



Pray for the Nation ~ INOI MO TE MOTU

(Intercessors for New Zealand)

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JULY 2021

"When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command the locust to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people, if My people who are called by My name humble themselves, pray, 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 7:13-14**

"Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people." **Proverbs 14:34**

"Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare." **Jeremiah 29:7**

"First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity." **1 Timothy 2:1-2**

PLEASE NOTE ...

This will be our last monthly Prayer Letter, after 50 years of sending them out each month, all over the world.

WHAT NOW? Our *Prayer Letters* have consisted of two parts:

Pages 1 and 2 have been Prayer topics and suggestions, selected from previous weeks' *Prayer Updates*, which are emailed weekly, and also put on our website. These *Prayer Updates* will continue as usual. If you want to receive these by email, but don't currently, please email ifnz@xtra.co.nz with 'Subscribe' as the Subject.

Pages 3 and 4 have been Bible Studies based on books published on our website; many of these are available, free, as printed books or as downloads – see <https://www.pray-for-the-nation.org/> and click the 'Bible Study Books' tab. Other material can be obtained by clicking other tabs.

If you don't have access to a computer, see if a family member, friend, or person in your church can print them off for you.

Our Aims

Our *Pray for the Nation* aims [for whichever Nation you live in] have always been:

1. To glorify God by uniting Christians throughout the nation in praying regularly and specifically for our nation, the government, and the Church; for revival and evangelism.
2. To encourage them to continue to pray for revival until God sends such a revival.
3. To instruct in the ministry of intercession, so that Christians will be more effective in intercessory prayer.
4. To share with Christians specific prayer suggestions related to these aims, so that they can pray more intelligently and specifically.

**We haven't finished yet ...
There is still a lot more to do!**

Five Major Areas ...

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

The Nation – our people – of all ages, all races, all social groups, and so on; for the welfare of our people, spiritually, physically and socially.

The Church – the spiritual 'power-house' of God's people; the representatives of the Lord and His Gospel in our Nation.

Evangelism – the people of God sharing, by word and by example, the Good News of the love of God for the whole world; forgiveness, reconciliation and being born again into the Kingdom of God – in this world and forever.

Revival – an outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon His people, spreading throughout the land and bringing people into His Kingdom.

Government – God's principles to prevail (as stated in the verses above, and others); that

righteous ways will be seen throughout our land and at all levels of government and leadership.

The book “**Pillars of Society**” and praying for them, can be found on our website:

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

Please pray through the *Scriptures*, *Aims* and *Five Major Areas* mentioned above.

OUR CHANGING WORLD ... OUR UNCHANGEABLE LORD!

Flooding in Canterbury and other regions; tornado in Papatōetōe— **Pray** for everyone affected; for those helping in the clean-up and restoration; and planning for protection against future extreme events.

Climate change – **Pray** for wisdom to make right decisions about how New Zealand deals with future changes in worldwide climatic events.

Cyber-attacks on computer systems. The Waikato District Health Board is presently trying to overcome the problems associated with a cyber-attack on their IT systems and the demand for ransom money. This involves patients (their treatment, patient records, etc), medical staff, and others associated with the Health Board. **Pray** for all hospital staff, and those people working on restoring the IT systems and preventing any further attacks – for example, on government facilities, large companies, businesses, etc.

Housing – **Pray** for first-time homebuyers and the huge challenges they face finding a home and obtaining loans they can afford. Plus, rents that people can hardly afford, and huge profits that can be made by investing in property which is rapidly increasing in value – many properties have increased in price by over 50% in the last 4 years.

Corona virus spread. Worldwide, 165 million people have recovered from covid, but 15 million people currently have the virus. There has been 1 death for every 42 people who have recovered. This is an international disaster. At present, on average, there are 500,000 reported new cases, and 11,000 reported deaths, every day. **Pray** for the vaccination programs; a speedy end to this pandemic, and for everyone working to bring it to an end.

Pray for:

- Everyone affected by, or involved in, any of the above situations.
- Government departments, and others,

involved with flooding, climate change, IT security services, housing, covid and vaccinations, and so on.

- The best ways to deal with fear, both at personal levels, and in the wider community.
- Christians’ help, hope, love and example to those in need; and opportunities for sharing why we have hope even in the midst of fearful situations.
- People to come to the Lord, find His salvation, and His protection.

Praise God – He has said:

Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be afraid, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with My victorious right hand. (Isaiah 41:10). For God has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. (2 Timothy 1:7)

LAW – LIBERTY – LICENCE

[Legalism – Freedom – Disobedience]

Abraham was a man of FAITH, and “it was counted to him as righteousness.” Sometimes, “faith” is just an *intellectual acknowledgement* that God exists; it might not have any effect on our lives at all. But you can’t have faith without faithfulness! God is faithful to us – He loves us and manifests His love and faithfulness to us. Faithfulness is a fruit of the Spirit because true faith brings forth our ongoing faithfulness to God, and to other people.

Moses was the man through whom the Old Covenant LAW was given to the people of Israel, as they fled from slavery into the promised land. But they could not be saved by the law because no one can fulfil all the law.

Jesus was the Man who came to bring us LIBERTY – He did what the law could never do – pay the penalty for our sin, so that when we become true believers, the Spirit of God sets us free from the law of sin and death (Romans 8:2; 1 Corinthians 15:56), enables us to walk by faith in Him, and empowers us to “overcome evil with good” (Romans 12:21; 1 John 2:14).

However, because God has set us free, we must live and walk in the power of His Spirit; liberty does not give us LICENCE to go back into worldliness and sin. We are to live as followers of Jesus, filled with His Spirit, as men and women of FAITH – like Abraham. We are to bring forth the fruit of the Spirit, not the lusts of the flesh (Galatians 5:16-25).

Prayer suggestions continued on page 4



REVIVE US AGAIN!

17 Pray for Revival

How can we prepare for revival?

1. **We must see the need for revival.** If our eyes are blinded so that we cannot see the need for revival then we will never have the faith to really intercede for it, or prepare for it. Leonard Ravenhill said, "If the Church will only obey the conditions, we can have the revival any time we want it. The problem of the Church is the problem in the garden of Gethsemane – asleep!"

2. **We need to be ready.** Revival comes suddenly, so we need to be prepared and ready, having the faith to believe that the time could be now! We need to pray that God will show us any ways in which we are not ready, and help us to be prepared. "Watch and pray" (Matthew 26:41).

3. **We need to pray.** The four pre-requisites given in 2 Chronicles 7:14 are that we must:

- humble ourselves.
- pray – sincere, earnest, continuous, intercession.
- seek God's face.
- turn from our wicked ways – true repentance, confession, restitution; God requires that we are holy, open, and broken before Him (Psalm 51:7-13).

We must pray for labourers. While the human element is not nearly as important in times of revival as at other times, God may still use us to initiate revival, or during revival.

We need to pray that the Lord will raise up Godly people with a vision and calling to revival, who, under God, are anointed and inspired to lead God's people in a time of revival (Matthew 9:36-38). We need to pray for preachers, teachers, evangelists, leaders and prayer warriors.

4. **We must be united.** One major characteristic of the Church in Acts was that they were united – "of one accord", "of one heart and mind" (Acts 1:14; 2:1, 46; 4:24, 32; 5:12; 8:6; 15:25)

5. **We must learn how to pray against the powers of darkness.** God has given us

authority and power to bind the powers of darkness (Matthew 16:18-19; James 4:7)

We need to pray that God will raise up Christians who will have the discernment and power to bring deliverance to all those who are bound by the powers of darkness – for example, the occult, demon-possession, spiritism, etc.

6. **We must learn to praise.** Praise, worship and great joy accompany revival. The battle is not ours, but the Lord's (2 Chronicles 20:1-30, especially verses 15 and 17).

7. **We must avoid dangers.** Four dangers which must be faced in times of revival are:

- seeking experiences for their own sake.
- relying on feelings and physical manifestations.
- spiritual pride.
- excess and fleshly manifestations.

We need to pray that God will give us the wisdom to avoid all the dangers associated with revival, and that in the outpouring of God's Spirit in these last days we will see a true, deep work of God's Spirit that will bring glory to Him, that will save the lost, and revive and restore the Church.

"Will You not revive us again, so that Your people may rejoice in You? Show us Your mercy, O Lord, and grant us Your salvation!"
(Psalm 85:6-7)

REVIVALS IN THE 1960s to 1980s

During the 1960s through to the 1980s, revivals swept through many countries. Millions of people came to salvation, thousands were baptised in the Holy Spirit, the gifts of the Spirit were evident in many ways and places, and many new churches were formed.

Key points about these revivals were ...

- Initiated by God's Spirit.**
- A hunger and passion for God** and His ways. "Blessed are those who *hunger and thirst for righteousness*, for they will be *filled*." (Matthew 5:6)

3. **Seeking God**, His Kingdom and His righteousness. "Seek *first* the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." (Matthew 6:33)
4. **Baptism in the Holy Spirit**, followed by living the Spirit-filled life.
5. **Prayer**, led and inspired by the Holy Spirit.
6. **Word of God** shared and inspired by the Holy Spirit – in Spirit and in Truth.
7. **Presence of God** in worship – centred on the Lord, not on "me". The singing of Scripture.
8. **Gifts, fruit, and ministries** of the Holy Spirit.
9. **Outreach** – a strong emphasis on sharing the Gospel and teaching new Christians.
10. **Growth and power** in the Church of Jesus Christ. Building up the Church, and unity in the Body of Christ – not fragmentation. See the book of Acts – New Testament Church life, principles, and functioning.
11. **Priesthood of all believers** – each person using the gifts God has given them, in the Church and in the world.
12. **Freedom in Christ** to do all that is led by God's Spirit, and which brings glory and praise to Him.

Hindrances to continuing revival ...

- The flesh – being centred on people (including "me" and my wants), and not focused on the Lord.
- Being controlled by leaders, rather than being led by the Spirit.
- Human methods – not Spirit-led, inspired and anointed by moving in the Spirit. Using worldly ways of trying to get Heavenly results – for example, trying to "get" the baptism and gifts of the Holy Spirit without hunger for God, repentance, and righteousness.
- Pride in what we have achieved.
- False teaching and practices.
- Becoming performances; extremes, and "new teachings" which are not Scriptural.

QUESTIONS

1. How can we, as individual Christians and as churches, prepare for revival?
2. What things, in the Church and in society, show us the need for revival?
3. Can we "have revival any time we want it" as Leonard Ravenhill suggested?
4. What are some prerequisites to revival?
5. What are some of the dangers that need to be avoided during times of revival?
6. Will God revive us again?

Prayer suggestions (cont. from page 2)

Please pray for:

- **FAITH: People** [including friends, family or church-goers] who have an intellectual "belief in God" but have never been born again by His Spirit and come into the newness of life and faithfulness to Him. **Pray** for their true salvation and walk with God, by faith.
- **LAW: People** [including friends, family or church-goers] who believe that if they "do good things" and more-or-less obey God, that they will be saved by their good works and obedience to the law. **Pray** that they will come to see that salvation is through Jesus' death for our sins – He is our sin-bearer, and the only way to eternal life.
- **LIBERTY: Christians** will know and live in the Spirit of liberty and be overcomers.
- **LICENCE. Christians** who use God's forgiveness, and the freedom He gives, as licence to live a worldly life and participate in ungodly and unrighteous ways, because He "forgives all our sins" – **Pray** that they will acknowledge that freedom is not a licence to sin; it is freedom in the Holy Spirit and His power, to live in the way that pleases our Lord.
- **Praise God** for *His faithfulness* – that He has liberated us from the law of sin and death, brought us by faith into His Kingdom, and is always with us to empower us to overcome evil with good.

FINALLY ...

The LORD bless you and keep you.

The LORD make His face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you.

The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace.

Numbers 6:24-26

Now, to Him who is able to keep you from falling, and to make you stand without blemish in the presence of His glory with rejoicing; to the only God our Saviour, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, power, and authority, before all time, now and forever. Amen!

Jude verses 24-25