



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)

JUNE 2021

God said to Jeremiah: "Do not say, 'I am only a youth'; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to protect you", says the LORD.

Paul said to Timothy: "Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity".

PLEASE NOTE ...

After 50 years of sending out monthly *Prayer Letters*, by mail, email and online, it has now been decided that the last Prayer Letter will be the July issue.

Our weekly *Prayer Updates* will continue to be emailed (and on our website) – if you want to receive these, but don't currently, please email ifnz@xtra.co.nz with 'Subscribe' as the Subject. *Bible Studies* can be obtained, in print or online, by going to our website <https://www.pray-for-the-nation.org/> and clicking the 'Bible Study Books' tab. Other material can be obtained by clicking other tabs.

Our Youth

At a recent *Pray as One* zoom prayer meeting, Tanya Lameta spoke about School Chaplaincy – the need of many young people and students to be able to share with youth chaplains who serve in places of education (primary, secondary, and tertiary). Many students need a 'listening ear', and volunteers are trained as chaplains to listen to them and help them with their needs, as far as possible. LifeWalk is a chaplaincy-providing group to assist young people in the education system. See www.lifewalk.org.nz

Please pray for:

- Lifewalk, our youth, and the need for someone to listen, advise, and help in various ways.
- Volunteer chaplains – for wisdom as they talk with, and assist, young people.
- That young people will find God's will and ways for their lives, and how to face the challenges they meet – in home life, or with bullying, rejection, peer pressures, trauma, etc.
- For support of the chaplains and students, by schools, teachers, parents, and the Ministry and Department of Education.

Wisdom for our Parliament

Please pray for great and godly wisdom for our Parliament, and government as a whole, to make good and right decisions for our country – decisions which will bring blessing and help to our people, and country as a whole. Below are some major issues for prayer.

- **The Budget:** its implementation and success in meeting New Zealanders' needs, especially those of people who are struggling in various ways – for example, financially; or with health, accommodation, unemployment, etc.
- **Housing:** Building, house prices, rent rises, and homeless people.
- **Overseas NZers** who are trying to return to New Zealand but are unable to because of Covid restrictions.
- **Managed and self-isolation** procedures, their implementation and success. Also that people who are in isolation will keep to its requirements, and will no longer be carriers of covid.

- **Vaccination program:** That this will be accomplished quickly and effectively, to protect our people from covid and its spread. Worldwide there have been **at least**
 - 170 million people who have caught covid.
 - 20 million people still have it.
 - 3.5 million people have died from it.
 - 2 out of every 100 cases have died.
- **Overseas travel:** wisdom in opening and closing our “bubbles” with other parts of the world, especially Australia and Pacific Islands.

Let there be light!

In the beginning, God said, “Let there be light” and the light shone in the darkness and the darkness was overcome (Genesis 1:1-5). Prior to this, the earth was a confused, empty, dark place; but when God moved, it completely changed as God turned it into a perfect “Garden of Eden” (until sin entered!)

The world today is in a state of confusion, rebellion against God, and His ways. There are threats of war, a pandemic, great poverty in some places, great darkness morally and spiritually, ignorance and rejection of God Almighty – the creator of Heaven and earth, *our* Creator! God gives people the freedom to choose but most people have chosen the “tree of the knowledge of Good and Evil” which leads to death, not the “tree of Life”. Jesus died for our sin but rose again and ascended to Heaven. “Consequently, Jesus is able for all time to save *those who approach God through Him*, since He always lives to make intercession for them.” (Hebrews 7:25)

God created light. Jesus said we are ‘the light of the world’. The way to see ‘*God defend New Zealand*’ is to let our light so shine that our people come to the light, see Jesus, put their faith and trust in Him, are born again by the Holy Spirit, and follow God’s Way, His Truth and Life.

Let us pray for all those who share the Gospel of salvation through Jesus Christ:

- Individual Christians (including ourselves!), churches, and evangelists.
- Christian organisations that are evangelistic.
- Use of the media – online, social media, through email, radio and television, distribution of Christian materials and Bibles.
- Christian chaplains in schools, prisons, hospitals, rest homes, etc.
- Youth outreaches, and outreaches into our communities.
- Pray for *seed that is ripe, harvesters who are willing and able, and an abundant harvest.*

Bible Study

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The fullness and empowering of the Holy Spirit, and the gifts of the Spirit, are primarily for evangelism (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8). The dynamic power of the Holy Spirit needs to be unleashed in the world, not just in the Church, so that unbelievers will believe and be saved. The whole book of Acts demonstrates the outworking of the power of the Holy Spirit through the lives of believers, resulting in the salvation of “multitudes”, as well as the upbuilding of the Church. We are to be the “light of the world” and the “salt of the earth” – not a light hidden under a bucket, nor salt sitting in a salt-shaker!

As never before Christians need to witness by both word and deed to their friends, relatives, neighbours, workmates – in their homes, communities, and workplaces – wherever they are, and see the Kingdom of God extended on earth. We need a passion for the lost, and a passion for the Kingdom of God!

QUESTIONS

1. Much praise to God is said and sung; how much is really lived out in the lives of Christians? To what extent is Matthew 15:8-9 true of many Christians today?
2. Why has the holiness emphasis been largely lost from the Church today? What can we (or should we) do about it?
3. Three seriously lacking elements in the life of the Church and of Christians today are: deep repentance, real intercession, and genuine (not superficial) unity from the heart. What can be done about these lacking elements?
4. “The key to revival and national prosperity lies within the Church, not the world or the government”. Discuss.
5. What do you think are the most important factors in preparing for the coming revival – “preparing the way of the Lord”? Why?
6. Revival will affect both the Church and the world, but in different ways. What are some of the ways?



REVIVE US AGAIN!

16 Revival – the Future

As we look towards the future, in a desire to see revival come, and in preparation for future persecution that the Church will have to face, we see some very important truths which must increasingly become part of our Christian lives, both individually and corporately.

1. Maturity

Because Israel refused to go on into the Promised Land, they went back into the wilderness to wander round and round in circles until they died. All of life is a progression – onwards and upwards, or back and down. We must go on to maturity and perfection (see Hebrews 5:11 – 6:2). Shallowness must be changed for depth in our Christian walk and experience; we are no longer to be babies, but mature adults. If we do not grow, we will go backwards. We either advance or retreat!

As we mature, we must be willing to take more responsibility and exercise our God-given ministries. The time comes when we no longer need to be spoon-fed. This implies two things – we must be prepared to do something, and those in leadership in the church must be willing to allow us and encourage us. This calls for faith on both sides – faith that God can and will use us, and faith by leadership that those growing to maturity are capable of fulfilling their God-given roles with God's help.

2. Christlikeness and spirituality

The Corinthian church was gifted, not lacking in spiritual gifts, but was still carnal (1 Corinthians 3:1-4). This carnality expressed itself in immaturity, sexual immorality, division and worldliness. One of the problems Paul deals with in Romans, and also in his letters to the Corinthians and Galatians, are the two extremes to which we can go, both of which are corruptions of God's grace. One is that we can become so familiar with God's grace that we go into sin, especially sexual immorality and worldliness. We become shallow, careless and disrespectful about the things of God, and the world squeezes us into its mold. The other extreme (typified by the Galatians) was legalism, "enforced righteousness" – trying in

the flesh to fulfill what the flesh cannot do. The Pharisees were a good example of this.

We live under grace, not Law, and yet we must not allow this grace to excuse our sin (Romans 6). If God's grace is persistently abused, we will end up in deception – so deceived that we cannot even see the error of our ways. Balance is all-important in the Christian life. If we "walk in the Spirit" (and in the Word!) then we will be balanced and not go into these extremes of either the flesh or legalism. Christ Himself is our example, and we are to follow in His steps. We are to be spiritual, not carnal; holy and sanctified in thought, word and deed.

God's ultimate desire for each one of us is that we become Christlike in our lives – that His character becomes fully formed in us, and corporately, that the Bride of Christ radiates the glory of God's own Son.

As we seek to follow Christ's example, once we have been born of the Spirit, baptised in water and the Holy Spirit, we need to go on into sanctification (the "baptism with fire", Matthew 3:10-12), where the holiness of God and the Lordship of Christ in every area of our lives, become a daily experience. We need to walk in the fear of the Lord, having truly died to self and living only for Him (Galatians 2:20). This maturity in the Spirit is desperately needed in the Church today. When revival comes, we will see both conviction of sin in the world, and the fear of the Lord in the Church.

*To be like Jesus, this hope possesses me,
In every thought, word, deed – this is my aim,
my creed.*

*To be like Jesus, this hope possesses me,
His Spirit helping me, like Him I'll be.*

*Thou mighty Christ, come forth in me,
My will, my way, I yield to Thee ...*

3. Unity

One of the tragedies of what has happened over the years as God has poured out His Spirit upon "all flesh" (irrespective of denomination, doctrine or tradition) is that somehow it has often been contained within a local church or denomination and has not really brought about the full unity of the Spirit that it should have. Praise God for the exceptions, but as a rule we have a long way to

go before we get a real unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace – a unity which will lead, eventually, to a unity of the Faith, and cause the world to believe that God really did send His Son and that we are His disciples (John 13:34-35; 17:21). Re-read John 17; pray this as your prayer; seek to let God work it out in your life and that of your church.

When Jesus presents His Bride to the Father, she will not be a disjointed, bickering, suspicious, fragmented jumble – she will be “without spot, wrinkle, or any such thing” (Ephesians 5:27). God will purify her; He will “shake”, so that what cannot be shaken will remain (Hebrews 12:25-29). He will “remove from the Kingdom all that offends, so that the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the Kingdom of their Father” (Matthew 13:41, 43). He will purge out the dross, and bring forth pure gold (1 Peter 1:6, 7). May we be part of that which remains, not that which is removed! (cf. “I will come to you and remove your candlestick from its place, unless you repent”. (Revelation 2:5).

Note that unity implies unity with all true Spirit-filled believers. Unity with unbelievers or with carnal Christians is not really possible, for they are of a different spirit. Being Spirit-filled is not an “optional extra” for Christians; it is a command – “Be (continuously) filled with the Holy Spirit” (Ephesians 5:18). All true Christians should seek this.

We must work together, function together, witness together, pray together, move together, minister together in practical ways as the one Body of Christ – one, and yet with our differences – differences in ministries, different ways of worship, yet still ONE. None of us individually has everything, but together in Christ we have it all!

Relationships are important:

- (a) **our relationship with God** – through prayer, Bible study, our daily walk of obedience, worship, service, etc.
- (b) **with other Christians** – within families (husband, wife, children); between denominations and churches; within churches (leaders, elders, people); between Christians – all working together. Carnal divisions and barriers must all be broken down. Dedication and commitment to Christ, His Church and His people are so important.

- (c) **with non-Christians** – we are “in the world but not of the world”. We need, both in word and deed, a united witness to those who do not yet know Christ. We must live a consistent Christian life.

4. Vision

“Where there is no vision, the people perish” (Proverbs 29:18). We must wait on God and find out His plans and purposes for us as individual Christians, in our Christian fellowships, and God’s plan for the Church as a whole. Then, as God leads, we must seek, with Him, to fulfill that plan. The Christian, or church, which has no vision or has lost its vision will gradually die. “May Your will be done on earth as it is done in Heaven” (Matthew 6:10).

We must press on with God in His purposes (cf. Philippians 3:12-14). If we think we “have arrived” and refuse to press on further with God, then it is almost certain that we are actually drifting backwards. Besides, to remain stationary when God is moving on, is to go back! To fail to go on to maturity is sad – whether it is in the physical, mental or spiritual realm.

What we are doing may be good – but is it of God? Good is the enemy of the best! It is not how seemingly good it is, that matters, but is it what God wants us to be doing?

The most tragic thing is that some people are actually satisfied to stay where they are. When God said that Israel would wander in the wilderness until every adult had died, while they mourned, no-one pleaded with God to change His mind – it appears they were satisfied to die in the wilderness and never enter the Promised Land. In fact, having heard the spies’ evil report they did not want to go into the Promised Land, but rather, wanted to go back into Egypt and to slavery! (Numbers 13 – 14). God forbid that we should be like that!

5. Action

One of the biggest dangers in the Church today is that of becoming isolated from the world – a “holy club”, a “bless me” fellowship, where we minister to one another but forget the other 90% of the population who never go to church.

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