



# 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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## THE WHOLE EARTH GROANS

When God finished His Creation, it was a good Creation. (Gen 1:31); but today under man's management, it is a groaning Creation. This world of ours is creaking and groaning under the impact of the development of civilisation and the rapid increase in its population as the doubling effect manifests itself in a remarkable way. Whereas the first billion was reached after almost four millennia of known civilisation, the billion milestones have accelerated down the highway of history. The first billion was reached about 1850, the second about 1920, the third about 1950, the fourth about 1975, the fifth about 1990 and now we have topped the six billion.

Such rapid population growth is having an increasingly greater impact on the environment. Never before has mankind shown so much concern for the natural world, as it now sees its very existence threatened. Rainforests that once seemed impregnable are now succumbing at an alarming rate to the bulldozer, the saw and the match. Deserts are steadily encroaching on arable land, the removal of forests has seen the insidious spread of salt into agricultural areas and more and more countries are unable to feed their inhabitants. Droughts, too, have adversely affected the production of food crops especially in countries grossly mismanaged by socialist regimes. Pollution of waterways is now a great concern as water fauna and flora are destroyed through the emission of chemical residues into streams, rivers and oceans. Not to mention the disposal of human effluent that is creating headaches for city planners, governments and citizens. Then there is the garbage. Large cities are being engulfed in rubbish as tips cannot deal with the mountains of refuse being disgorged from factories and households in our disposable society.

Next there is air pollution. Each day millions of motor vehicles, power stations, smelters, factories and planes discharge vast amounts of carbon dioxide and other gases into the atmosphere triggering the greenhouse scare. Not to mention all the CFCs from millions of aerosol spray cans supposedly boring holes in the ozone layer thus allowing ultra violet rays to wreck havoc on unprotected bodies exposed to sunlight. Furthermore, in a nuclear environment with 434 nuclear power generating plants in the world, Y2K presents a wild card with no assurance of safety by the nuclear industry. As a nuclear power plant has several "off-site" dependencies, all nuclear power plants worldwide must be shut down before the five month deadline 1<sup>st</sup> July 1999, in the consequences of having to trust backup reliability. Failing this there is no time to provide protection from nuclear exposures. The failure at Chernobyl affected all of Europe, eastern and western! It is time that Australians joined the world nations to pray diligently that the Lord Jesus would give all men working within the nuclear plants much wisdom in these difficult decisions – because we are all in this together. Does this mean that in 2 Peter 3:10 our Lord is warning us that a series of nuclear chain reactions will produce a worldwide nuclear holocaust! Of course there are the natural disasters such as volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, floods, cyclones, hurricanes, hailstorms, tornadoes, droughts, freezing weather on one side of the globe and extreme heat on the other. In fact, last year a record number of natural disasters turned 25 million people into environmental refugees. Fires, floods and droughts from El Nino in Indonesia, Hurricane Mitch in Central America and the flooding of the Yangtze in China affected over 200 million people. In Papua New Guinea a devastating drought brought 260,000 to the brink of starvation. Then a calamitous tidal wave (Tsunami) took some 1600 lives. The natural disaster bill for the year was over \$132 billion!

This old earth of ours is indeed groaning "and labours with birth pains ---- Not only so but we also who have the first fruits of the Spirit ---- groan inwardly as we eagerly await our adoption as sons, the redemption of our mortal bodies." (Romans 8:23-24) As a woman in the pangs of childbirth groans in agony but also in expectation, so the present state of agitation is the forerunner of the birth of a new age. For He who created all things in heaven and earth, "visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions, principalities or powers" is coming back to inaugurate His reign on earth.

Jesus' sudden return will satisfy the longings of both the earth itself and those who possess His Spirit. The anguish and groanings will cease when Jesus' feet again stand on the Mount of Olives east of Jerusalem. From that day forth "the Lord shall be King over all the earth" and the world will be at peace at last. The Bible foretells that God will shake the nations so they shall repent and come to Him. Jesus Himself promised to return when the world was in a state of perplexity and confusion. He prophesied that in the last days there will be great earthquakes, devastating widespread famines and pestilences in various places, wars and rumours of war, nation rising against nation and kingdom against kingdom. His return is imminent!

It is time to prepare the way of the Lord, to be ready for Him whose "winnowing fan is in His hand, who will thoroughly purge His threshing floor and gather His wheat into the barn; but who will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire" (Mathew 3:12). In light of the fulfilment of these specific prophecies in our generation indicates that JESUS CHRIST's second coming may occur at any time. "Come LORD JESUS" (Revelation 22:20) Maranatha!

### OUR PRAYER

Our gracious and loving heavenly Father, we humbly come in one accord to love and worship You with all our heart, all our soul, all our will in one faith in Christ as we sit before Your holy presence in Jesus' Name. We thank You Father, You have loved us so much and that Your love is unconditional. We thank You Father for Your love that has reflected in the gift of Your Son, JESUS CHRIST who died for our sins on the cross to be our Lord and Saviour --- the power of God unto all who believe. We ask You, Holy Spirit, to open our hearts, renew our minds and strengthen our faith that we may comprehend the length, the breadth, the depth and the height of the love of Christ for us. We thank You Father for Truth, that is, where the Word and the deed become one; that You have given us the Spirit of counsel, the power and the might to live Your life in us here on earth. We pray Father that You would indeed open our hearts and lives to Your Word. Holy Spirit help us to understand fully how we can be more effective in being responsive to Your will in our lives, our families, communities and our nation. For in all these things we might be more pleasing in Your sight; Lord God.

Sovereign Lord, it is our supreme delight in You to offer our bodies as living sacrifices holy, acceptable unto You to earnestly praise and worship You, Lord God, in the realm of the Spirit and in Truth and in the beauty of Your holiness. So Father we come before You asking You to make us more hungry to behold our Lord Jesus. Increase in each of us an appetite for Your Word that we indeed might grow in grace in the knowledge of our Lord; that we might more fully perceive what You will have in response from us moment by moment, day by day. Holy Father, we pray that You increase in each of us an awareness through Your Holy Spirit and Your Word of those unique opportunities that You have tailored for each of us to be participants in the grand adventure that unfolds before us and not be spectators only. Help us to discover that unique calling, that unique opportunity for each of us that in all things Father, we might truly walk in Your paths with You.

Gracious Father, in Your immeasurable mercy, please forgive our nation for taking Your Blood Covenant, Your Word and Your goodness for granted. Forgive us for our spiritual ignorance for not understanding even the least bit of Your Agape Love, Lord God. Father, we thank You for Your patience and endless mercy for delaying the return of our Lord Jesus Christ; giving us time to join with our leaders to cry out to You, FATHER save AUSTRALIA! Send Your Holy Spirit to prepare the hearts of our NATION to earnestly repent, confess and forgive, so that we can corporately receive and commit our NATION to JESUS CHRIST to be Lord and Saviour of Australia; for it is Your heart's desire, not willing that any should perish but all to come to repentance. We ask this in the Name of Jesus Christ, Y'shua Ha Mashiach, our Lord and Saviour. 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.**