



ON TARGET

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The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance –

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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: "O God, heavenly Father, who by Thy Son Jesus Christ has promised to all them that seek Thy Kingdom, and the righteousness thereof, all things necessary to their bodily sustenance; Send us, we beseech Thee, in this our necessity, such moderate rains and showers that we may receive the fruits of the earth to our comfort, and to Thy honour, through Jesus Christ Our Lord. – Amen" – From the original *Book of Common Prayer*, authorized by Crown and Act of Parliament in the 17th Century.

NATIONAL PRAYER FOR RAIN by Jeremy Lee:

PART 1: FAITH & OBEDIENCE

"If you walk in My statutes and keep My commandments so as to carry them out, then I shall give you rains in their season so that the land will yield its produce and the trees of the field will bear their fruit. Indeed, your threshing will last for you until grape-gathering, and grape-gathering will last until sowing time. You will thus eat your food to the full and live securely in your land." – Leviticus 26:3,4,5.

"If I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or if I command the locust to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among the people, and My people who are called by My name 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 will heal their land." – 2 Chronicles 7:13,14.

POINTS TO PONDER: On November 3 the first item on the 7 o'clock *ABC News* was that a day of prayer for rain had been held by combined churches in Brisbane, which included the premier Mr Beattie. Whether this news item was extended to other States I do not know.

The background to this news is interesting, in early September a letter from the Queensland Governor, H.E. Ms. Quentin Bryce, said: ".... At a recent and publicized meeting between church leaders and the Premier, the prospect of prayer was raised and discussed. Evidently congregations across all denominations in Queensland and in many parts of the nation are already engaging in prayer for this purpose. The Governor has asked me to let you know that she too is praying for rain ..."

On September 25 a letter from the Governor-General, H.E. Major-General Jeffery, said: "...Major-General Jeffery appreciates the time and trouble you have taken to write to him and shares your concerns about current drought conditions and the other conditions you mention. As National Days of Prayer are conducted at the instigation of the Heads of Churches, may I suggest you write to

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the General Secretary, National Council of Churches in Australia, Locked Bag 199, Sydney, N.S.W., 1230, with your request ..."

On October 5 a letter from Queensland Premier Peter Beattie read: "Thank you for your recent correspondence calling for a day of prayer for rain... As you may be aware, the Premier recently met with church leaders and discussed the possibility of a prayer campaign to help ease the current drought situation. Whilst no time frame has been set, leaders are now considering an inter-denominational week of prayer for rain and will be responsible for co-ordinating local arrangements. The Premier shares your concerns and appreciates your thoughts ..."

This was followed by the ABC news item concerning prayers for rain first mentioned and within 48 hours good, heavy rain began to fall across many areas of drought-stricken Queensland and northern New South Wales!

On November 12, Frank Davis of Nambour, Queensland, wrote to *The Sunshine Coast Daily* on this issue. **His letter included the following points:** "Nobody disputes we are in the grip of one of our worst droughts... Some of us remember the drought after WWII when our dust storms were reaching New Zealand. I was in Sydney when it broke and it rained mud! Our Premier last week asked us to pray for rain (like Sir Joh did) and it rained (like when Sir Joh asked!) I hope we also remember to thank Him who answered. If our Prime Minister (better still our Head of State, the Governor-General) asked all Australians to do the same according to their various faiths, believers know we will see the same Australia-wide, regardless of what the atheists say..."

No National Day of Prayer for PM: Even as the rain was falling in Queensland, however, the Prime Minister was summoning State representatives to a meeting in Canberra to seek their co-operation in his newly established National Water Initiative, under the care of banker Malcolm Turnbull!

There was no suggestion of a National Day of Prayer for rain, involving all Australians. Instead, a process was started which will involve immense works – the diversion of rivers, trans-continental pipelines and grids, huge dams, the re-cycling of sewage and effluent, flooding of fertile farm lands and the forced evacuation of previously viable farmers, the compulsory acquisition of waters from country residents and farmers for city use, enormous regulation, the involuntary shift of State powers to the Commonwealth regardless of the Constitution and the warning that charges for water will rise dramatically for all consumers. The finance – and ownership – for these projects will be made the province of transnational corporations which, in some cases, have bigger budgets than nations! Malcolm Turnbull – who is scheduled to be fast-tracked past more experienced representatives to Cabinet status – has announced that the commercial water market will be immensely profitable.

This is not to decry human initiative. But a complete reliance on the invincibility of Science and Engineering given full rein by centralised power, to the exclusion of faith and obedience to God is a recipe for disaster!

The fantasy of 'starting at the top' will not work: It has been very well expressed by internationally-known botanist and Social Credit authority, the late Dr Geoffrey Dobbs, of Bangor University in Wales, who, over 40 years ago, wrote in his book *"On Planning The Earth"* the following:

"Just as local pollution on an ever greater and more widespread scale can ultimately achieve damaging global effects, so also can local restoration and conservation, spreading here, there and everywhere, ultimately achieve global effects. There is no other way. The fantasy of starting at the Top with some wholesale Saving of the Planet by World Agencies employing super-clever scientists is just childish. Remote centralised interference can cause enormous, even global, damage; it can never restore. Growth is not of that nature. It is localized, not wholesale. You cannot 'grow' a tree, or a forest, in the time it takes to cut one down! The most that centralised governments and their agencies can do is to allow local restoration and right treatment of the land to give a reasonable living, as they should,

and to discourage centralised agencies from imposing destructive practices, usually by financial means..."

Small scale decentralised solutions is the answer: There are a number of technical innovations which would allow small-scale, decentralised solutions to water shortages. They would be financially cheaper, ecologically sustainable and far less threatening to personal freedom. But the fascination of big-scale, spectacular schemes in the hands of remote planners – which would maintain and enforce grid-controls on consumers – bewitch those whose dreams coincide with unlimited power. The Communist dictator, Lenin, wrote of the necessity of grid-systems as mechanisms for control.

One suspects this is a main reason why there is such a dismissal of wind and solar power. How can a government control the wind and sun? How do you put a Ministerial brass plate on a breeze or a sunbeam?

Wouldn't it be...

Wouldn't it be stimulating to Australia if the limited example shown by the Queensland Premier and Church leaders in Brisbane prompted a State-wide, and then a Nation-wide response?

Would it not inspire if the Queen's representatives in Australia– the Governor-General and the State Governors– emulated the Monarch in times past by calling the whole nation to prayer in this time of crisis? The nature of their positions gives them the moral authority to make such a call.'

Would not a swelling mass of the people respond if church leaders of every denomination– Catholic, Anglican, Protestant, Evangelical, Charismatic, High and Low – cast aside all differences, and drew up a Service of Confession, Repentance and Prayer for rain; agreed to by all leaders in advance for a designated day, publicised by announcements in papers and electronic media?

Would it not produce regeneration in our nation if, after Almighty God responded to such National Prayer, according to His promises, the Nation was then called together again in thanksgiving? Would there be an Australian who would not respond?

WE SHOULD THINK ON THESE THINGS! It is as true as ever that the Nation follows the Church. If the "salt has lost its savour" and does not PUBLICLY stand for the truth, the nation will slide down the path of destruction.

But God still rules! Christ is risen and reigns! The prayers – and actions – of ordinary people are seen and heard, and do not remain unanswered.

PART II: SMALL, LOW-COST SOLUTIONS

A recent exhibit on the ABC "New Inventors" programme featured a simple evaporation unit, about 1 metre square which used the sun's rays to evaporate clean water from effluent which trickled over a black surface. It could be carried in the boot of a car, and could provide campers with 5-6 litres of clean, uncontaminated water in a day of normal sunshine. The concept is simply an adaptation of the principle underlying a solar water heater; but it was simple, effective and won plaudits for the many applications it offered.

The same idea could be expanded to a variety of sizes. As its inventor pointed out, it could be rushed to areas of natural disasters where normal water supplies had been disrupted.

On a larger scale, the following segment from an article by Phillip Adams in *The Australian*. Under the heading EVAPORATION SALVATION, told of a letter he had received from an oncologist friend, Max Whisson, MB, BS, FRCPath., part of which said:

"... We can provide an unlimited supply of pure water almost anywhere in the world. Now and for the foreseeable future. Moreover, we can do this with virtually no running costs. Yes, it sounds too good to be true but, like all good ideas, it is ridiculously simple... Like quite a few other schemes, the water

from the sea... It is commonplace to prepare relatively small amounts of salt-free water from the ocean by reverse osmosis, a sort of ultra-filtration system. It is used on luxury yachts in some of the more affluent Gulf states. But reverse osmosis (i.e. the process that was proposed for the aborted Toowoomba re-cycling proposal – *ed.*) is hi-tech and expensive to run, so very unlikely to provide an answer for large-scale use, let alone for irrigation and industrial purposes.

Most of your readers are familiar with the preparation of salt – by evaporation of ponds in the sun, followed by scraping up the deposited salt. In this process, water is a waste product chucked away into the air. So why not do the opposite? Why not keep the water and chuck away the salt? ...

Let's take a leaf from C.Y. O'Connor's book... the bloke who provided Kalgoorlie with its life-giving pipeline? The surface area of a 600km pipeline from Perth to Kalgoorlie could be more than 10 million sq. metres. At least 50 megalitres would evaporate from such a channel as a result of solar evaporation every day. That's around 18,000 megalitres a year – a useful amount of water. But hang on again – in no time your channel of sea-water would be full of salt. Half a year would be spent scratching out the salt with a front-end loader. And where would you put it? We've already got enough trouble with salt in Australia.

The answer is ridiculously simple. You put a U-turn in your channel and head back towards the sea. You could direct the returning channel through a different dry area and provide another 18 gegalitres on the way back.

The concentrated seawater, which has given perhaps three-quarters of its pure water for collection in the solar distribution system, then returns from whence it came ..."

This is lateral thinking which opens up immense possibilities: Like all sound engineering innovations, small-scale models should be tried before venturing into bigger ones.

Over 80 percent of Australia's population lives on the coast. Larger and larger dams at enormous expense are being built on good farmland to provide water for concentrated mega-cities.

The great bulk of coastal hinterlands are flat, thus lending themselves to evaporation channels. Australian innovation, at minimal expense, is quite capable of building channel modules capable of being fitted together for short or long distances, harvesting pure water from the sea. In Queensland such population centres as the Gold and Sunshine Coasts, as well as cities such as Brisbane, Maryborough, Bundaberg, Rockhampton, Sarina, Mackay, Townsville and Cairns could meet all their water requirements this way – rather than the schemes being put forward by Malcolm Turnbull and Prime Minister Howard. The same would apply to other States.

Country areas, relieved of the pressure and cost of shifting water to the cities, could themselves return to simpler forms or irrigation. The Key-Line System, designed by the brilliant Australian innovator the late P.A. Yeomans, would eliminate the need for such mind-numbing enterprises as Cubbie Station.

Let's hope that these 'alternative' ideas will stimulate more lateral thinking from those who still have the inclination to "think small". We can then give freedom and initiative back to Councils and local communities, send the global corporations on their way, and re-discover that 'Small Is Beautiful'.

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