



# 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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**BROTHERS & SISTERS**

**JANUARY 2005**

## **LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS**

“Arise, shine; for your light has come! And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people.” (Isaiah 60:1-2) Indeed darkness now does cover the earth. In this world of ours today there is a darkness of ignorance, a darkness of impurity, a darkness of fear. As the portals swing open to the new year of 2005 our planet is beset with strife and turmoil in many places as the forces of good and evil struggle for victory and the souls of men. We live in a world engaged in spiritual warfare where the powers of deception are rampant. We have a media masking truth, courts without justice, schools deliberately “dumbing down” our youth, our traditional heritage replaced with “multiculturalism”, revisionism and relative values. In our striving to be “open” to multiculturalism we have abandoned the quest for truth in exchange for values relativism. We have disconnected ourselves from the benefits of 2000 years of the painful lesson to pay the price of carrying our cross in our Western Civilization for freedom and peace.

### **Godless Philosophies**

Ours is a culture strongly influenced by intellectuals enamored with the doctrines of Freudianism, the dialectic of Hegel, the communism of Marx along with Behaviourism, Socialism, Existentialism (do your own thing), Rationalism, Fabianism and Humanism. Consequently our youth have been disenfranchised from their Christian heritage as two generations of graduates have been subjected to these godless philosophies through our schools. The children from this background have now become the parents, teachers, political leaders, media people, playwrights, actors, entertainers and clergy, business and professional people. Ignorant of the great moral and religious strengths of our nation they have been unable to impart these virtues to the next generation. The result? Neo-paganism, moral free fall!

### **Darkest Days**

Yes, deep darkness does cover the people of this land and many others. It's been said that we could not have revival now because people are just too calloused. They do not care about God anymore. But take heart! The greatest revivals in the world have come in the past during the darkest days. They have come when men's hearts were the coldest, when they are belligerent towards the things of God and openly show disrespect for Him. However, when the world is at its darkest “the Lord will arise over you” The light *will* shine in the darkness! Surely we are even now being primed and ready for the presence of God to fill the church with His glory – for “His glory will be seen upon you”. As a matter of fact, God is already beginning to work. Even now evangelists, preachers and teachers travel all over the world spreading the gospel and millions are responding in the Third World to the call of JESUS. Not to mention the continual outreach to the remotest places with the gospel via radio and television. Moreover, the powers of darkness, as evidenced by the slaughter of thousands of innocent babies in the womb - in the name of “a mother's choice”, is starting to be challenged both here and in the United States by men of God. The cornerstone of society - the family- is again being defended against the attacks of the ungodly. And, praise God, men and women of God are being elected to power – and the enemy is worried.

### **The Former and Latter Rain**

Remember, in these last days God has promised to pour out His Spirit. Acts 2:17 assures us: "And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh". So does Hosea 6:2-3: "After two days (2000 years) He will revive us; on the third day He will raise us up... He will come to us like the rain, like the latter and former rain." In spiritual terms the former and latter rains represent the move of God' Spirit under the two covenants of God, the old and the new. The former was a moderate rain. Under the Old Covenant the people of Israel went long periods between visitations of God or anyone anointed by the Holy Spirit. When the rain did fall, a great prophet, priest or king would be raised up and the anointing as well as miracles would flow. You can see the former rain in the lives of Samson, Samuel, Elijah, Elisha, Daniel and Isaiah. You can also see it in the lives of women like Deborah and Esther who turned whole kingdoms around with their faith in God. But then came the Holy One Jesus Christ in whom was Life and that Life was the light of men. His light shone in the darkness but the darkness neither comprehended nor overcame it. Though the powers of darkness nailed the Light of the World to a cross believing they had extinguished Him they were grossly mistaken. Lights began to appear in Jerusalem, moved out into the surrounding countryside and then throughout the Roman Empire and beyond. The centuries since have added to His glory. The lives of Christian saints have shone as lights in dark places and the Light has never been fully quenched.

### **Greater Works**

Nevertheless, having said all that, despite many revivals over the years the world has never experienced the fullness of the rain of the Holy Spirit as prophesied. Remember, the Lord told His disciples just before going to the cross, "He that believes in Me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go to the Father ... He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever, even the Spirit of truth." That is, I promise you the latter rain. Sure enough, that rain began to fall at Pentecost. But this was only the beginning of what Joel prophesied: "Be glad then, you children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God: for He has given the former rain for your vindication, He has poured down for you abundant rain, the former and the latter rain in the first month." (Joel 2:21,23) In other words, there will be a deluge of the Spirit of God which will flood the land in one brief period of time. Just like the Shekinah cloud of God's glory which is seen in both the Old and New Covenants – the pillar of smoke, and the pillar of fire in the Old Testament and the mighty, rushing wind and tongues of fire at Pentecost in the New Testament. "And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh... And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth beneath... before the great and glorious day of the Lord comes." (Joel 2:28,30).

### **Climax of the Ages**

Think of it! The climax of the ages is almost upon us. A spiritual storm of the power of the living God is coming... soon! It's going to rain. There will be clouds of His glory. There will be the thunder of His voice from one side of the earth to the other. There will be lightnings of His power and the wind of His presence. All at the same time! And it's not coming in another century or two. It's coming very soon, so watch, get ready and expect it. Most of all, pray for it, just as Zechariah exhorts: "Ask the Lord for rain in the time of the latter rain". (Zech 10:1) Glory to God, it's time to take heart and let your light shine. It's beginning to rain! Lord, help us to live now in the light of that real tomorrow.

### **Our Heartfelt Prayer**

Gracious Saviour, hear our heartfelt prayer as we make our petition known to You in the words of the popular chorus: *Lord, the light of Your love is shining/ In the midst of the darkness shining/ Jesus, light of the world shine upon us/ Set us free by the truth You now bring us/ Shine on me, Shine on me. Shine, Jesus, shine/ Fill this land with the Father's glory/ Blaze, Spirit blaze/ Set our hearts on fire/ Flow, river, flow/ Flood the nations with grace and mercy/ Send forth Your Word, Lord ... and let there be light.* Amen and glory be to God.

*Wishing you and your family a blessed Christmas Season and a Glorious New Year 2005.*

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 & SHARE IN FAITH THIS MESSAGE IN PRAYER WITH OTHERS & BE BLESSED TO BE ONE IN CHRIST JESUS,**