



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)

JULY 2020

"If you keep silence at such a time as this, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another quarter, but you and your father's family will perish. Who knows? Perhaps you have come to the kingdom for just such a time as this." (Esther 4:14)

PRAYING FOR OUR NATION

When *Pray for the Nation* started in 1972, five major areas or targets for prayer were as follows. These are still our major areas for prayer.

Please pray for ...

- **The Church.**

"The **church** throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and was built up. Living in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers." (Acts 9:31)

Unity; teaching and living by God's Word and His ways; prayer; witness; spiritual and social ministries; preaching the Gospel and people being saved.

- **Our Nation.**

"God shows no partiality, but in every **nation** anyone who fears Him and does what is right is acceptable to Him." (Acts 10:34-35)

Our society and its well-being; helping those in need; mutual support and encouragement; righteousness and justice; those things which benefit our people and which are not harmful or undesirable.

- **Our Government.**

"Give Your servant therefore an understanding mind to **govern** Your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this Your great people?" (1 Kings 3:9)

Justice; wisdom; righteous laws; political Parties working together and not in opposition to each other; Ministries within government and the departments which support them.

- **Revival.**

"Will You not **revive** us again, so that Your people may rejoice in You?" (Psalm 85:6)

A sovereign move of God; an outpouring of the Holy Spirit on believers; the gifts of the Spirit; a demonstration of God's power, love and mercy; spiritual revival and renewal within the Church and churches; conviction of sin and righteousness on all people.

See the series of Bible studies on Revival, in our *Prayer Letters*, starting from February 2020. These are on our website <https://pray-for-the-nation.org/monthly-prayer-letters.php>

- **Evangelism.**

"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be My **witnesses** in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

Greatly renewed outreach and mission to those who are not-yet Christians, seeing many coming to salvation; the restoration of Christians who have fallen back from Christian living; sharing the Gospel personally, as churches, locally, nationally and worldwide.

Bible Study Books (in print, free; and online), on each of the above five topics, are available from our website <https://pray-for-the-nation.org/bible-study-books.php> These are suitable for personal and group study.

PRAYER @ PARLIAMENT

The next Prayer @ Parliament meeting will be held on **Thursday 30 July**, at 7.20 pm in the Grand Hall, Parliament Building. These meetings are held three times each year, and up to 200 people gather to pray for our nation, including prayer for our government, and the coming elections and referendums on 19 September. The meetings begin and end with worship; and include three sections, each of which is briefly introduced by a speaker and followed by prayer in small groups. People from all over the country are welcome. Registration by 23 July is **essential**.

<http://prayeratparliament.org.nz>

PLEASE PRAY for the above meeting, the speakers, all the people who will come, for God-inspired worship and prayer, for our country and our government.

PRAYER FOR 'SUCH A TIME AS THIS'

Our country needs **wisdom**, and the ability to handle and meet the following needs:

- **Debt**, and how any further government distribution of financial help should be handled; how to repay debt; to what causes should further money be given, and how much?
- **Advisors** who give our government the information and advice it needs.
- **Unemployment** – those who have lost their jobs or suffered loss in pay; businesses or industries which are suffering financially or have closed; opportunities for restarting.
- **Personal difficulties** associated with the lockdown and forced lifestyle changes – despair, depression, violence, fear, debt, etc.
- **Tourism** (especially from overseas) – the impact of covid-19 on tourism and all associated businesses. The need for increased tourism, etc., within our country.
- **Borders** – how we should handle incoming passengers to our country; testing for covid-19; self-isolation and managed isolation. To what extent should our borders be open to certain people or countries – and to which countries. How we handle thousands of New

Zealanders overseas who want to return to New Zealand – where they will live and find work, if possible.

- **Monitoring** for covid-19, how this should be managed, who should be tested and how often, managing quarantine and self-isolation. How we deal with active cases of the virus, and any possible future clusters of people with the virus or suspected of having it.
- **Trade**. The resumption of normal trade with other countries and any changes that may need to occur.

THE ELECTIONS, and referenda on euthanasia and cannabis

- Our general elections and two referenda are due to be held on 19 September. The referenda will be on whether or not to legalise euthanasia, and personal use of cannabis. **Family First** has some excellent articles on euthanasia and cannabis. Please see their website: www.familyfirst.org.nz
- Another issue which is being discussed is possible legislation about “hate speech” and its definition.

PLEASE PRAY for ...

- The coming elections with regard to the above issues.
- The ‘Promises’ and Policies which are made by various parties.
- Who are chosen to stand in each electorate, and who will become electorate or list MPs.
- Coalition parties in the new government.
- The choice of Cabinet Ministers in the new government, and their roles.

Especially pray for ...

- The final outcomes of the election and referenda.
- **Righteous leadership** in our new government, and for righteous laws. (Righteous leaders and laws uphold and bless a nation; wickedness destroys a nation).



REVIVE US AGAIN!

6

Revival:

A Supernatural Move of God

One of the key features of revival is that God moves in a supernatural way – that is, He does things which He does not normally do. While some things, like evangelism, preaching, prayer meetings, etc., may be organized, revival goes far beyond this, and at times God moves sovereignly and quite independently of people. This may be seen, too, in the fact that God often moves quite suddenly and unexpectedly in times of revival – He takes us by surprise! (For example, see 2 Chronicles 29:36; Malachi 3:1; Acts 2:2 “suddenly”).

The presence and power of God

During times of revival, the presence and power of God are revealed in unique ways. The supernatural and the miraculous are so evident that “why should they say among the people, ‘Where is their God?’” (Joel 2:17)

Today, many people question or even deny the existence of God, while others, worshipping false gods, claim their gods are true. But when God lays bare His arm in revival power, no-one will question if there is a God and Who He is – people will know! They may still choose to turn their backs on Him, but they will do so, knowingly.

When revival occurs in a nation, the nation will know! No revival ever occurred in secret! In the revival we read about in Acts, the early Christians were accused, by *unbelievers*, of turning the world upside down! (Acts 17:6).

God’s Spirit is outpoured

“I will pour out My Spirit upon all flesh” (Acts 2:17). During revival, Christians are awakened, filled with the Holy Spirit, endued with power from on High, equipped with supernatural gifts of the Spirit and become zealous in sharing their renewed faith with the lost. This is well illustrated by the examples of Jesus, His 120

followers in Acts 2, Paul, etc., all of whom, after their baptism in water and the Holy Spirit, were used by God to perform miracles and to preach the Gospel with power and authority, thus leading thousands into salvation.

Supernatural (divine) manifestations and miracles accompanied the preaching of the Gospel, “the Lord ... confirming the Word with signs following” (Mark 16:20).

Notice that Jesus promised that signs would accompany “those who believe” (Mark 16:15-20). We can be either a “believing believer” who sees these signs occur because we believe, or we can be an “unbelieving believer” who does not see God’s miraculous working in and through our lives because we do not believe, even though we may be saved. God wants believing believers! Moreover, there is a real need for *corporate* faith within the Church, and not just in individual believers, if we are really to see God’s power released in the world.

The place of miracles

While God, in His grace, may give signs to confirm His Word and minister blessing to His people, we must beware of just seeking signs and wonders for their own sake. On one occasion (John 6) Jesus was disappointed that people followed Him because He had miraculously fed them with five loaves and two fish. Seeing that their interests were so carnal, Jesus spoke to them very frankly concerning His death and the true Bread of Life which He would give to those who would follow Him. As a result, “many of His disciples drew back and no longer went about with Him” (v. 66).

The Lord Himself is far greater and far more important than all the miracles, signs and wonders He may perform, good though they are. Let us not get our eyes off Him and onto things instead. We must seek Him, rather than gifts, etc. The latter He graciously gives to those who hunger after Him (cf. Matthew 6:33).

Praise God for miracles, but miracles in themselves do not necessarily indicate Godliness or great spirituality. They should lead us closer to God, and are certainly a blessing to us, but let us not be like the “evil and adulterous generation” which seeks signs but still will not

follow the Lord (Matthew 12:38-42). This does *not* mean that it is evil and adulterous to ask God for signs or miracles; it does mean that evil people demand signs and wonders and when they are given, they still refuse to repent and follow Christ. In fact, Jesus gave these scribes and Pharisees the greatest of all signs (His death and resurrection) but many still refused to believe. See also John 12:9-11, 37-43.

Praise God for supernatural moves of His Spirit, for signs and wonders and miracles, but let us not become too preoccupied with them, lest our hearts be turned away from God and onto them.

Emotions

All times of revival have been times of great joy, ecstasy and emotion. Emotions, of course, are not wrong in themselves; in fact they are God-given. But emotionalism, the over-emphasis on emotions and seeking emotional experiences for their own sake, can be very harmful, especially to our Christian lives. Excessive emotionalism has caused many problems in past and present revivals. Once again, balance is needed!

The early and the latter rain

In Joel 2, the chapter where God promises to pour out His Spirit on all flesh (v. 28), He also mentions both “the early and the latter rain” (v. 23). The early rain was needed, after the sowing of the seed, in order to cause the seed to germinate and begin to grow. The latter rain was needed, just before the harvest, to bring the grain into full maturity. James 5:7-8 indicates that this, spiritually, refers to the outpouring of God’s Spirit on the Day of Pentecost in AD 30 (“the early rain”), and the final outpouring of the Holy Spirit just prior to the return of the Lord Jesus to reap the harvest at the Second Coming (“the latter rain”).

Steps towards revival

God usually moves on church leaders – pastors, elders (“priests”; cf. Joel 2:17-19; Haggai 1:12-14); then He moves on Christians in the church; then the unconverted church-goers (nominal Christians), and then on the community at large (cf. 1 Peter 4:17). God sets His Household in order first, starting at the top with His leaders, and then moves out into the rest of the world.

When the leaders of the churches first get right with God and with each other, the sheep will follow, and it will soon affect the world at large.

Move with God

The Israelites in the Old Testament, after their deliverance from bondage in Egypt, were miraculously led and provided for by God. During the day God went before them in a pillar of cloud, and in a pillar of fire by night. The cloud protected them from the scorching desert sun and the fire protected them from wild animals and provided warmth during the cold nights (cf. Psalm 121). It was thus most important to move when the cloud moved and to remain still when the cloud remained still (Exodus 40:36-38). If we want to be at the centre of God’s will and to see revival come, we too must be prepared to move with God, not trying to run ahead of Him, nor lagging behind, nor refusing to go further, but simply moving where and when He leads. Thus we are not to be like the horse which tries to run ahead, nor like the stubborn mule which will not move (Psalm 32:8-9). We must move with God – that’s where the glory is!

QUESTIONS

1. What place should miracles have in a Christian’s life and witness?
2. What is meant in this study by an “unbelieving believer”?
3. Revivals are often associated with miracles, and a supernatural or sovereign move of God. What problems might this cause?
4. How can we be sure that we always continue to move with God and not stagnate at some point in our Christian experience or in God’s ongoing restoration move?
5. Is it true that revival always begins with leaders, then involves the people, and then the world? If not, why not?
6. Discuss the statement: “Restoration and reformation are our duty; revival is God’s duty”.