



## Pray for the Nation ~ INOI MO TE MOTU

Intercessors for New Zealand

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The LORD said, "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 I will forgive their sin, and heal their land." (2 Chronicles 7:14)

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"I call Heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. **Choose life** so that you and your descendants may live, loving the LORD your God, obeying Him, and holding fast to Him, for that means life to you and length of days..."

(See Deuteronomy 30:15-20 for the full context of these words)

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### 'END OF LIFE CHOICE' BILL

#### Euthanasia Bill

This is a private Members Bill (a Bill proposed by one Member of Parliament and not by the Government), proposed by the ACT Party leader, David Seymour.

In the 38,000 submissions to Parliament about this Bill, 92% were against the Bill. Since then, more than 1000 doctors have publicly announced their opposition to the Bill, in a full-page, open letter, newspaper statement.

About 100 amendments to the Bill, as it stands at the moment, have been proposed. These could take a long time to debate and vote on each amendment! Most of the amendments are aimed at tightening the conditions under which a person may be lawfully euthanised.

Initially the proposed legislation would permit euthanasia on mental health grounds, or for people who have incurable diseases. These two grounds for euthanasia have now been dropped from the Bill, so people cannot use these as grounds for being euthanised. The grounds for euthanasia are now only for terminal illness.

If this Bill is eventually passed, the future of many hundreds of people in the coming years could be affected – people of all ages and stages in life; people with physical, mental or other conditions. Nobody likes to see people suffer – and this is why we have palliative care. but there is always the potential for the Bill to be used in all sorts of ways that were never intended, or in ways that are not right.

#### Please pray ...

- For this Bill, and the many debates about it.
- For David Seymour, and all other MPs; the Bill's supporters and its opponents.
- For the amendments proposed, those who speak for or against the amendment, and the voting on each amendment.
- For God's over-ruling concerning what happens to this Bill – any further changes; its final form for the last vote, and whether it is ultimately defeated or passed to become Law.
- That God will over-rule concerning this Bill, and that the supreme will of God will be done here on earth, even as it is in Heaven.
- For all those people who suffer from major disabilities, including severe pain, and for those who are seriously considering ending their own lives.
- For all those people who have terminal illnesses and other situations which make it very difficult and unpleasant to face, on an ongoing daily basis.
- For the protection of all our people, especially those facing terminal conditions, severe disablement or sickness.
- For God's intervention in these people's lives – a revelation of Himself to them; relief from their pain and suffering; and for His love, hope and peace to be received by them as they cry to Him for His help. In the midst of their distress, may they call on the LORD and find His salvation, love, hope and wholeness.

*What a Friend we have in Jesus,  
all our sins and griefs to bear;  
What a privilege to carry,  
everything to God in prayer!*

## ABORTION LEGISLATION

The First Reading of the Abortion Legislation Bill was passed because this enables the House to debate the issues concerning abortion, receive submissions and put forward amendments to it. This does not mean that the Bill will ultimately be passed, as MPs may vote **for** the First Reading so that it can be debated, but **against** it when it comes to the final vote because they don't want it to go through. The final vote will be a "conscience vote", allowing every MP to vote as they decide, and not having to vote according to their Party's views.

This Bill is now being considered by a special Select Committee, and is open to public submissions. Submissions need to be made to the Select Committee by **Thursday 19 September**. For further details, see Family First's website [www.familyfirst.org.nz](http://www.familyfirst.org.nz) and the video *Love them Both* [mother and baby] [www.lovetheboth.nz](http://www.lovetheboth.nz)

### Please pray ...

- For the Submissions being made at this time.
- For any further amendments proposed, and whether they are agreed to, or not.
- The final outcome for this Bill; and that God's over-ruling and will shall be done here on earth, as it is in Heaven.

*People were bringing little children to Jesus in order that He might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, He was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to Me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the Kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the Kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." And He took them up in His arms, laid His hands on them, and blessed them. (Mark 10:13-16)*

## LAND ISSUES

**Please pray** concerning the current land issues, in which Fletchers is wanting to build a housing estate on land at Ihumatao, South Auckland, which some Maori want to retain as their land.

**Please pray** about this dispute and for the right outcome for all people concerned – Maori and those people who would benefit from the housing which could be built there.

## NEW ZEALAND CHRISTIAN NETWORK

The New Zealand Christian Network is a network of Christians and churches throughout our country which seeks, among other things, the unity of God's people, the welfare of our churches and Christian organisations, and the dissemination of information which is beneficial to Christians and churches. This includes prayer items and news from other nations, for prayer and action. We recommend that you visit their website and support the work they are doing throughout our land.

<https://nzchristiannetwork.org.nz/>

**Please pray for NZ Christian Network** – their leaders, workers, their decisions; and God's blessing on this organisation for the benefit of our land, its people, the Church and all God's people.

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## BIBLE STUDY BOOKLETS

**Did you know** that over the years *Pray for the Nation* has produced many Bible studies on themes such as prayer, revival, government, our nation and society, and so on. The Bible studies last month and this month are on the theme of praying for our nation; our Bible study book "*Pray for the Nation*" is also on this theme (of course!)

These books are designed for personal study and for Bible study groups. Each study has questions for further thought or discussion.

These books include *Pray for the Nation*, *Lord Teach us to Pray* (Parts 1 and 2), *Spiritual Warfare through Intercession*, and *Soldiers of Christ – Arise!*

These books are available, **free** of charge. Most of them are in print; most of them are available online for reading, printing or downloading.

For further details, go to our website:

<https://www.pray-for-the-nation.org/bible-study-books.php>

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## PRAYER UPDATES

**Did you know that** we have weekly *Prayer Updates*? If you would like to receive these, please send us your name and email address and we will let you know each week when they are on our website.



## **INTERCEEDING FOR NATIONS**

The ultimate authority, in Heaven, on earth, and even over things under the earth, is the Lord Himself (Matt. 28:18; Phil. 2:9-11).

Hence “There is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by Him” (see Rom. 13:1-7; Tit. 3:1; 1 Pet. 2:13-17).

Daniel 2:21 says “He (God) removes kings and sets up kings”. Thus, when God calls Christians to intercede “for kings and all who are in high positions”, we are engaging in a spiritual battle against the powers of darkness and evil principalities, on behalf of our leaders and our nation (see 1 Tim. 2:1-4; Eph. 6:10-18).

### **Should Christians be involved in politics?**

To some people, “politics” is a dirty word. Some feel that Christians should not be involved in political issues – “politics is ‘worldly’ and Christians should be involved in spiritual things”.

But if Christians are to be the “salt of the earth” and the “light of the world” (Matt. 5:13-16) then surely they should do all they can to influence the world towards those things which are good and Godly – and this involves not only prayer and evangelism but other practical ways as well. It is our responsibility, as Christians, to warn the ungodly of God’s coming judgement if they do not repent and turn to God (Ezek. 33:1-9).

While people may choose to disobey and break the laws of the land, this is no reason whatever for lowering the standards. The laws of our land should be based on the highest possible principles, namely those of God. People must know what God requires of them, and of God’s judgement – often through those He has set in authority in the land – on those who disobey.

### **National prosperity**

National prosperity – physical, economic, racial, moral and spiritual – depends on righteousness. “Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people” (Prov. 14:34). “When there is moral rot within a nation, its government topples easily, but with honest, sensible leaders there is stability” (Prov. 28:2 TLB). “When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice, but

when the wicked rule, the people groan” (Prov. 29:2).

Divine judgement will come upon a nation to the degree to which it turns from God and His ways. This judgement can only be averted by national repentance. If the nation refuses to repent then the Godly may be saved out of it (although often they have to suffer with their fellow countrymen), but judgement will come, often in the form of major problems, or an enemy who is victorious over them, or through “natural disasters”. See 2 Chronicles 7:12-18; Genesis 18:16 to 19:29; Jonah 3:1-10; Ezekiel 22:23-31.

### **The problem**

The problem is that God desires the very best possible for every nation, but what He really wants, and what He allows, are often very different. To a very large extent we get the government and leaders and nation that we deserve, especially if we live in a democracy. There is a divine law that a person (or nation) will reap what they sow (Gal. 6:7-8).

### **Our task as Christians**

Our task as Christians is to seek to turn our nation back to God through:

1. **Evangelism:** Ultimately people’s hearts need to be transformed by the power of God, through their salvation.
2. **Teaching:** We need to proclaim the truths of God’s Word, His standards and His laws, in spite of what the world might think.
3. **Godly leadership:** We need to pray for the salvation of our leaders and for Godly leaders who will uphold God’s laws in our land. Of course, it goes without saying that the leadership in the Church should be of the highest possible standard!
4. **Intercession:** We need to identify with the sins of our nation, repent, confess them to God by name, and ask for His forgiveness and cleansing. See, for example, Nehemiah chapters 9 and 10.

Will we get the government and blessings God really wants us to have, or will we get what we deserve? That depends on us!

## How to pray non-politically

The Church cannot take sides politically. As individuals, God gives us a choice as to who we vote for, although we should, of course, ask Him! Thus, in public intercession we can forget party politics as such. What we need to do is to pray in the Kingdom of God – the Kingdom of God needs to rule in the midst of His enemies (Ps. 110:2). An individual Christian can enter into politics, but the Church cannot – it should stand for Biblical principles, irrespective of which party or parties support them, or oppose them.

Thus, for intercessors, it is not a matter of one party versus another, left wing versus right wing, etc., but rather, the Kingdom of God versus the kingdom of darkness. We are not pro- or anti-anyone. “God so loved the (whole) world ...” (John 3:16). Instead we must pray (and vote) according to the character of God and His revealed will.

For example, God is a God of justice, freedom (not oppression; He sets people free) and righteousness. He is impartial, not racist (“Here there cannot be Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, or free ...” Col. 3:11). God is not prejudiced against people, but He is against greed, laziness, selfishness, tyranny. He is deeply concerned for the needs of the poor, the down-trodden and the weak. If we keep these things in mind as we pray, then we can pray according to His will, for the establishment of His Kingdom, rather than be involved in party politics as such. In fact, “party spirit” is listed as one of the works of the flesh in Galatians 5:20.

We are called to proclaim the Truth, to teach God’s Word, to exhort people to be obedient to God and His laws, and to warn people of the consequences of disobedience.

### Wickedness in nations

In some nations there is great wickedness which is much more than just politics – it is an evil principality and part of the kingdom of darkness. For example, in countries where thousands of innocent people are unjustly discriminated against, wrongly punished,

imprisoned, tortured or killed; where evil prevails.

The Church can never be reconciled with worship of the State and its President or leaders, and which crushes and destroys people physically, mentally, socially and spiritually. This sort of State is a spiritual kingdom of darkness, with religious spirits subjugating its people; a “State” which brings them into spiritual darkness and bondage through lies, deception, physical force, violence and fear.

### How should we pray?

Pray that God will over-rule in the government, and for His choice of leadership, so that our nation will be upheld in righteousness.

Pray for individual Members of Parliament, the Prime Minister and Cabinet; and others who are in authority in the land.

Pray for those Members of Parliament who are already Christians, that they will seek God’s guidance and wisdom in all that they do, and that they will uphold God’s standards.

Pray for MPs who are not Christians, that they will be saved; or, if they continue to act in ways which are seriously contrary to God’s desires and laws, that they will be replaced.

Pray for leaders who will rule justly, in the fear of God (2 Sam. 23:3-4).

### QUESTIONS

1. What should be the Christian’s attitude to the laws of the land?
2. What should be our attitude to the law when the law is:
  - (a) far more liberal than God’s laws?
  - (b) contrary to God’s law?
3. To what extent should Christians be involved in politics?
4. Is judgement of our land inevitable? If not, what can we do to prevent it?
5. What can we do to help bring our nation to a place of repentance before God?
6. In what ways is oppression of a country’s people different from ordinary politics?

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**Pray for the Nation, 105 Woodman Drive, Tawa, Wellington 5028, New Zealand** (Coordinator: Brian Caughley)

Our *Prayer Updates* are on our website each week: <https://www.pray-for-the-nation.org/prayer-updates.php>