

**A CALL TO  
PRAYER  
AND  
REPENTANCE**

**FOR THE  
CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
AND THE NATION**

*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*

**THURSDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2003**

*“Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.”*

Matthew 11:21

If God is just then the United Kingdom has much to fear. Few nations have benefited as much from the preaching of the gospel of grace. The teaching of God’s Word has shaped much of our national life. Yet today few are interested in Biblical teaching; immorality is not only rife but is exalted and our people run after false gods of every possible kind.

In the midst of this most of our churches appear to be bleeding to death. The Church of England, whilst unable yet to abandon its founding doctrines, has nevertheless found ways of ignoring them in various practical matters. Many of our leaders appear to reject the truth that the Bible is the Word of God. In place of the wisdom of God they are putting the ideas of men and women.

As a result our churches largely have nothing to say to the world that the world cannot say to itself. Our people are perishing in ignorance because those who should call them to repentance and faith have turned aside from the Way.

**Please join with us in praying for the Church of England and for our nation on Thursday 27th February 2003.**

The choice of day is no coincidence. The installation of the new Archbishop of Canterbury marks a significant event in the life of the Church. The Church of England must listen to and obey God’s Word or face collapse. We must proclaim the gospel to those who are perishing, or their blood will be on our hands (Ezek 33.6).

*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

We would encourage you to set aside as much time as possible to pray and if appropriate to fast. Fasting will enable you to set aside more time for prayer and enable you to concentrate on spiritual sustenance.

Please use or adapt the following material as best suits your need. You may wish to meditate on the different scriptural passages at different times during the day and use them as an aid to prayer.

## **A call to prayer**

Commit yourself to prayer knowing that God hears and answers the pleas of our hearts when we ask in His name.

*Gird yourselves and lament, you priests;  
Wail, you who minister before the altar;  
Come, lie all night in sackcloth,  
You who minister to my God;  
For the grain offering and the drink offering  
Are withheld from the house of your God.  
Consecrate a fast,  
Call a sacred assembly;  
Gather the elders  
And all the inhabitants of the land  
Into the house of the LORD your God,  
And cry out to the LORD.*

Joel 1.3-14

For further meditation: Exodus 32.7-14

## **Cry out to God for forgiveness for our failings.**

All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

*So I said: "Woe is me, for I am undone!  
Because I am a man of unclean lips,  
And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips;  
For my eyes have seen the King,  
The LORD of hosts." Isaiah 6.5*

As mainstream evangelicals we have often not given the lead we should. We have not focussed on God's Word as we should. We have often been unwilling to call others back to the simple truths of the Gospel.

*And do you think this, O man, you who judge those practicing such things, and doing the same, that you will escape the judgment of God? Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance? Romans 2.3-4*

## **Cry out to God for the repentance of our national Church.**

The Church of England has enjoyed immense spiritual privileges in every possible way and yet it has strayed from Biblical truth. We must be ready to learn the lessons from the history of God's people Israel. We do not share the same status but we share the same failings.

*For if God did not spare the natural branches, He may not spare you either. Therefore consider the goodness and severity of*

*God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off. Romans 11.21-22*

*“Now, therefore,” says the LORD,  
“Turn to me with all your heart,  
With fasting, with weeping, and with mourning.”  
So rend your heart, and not your garments;  
Return to the LORD your God,  
For He is gracious and merciful,  
Slow to anger, and of great kindness;  
And He relents from doing harm. Joel 2.12-13*

For further meditation: Jeremiah 3.25-4.1 and Isaiah 1.3-5.

## **Cry out to God for the conversion of this land.**

Pray that God would have mercy on us and pour out His Holy Spirit. Pray that men and women would hunger and thirst to know God and that the Holy Spirit would open their hearts to believe the gospel of Christ.

Pray that people, of every background and culture, would have opportunity to hear the call of Christ to repentance and faith.

*Then He said to them, “Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. Luke 24.46-47*

*Restore us, O God of our salvation, and cause Your anger toward us to cease. Will You be angry with us forever? Will*

*You prolong Your anger to all generations? Will You not revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in You? Show us Your mercy, LORD, and grant us Your salvation.* Psalm 85.4-7

## **Cry out to God for the preaching of His pure Word.**

Pray that the preaching and teaching of the Word of God would be the priority of the Church.

Pray that the Holy Spirit would give people confidence that because it is God's Word it is trustworthy and true.

Pray that, in accordance with His promises, the Word of God would not return to Him empty.

*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith." For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.* Romans 1.16-19

*I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.* 2 Timothy 4.1-4

## **Cry out to the Lord of the harvest to raise up preachers.**

Pray that the Holy Spirit would stir men and women to make Christ known. Pray that our evangelical churches would identify those who are able to teach and equip them for the work of ministry.

Pray that people would not be put off training because of error amongst leaders or because of inappropriate training.

Pray that the theological courses and colleges would see it as their priority to prepare preachers of God's infallible Word.

*For “whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.”  
How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?  
And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!”*

Romans 10.13-15

*But in all things we commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses, in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labours, in sleeplessness, in fastings; by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love, by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, by honour and dishonour, by evil report and good report; as deceivers, and yet true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as chastened, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.*

2 Corinthians 6.4-10

**Cry out to God that this nation would turn from its sin.**

Pray that our nation would awake from its present folly.

Pray that people would recognise that the road on which we are travelling leads only to destruction.

Pray that people would understand how we are abandoning our rich Christian heritage.

Pray that we would turn from our sin, before it is too late.

*I spoke to you in your prosperity,*

*But you said, "I will not hear."*

*This has been your manner from your youth,*

*That you did not obey my voice.*

*The wind shall eat up all your rulers,*

*And your lovers shall go into captivity;*

*Surely then you will be ashamed and humiliated*

*For all your wickedness.*

Jeremiah 22.21-22

*The Gentiles shall know that the house of Israel went into*

*captivity for their iniquity; because they were unfaithful to me,*

*therefore I hid my face from them. I gave them into the hand of their enemies, and they all fell by the sword.*

*According to their uncleanness and according to their*

*transgressions I have dealt with them, and hidden my face from them.*

Ezekiel 39.23-24

**Cry out to God that in our churches there would be a hunger for holiness.**

Many Christians do not seem to be concerned any longer to live by Biblical standards. Pray that the Holy Spirit would stir the hearts of His people. Pray that congregations would be taught from the Bible about the holiness of God and the holiness to which He calls His people. Pray that God would confound those who teach as good what He has declared to be evil.

*And it shall be upon Aaron when he ministers, and its sound will be heard when he goes into the holy place before the LORD and when he comes out, that he may not die. You shall also make a plate of pure gold and engrave on it, like the engraving of a signet: HOLINESS TO THE LORD* Exodus 28.35-36

*For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret.* Ephesians 5.8-12

*Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.* 1 Corinthians 6.9-11

**Cry out to God for those who are shepherds over the flock of God.**

Pray that the leaders of our national Church would be men filled with the Holy Spirit and passionate for the cause of Christ.

Pray that they would see their priority to preach the gospel and that in all things they would submit to the authority of God's Word.

*For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time, for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle—I am speaking the truth in Christ and not lying—a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth. I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.*

1 Timothy 2.3-8

Pray that the leaders of our national Church would shepherd the flock, that they would teach the truth and exhort people to holiness of life, and that they would also refute error and rebuke ungodliness.

*Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.*

Acts 20.28-31

Pray that where wolves have arisen among the leaders of God's people, then for His mercy's sake, He would confound them, turn their hearts, or bring His hand of judgement and so protect His flock and glorify His name.

*My heart within me is broken  
Because of the prophets;  
All my bones shake.  
I am like a drunken man,  
And like a man whom wine has overcome,  
Because of the LORD,  
And because of His holy words.  
For the land is full of adulterers;  
For because of a curse the land mourns.  
The pleasant places of the wilderness are dried up.  
Their course of life is evil,  
And their might is not right.  
“For both prophet and priest are profane;  
Yes, in my house I have found their wickedness,” says the  
LORD.  
“Therefore their way shall be to them  
Like slippery ways;  
In the darkness they shall be driven on  
And fall in them;  
For I will bring disaster on them,  
The year of their punishment,” says the LORD.*

Jeremiah 23.9-12

Cry out to God in accordance with His Word:  
*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



For further articles and other issues see  
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Church Society exists to promote biblical faith shaping both the Church of England and the society in which we live for the sake of Christ. Such a faith is carefully expressed in the 39 Articles of Religion and in the Protestant liturgy entrusted to us after the reformation.

Church Society works through publishing, supporting churches, campaigning and the administration of charitable trusts and properties.

If you long to see the Church of England upholding a clear biblical faith and being a faithful witness in the nation then we invite you to join us. Please contact:

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