



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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IT'S TIME TO CLAIM OUR CHRISTIAN HERITAGE

No matter how vociferously the secular humanists try to deny it, Australia has a Christian heritage. Though they deliberately distort and misinterpret our past history the evidence is clear that from the very outset of European discovery in the South Pacific that God intended this nation to be an instrument for Him. In fact, the discovery, settlement and growth of Australia are testament to His hand on this land. While most Australians are under the misapprehension that we are merely the offspring of convicts, rejected, isolated and second-rate there is a much more positive aspect to our history. Indeed, through the contribution of numerous Christian forefathers to the Kingdom of God we are a nation with a providential destiny. As we enter the second century of our nationhood it is time to recognize the hand of God in the establishment of a Christian nation within easy reach of the masses of Asia. Consider some of the godly elements in our foundations. Our common law has been based on the Christian faith. In fact, it goes back a long way in history, even to the time of Alfred the Great who made the Ten Commandments the law of England. Since then the Bible has been the foundation of British law, which we inherited from the outset of settlement in 1788. This law is vital if we are to enjoy both justice and freedom, as a Chief Justice once declared, "Christianity is parcel of the Common Law of England and therefore to be protected by it. The Father of Federation, Henry Parkes, wrote: "As we are a British people, we are pre-eminently a Christian people, as our laws, our whole system of jurisprudence, our Constitution ... are based upon and interwoven with our Christian belief." The preamble to the Australian Constitution included the phrase "humbly relying on the blessing of Almighty God" in response to numerous petitions from people in every colony and approved of unanimously at the Federal Convention.

Long before, in 1606, Pedro Fernandez de Queiros, a Portuguese explorer in the service of Spain, named Australia del Espiritu Santo... a land dedicated to the Holy Spirit he believed stretched as far south as the pole. Thus we became known as 'the Great Southland of the Holy Spirit' and our eternal destiny was cast. Then came Captain Cook who named several places discovered on significant days from the Anglican prayer book including the Whitsundays, Trinity Bay and Pentecost Island. The first Christian minister arrived with the First Fleet. The Rev Richard Johnson who brought with him many Bibles and other Christian literature conducted the first Christian service on Australian soil on Sunday 3 February 1788. Moreover, instructions to the governor, Captain Arthur Phillip, were "to enforce a due observance of religion and good order among the inhabitants and to take such steps for the due celebration of public worship as circumstances would permit." The first church building opened in August 1793 and became one of the colony's first schools. In 1794 Rev Samuel Marsden arrived in the colony as Johnson's assistant. He was to write in 1811, "It is my opinion that God will ere long visit New South Wales with His heavenly grace. Out of these stones He will raise up children unto Abraham."

In 1804 the first public event in Hobart was the commitment of the settlement to God in prayer. Most of the early colony's leadership - governors (Hunter, Macquarie and Brisbane), chaplains, officials, judge advocates, schoolteachers and the editor of Australia's first newspaper - were evangelical Christians. Macquarie in fact was always trying to improve the moral and religious well being of the citizens, hoping that they would become good Christians. Many of South Australia's founders were also Christians. One of these, Robert Torrens, stated in a speech to the House of Commons, "We are co-operating in the scheme of Providence and are the favoured instrument in causing Christian civilization to 'cover the earth as the waters cover the sea'."

Many of the early pioneers, too, were devout Christians. Among them included Matthew Flinders, Charles Sturt, Edward John Eyre, Caroline Chisholm, Ludwig Leichhardt and the Rev John Flynn, founder of the Australian Inland Mission and the Royal Flying Doctor Service. Other notable Christians who made a significant mark in Australian society were Prime Ministers Edmund Barton and George Reid, inventor of the wheat stripper John Ridley and H.V. McKay whose Sunshine Harvester was named in honour of the Son of God. But sadly our Christian heritage has been removed from our educational and historical records and generations of Australians have been robbed of the truth concerning our godly past. Like Esau of old who despised his birthright, we too have sold ours for a mess of humanist pottage. It's time to begin reaping those seeds of faithful sowing from days gone by. It's time to heed these wise words of Scripture, "He commanded our ancestors to teach them to their children, so the next generation might know them -- even the children not born -- so they in turn might teach them to their children. So each generation can set its hope on God" (Psalm 78:5-7). It's time to realize that we are a CHOSEN PEOPLE linked to Ancient Israel through our British roots; moreover that Australian soldiers played a significant role in the capture of Jerusalem from the Turks in December 1917 thus opening the way for the birth of modern Israel in 1948 in fulfillment of biblical prophecy. It's time to repent of our folly in listening to those who would deny our God-given heritage; yes, even our birthright as **'the Great Southland of the Holy Spirit'**. Our very future depends on it. May God grant us the wisdom that like the prodigal son we too will return to the Father's house where there is blessing, prosperity and true freedom.

OUR PRAYER

Our loving and gracious Father, Almighty God of Israel, we humbly and joyfully come in Jesus' name in the omnipotent power of the Holy Spirit to join the hosts in heaven to gratefully thank You for declaring our nation **'the Great Southland of the Holy Spirit'** 400 years ago. Lord God, forgive our spiritual ignorance for not teaching our Christian heritage to students in schools, tertiary institutions, universities, and to migrants and refugees. Instead we have transformed Your land into an ungodly "paradise", reaping a harvest of dysfunctional families, lawless youth, drug addicts, gays and lesbians, barbarians assaulting elderly folk and helpless women, criminals and murderers! We have reaped what we sowed. For technology cannot replace moral choice. Spirit of the Living God, we thank You for speaking to our nation's leaders of our destiny. Lord, we thank You for Your forgiveness, when this nation surrenders to You to claim her birthright. Abba Father, be glorified in the LORD JESUS CHRIST for what He has done for us on the cross of Calvary and who is now interceding for us as our Great High Priest. He is our mighty Defender against all the wiles of the devil. Father God, in the name of Jesus of Nazareth, we take authority to pull down the devil's strongholds of deception, fear, pride, lust of the flesh, wickedness, unbelief, compromise and "every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God" by "bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ" (2 Cor.10: 5). Dear Lord, vindicate Your Word to save this lost generation. With contrite hearts, Father, we cry out - **save our Christian heritage!** Help us to preach the Good News to the poor, proclaim freedom for the prisoners, recovery of sight for the blind and release to the oppressed, that none should perish but come to the saving knowledge of the Lord and Saviour, JESUS CHRIST. O Living God, help us make Him LORD of this **'Great Southland of the Holy Spirit'** - He who is supreme in authority and the source of divine grace; the only One able to cleanse all sin and defeat Satan and death; limitless in power, majestic in splendour and awesome in holiness; absolute in justice and unbending in mercy, yet His wrath is terrible; infinite in wisdom and knowledge and unsearchable in His understanding.

Blessed Holy Spirit we yield to You in the name and through the blood of Jesus to break the curse of all demonic spirits over this land and send them to the pit where they belong and we enthrone the LORD God of Israel, our Royal Groom in this **'Great Southland of the Holy Spirit'**. To God be the glory. Sovereign Lord, it is time to claim our "Title Deed" as we go to the Rock to pull us through the coming storms. We abide in Your omnipotent Spirit to be more than conquerors over Satan who comes to destroy our heritage; and we release Your bloodline hedge of protection around this **'Great Southland of the Holy Spirit'**. We fervently ask all this in the glorious name of **Yeshua Ha Mashiach, our Lord and Saviour, JESUS CHRIST**, our coming **King of Glory**. 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

[REJOICE & SHARE THIS MESSAGE IN PRAYER WITH OTHERS & BE BLESSED TO BE ONE IN CHRIST JESUS]