drastic Turnaround

The scenario is disturbing. What can be done to reverse this unhealthy trend and again get our young people moving in the right direction? How can we restore faith in education? The time has come for a drastic turnaround in educational philosophy. As the teaching train started to go off the rails many decades ago with the rejection of the eternal virtues and verities that once made the education of the young meaningful and satisfying to both teacher and pupil we must now cast out this false teaching and regain what has been lost. Needing clear-cut guidance about the real issues of life the future generation is being socially engineered to follow the humanist, godless line, unable to discern the good from the bad and the genuine from the counterfeit. It just won't do! Let us bear in mind these wise words of Bishop Moorhouse over a century ago: "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." Indeed only as we instil true biblical values into our children will they be properly educated. Only then shall they be law-abiding, loyal citizens contributing their God-given talents to the future well-being of this our beloved country of ours.

PRAYER

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty, the Great I AM, how majestic is Your name in all the earth. Omniscient Father of Infinite Grace and Mercy, we thank You for the finished work of Jesus Christ the Lord on Calvary setting us free from sin. As Your covenant warriors and ambassadors to this sin-sick world in these perilous times, we yield to Your Spirit of wisdom, love and power as we pray for our leaders and especially our youth to be set free of the false god of humanistic hedonism and genuinely repent of their folly in turning away from our traditional heritage of faith and divine certainty. May they all turn to Your holy Word to nourish their souls on the Bread of Life and source of true knowledge and truth. In Jesus' name we pull down the strongholds of the ungodly humanistic education systems that have driven many students off the rails to reap the spirits of deception, disobedience and despair. Abba Father, instruct them in Your ways of truth and blessing to receive the abundant life You promise to all who receive Your Son in complete surrender. Guide our leaders, Lord, in the ways of righteousness, decency and justice; transform our education systems according to Your Word; and prepare us all, both young and old, for the return of the King of glory CHRIST JESUS the LORD, when He comes to reign over this Great Southland of the Holy Spirit. We ask all this for 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 in love and faithfulness to bring glory and honour to His holy name.

REJOICE IN COVENANT PRAYERS FULLY IN THE HOLY SPIRIT DAILY FOR AUSTRALIA'S REVIVAL.