



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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CLASSROOM CRISIS

Never before has so much money been poured into educating the young. Never before have class sizes been so compatible to learning. Never before have children spent so many years of their lives at school. Yet for all this, never before has there been such controversy over the worth (or lack) of the education they are receiving. Discontent in schools is rife. Many teachers are fed up, angry and frustrated with administrators who have substituted educational philosophy (including the reviled Outcomes Based Education (OBE) for common sense. While there are isolated successes at various schools, the bigger picture is one of many classrooms in crisis.

Assault and Abuse

In a letter to *The West Australian* a frustrated teacher at a particularly difficult school has revealed a most disturbing picture of life in her classroom that is far from an isolated case. “I dodge a Year 8 compass aimed at me---part and parcel of the daily assault and abuse which is part of my teaching workload. There’s no use making a report: the kid might be suspended for a day or two but come Monday he’ll be back in the classroom, grinning, swearing and trashing the joint. This generation of Year 7 and 8s is the worst. In a way, I am amused that no matter how foul the language, they always tag a ‘Miss’ at the end. Example: ‘F ...you, Miss!’ Don’t get me started on the girls. They are foul mouthed, they write in texta all over their things, hands, arms, thighs. They refer to each other and themselves as bitches, slags, sluts. They have a permanent iPod earpiece in one ear and a mobile phone on the other. They speak freely and knowingly about sex. Their lives revolve around alcohol, boys, the shopping centre and themselves....and yet they’re still kids with a hopeless look in their eye. The boys are different from the girls. They’re still kind of bewildered and innocent. They have to fight to survive the playground, not getting beaten up at recess.” She goes on, “Curriculum documents keep pouring in from ‘on high’---this outcome, that outcome. They haven’t got a clue. It’s not about education any more. It’s all about behaviour management, a fun subject. Not English Literature, Media, Drama, Maths, Science, Music or Art---not any more. Ninety per cent of teaching is about getting a kid to behave ”

Enormity of the Daily Grind

Another teacher adds, “I have a ‘presence’ yet I am almost completely overwhelmed and disempowered by the enormity of the daily grind. There is very little opportunity to engage students in vigorous learning but there is a strong survival instinct from lesson to lesson, day to day. Two hundred and seven suspensions in one term, from just three year groups, must sound some warning bells.” Clearly, something is drastically wrong with public education in Australia! So much so that the prime minister has called for an education revolution to ensure that schools are accountable for their performance, and even suggests that principals and other senior staff of under-performing schools be replaced. Unfortunately, the problem is deeply embedded, going way back into the past, and only a thorough purging of a system with faulty roots will even start to restore education in this country to what it should be: one that produces literate, competent well-rounded graduates with high ideals of honour, courtesy, self-discipline, respect for others, goodness, honesty and diligence. The basic problem with education today is the ideological foundation on which it rests, the faulty doctrine of secular humanism that supplanted the age-old tried and tested Christian standards and practices designed to enrich discipline, instruct and edify in the godly values and an awe of God, so vital as the very beginning of knowledge and wisdom. Consequently, the entire malaise that is education today, is failing to impart our cultural (Christian) heritage and its peerless way of life to the coming generation of young Australians.

Dilemma in Education

No wonder we have this dilemma in education! No wonder children are not learning respect for others when they can engage in swearing matches with their teachers! No wonder many teachers are at their wits end, unable to maintain the authority needed to control their students! No wonder we are producing more and more illiterates with 15 to 20 per cent struggling with reading by the time they reach Year 8! It is little wonder that more and more parents are removing their children from public education into private schools because they are seriously perturbed by the lack of successful disciplinary measures, truancy and drug use in state schools where many students are denied the plethora of ennobling literature that elevates and inspires in favour of trash that majors on the ugly and the decadent. Moreover, the modern trend towards mediocrity instead of excellence has undermined the capabilities of even average pupils, let alone the brilliant ones. Yet youngsters must be challenged; they must learn to compete and to prove themselves against strong competition. But all this requires discipline---a dirty word these days. Nevertheless, discipline must undergird the entire system of learning if students are to achieve their best, a truth that our educationists and their political masters must realise and begin applying it. For when children have learned to accept external discipline they are well on the way to that measure of spiritual self-control which is a basic necessity for living a successful life.

Mickey Mouse Topics

Students must struggle with reading because of a "wholistic" approach that rejects phonics, and maths because the basic functions of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division have been sacrificed in favour of play-way methods of measuring, guessing, weighing etc. They know little of history and geography which have been replaced with environmental studies and other Mickey Mouse topics. Their innocence is lost as sexual preoccupation is thrust upon even children of elementary grades and even death studies have become part of the curriculum. We certainly do need a revolution in education to overturn the present situation where too many young people emerge from twelve years of schooling unable to spell, punctuate or even write an application for employment. Not to mention their hopeless attitude to life---revealed in the number of young suicides---and to a ready acceptance of the dole as a right, with a subsequent disdain for work. More money for education is not the answer. The solution lies in a return to the values that once were the very warp and woof of our culture.

The Higher Motives

Over a century ago, when a controversy raged over the introduction of secular education, Catholic churchmen claimed, "It is evident that education without Christianity is impossible; you may call it instruction, but you cannot dignify it with the name Education. . . to divorce Christianity from Education is to return to paganism, and to reject the gospel of Jesus Christ." Anglican Bishop Moorhouse added, "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 our children, you are most surely, however unintentionally, preparing us for a future of vice, confusion and disaster." Unfortunately, public education today is a sad fulfilment of those fears. One may well ask what are our educators seeking to achieve as they throw out the wisdom of the ages for a mess of humanist pottage? No wonder we are raising a lost generation. Needing clear-cut guidance about the real issues of life they are being fed a diet of vacuous garbage that will do little to make their lives useful, productive, worthwhile and happy. Only as we again inculcate true and noble Christian values into our children shall they be truly educated. Only then shall they be equipped to be moral, law-abiding, loyal citizens of this our beloved country.

PRAYER

Dear Lord God Almighty, loving Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, how majestic is Your holy name. As Your servants, cleansed in Christ's blood and guided by Your indwelling Spirit, we thank You for the finished work of Christ on the cross empowering us with Your abundant grace to live a vibrant life of faith, hope and love. Abba Father, sanctify all believers through the Living Word, JESUS CHRIST, and purify them by obedience to Him who is the peerless and unrivalled centre-piece of civilisation. Indeed, dear God, we acknowledge Jesus Christ as the loftiest idea in Literature, the highest personality in Philosophy, the fundamental doctrine of true Theology, the Master of our faith and Captain of our souls. Thank You, Gracious Father, that He is the only One qualified to be an all-sufficient Saviour who forgives sinners, conquers Satan and pulls down every evil principality, including our deluded system of education which is leading our young people into spiritual darkness, as revealed in *Classroom Crisis*. Holy Father, we commit this message to You as we pray for all educators, parents, children, politicians, leaders and the media to sincerely repent and cry out to JESUS CHRIST, the SAVIOUR and LORD of this Great Southland of the Holy Spirit, to the glory of God. Amen.

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

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