

National Call to Prayer, 16th September 2022

Presentations and prayers



Policing – return to ‘Godly’ order within society

David Foster

2 Thessalonians 2:3-8; Colossians 2:15

“Enforcing Christ’s Victory over the Spirit of Lawlessness”

I’d like briefly to look at some Biblical foundations as we pray today and, in the days, ahead for “a return to godly order within society.” I have had the privilege of serving as a voluntary Metropolitan (Met) Police Chaplain over the past twelve years.

My wife, Jean, headed up a catering team that fed thousands of free curry meals to Met police officers and staff over those twelve years that we hosted them in our church facilities for their various mandatory police training days. As part of these Met police training days, as police chaplain, I was allocated 25 – 30 minutes to speak – addressing wellbeing issues. And I always shared how, as a Christian, I had found how Jesus Christ can bring inward peace within our hearts in the midst of stressful lives and a stressful world.

I have found that a vast majority of police officers have a passionate desire to do their job well and to serve our communities. But yet there is an ever-increasing challenge of house robberies and gang stabbings on the streets and anti-social behaviour, and much, much more, for which the police are held responsible and with which they have to try and deal.

I had the privilege of listening to the new Met Police Commissioner, Sir Mark Rowley, as he set out his vision for policing London this past Monday on a special online meeting for police officers and staff. He mentioned about the policing efforts that have been taking place in relation to all the events leading up to Queen Elizabeth II’s funeral on Monday as being the largest policing challenge in UK history. And Sir Mark mentioned that the police are well aware of the possibility of a terrorist attack in the midst of everything that is happening.

Even with all the best of intentions, the police don’t have all the solutions to all the challenging problems they face. But as believers in Jesus Christ, we do! God’s Word in 2 Thessalonians 2:3-8 tells us this . . .

So what are we to do as believers in Jesus Christ?

We need to stand firm and enforce Christ's victory over the spirit of lawlessness through prayer. God's Word in Colossians 2:15 tells us this . . .

As well as serving as chaplain to the Met, I help with the leadership of the Met Christian Police Association. Two weeks ago we held a special prayer meeting on the top, 8th floor of New Scotland Yard that overlooks the London Eye. There was a tangible presence of the Holy Spirit amongst us as we prayed in that room. It was a powerful evening there at New Scotland Yard! For example, someone shared how they and some other believers had been prayer walking on the streets of their area of South London, which had the highest knife crime in London two years ago. But after persistent prayer walking in the area, it now has the lowest knife crime in London!

As we pray for the policing across London and the United Kingdom, let's stand firm and enforce Christ's victory over the spirit of lawlessness through prayer.

Prayers for repentance for 'false' religion, and to reclaim the Church: the new ekklesia.

Lynda Rose

What is the Church? What is its function or purpose?

Well, the most obvious answer is that it's the body of Christ, the assembly of believers – and it's been given a sacred charge, ahead of Christ's return, to safeguard the faith and carry the truth to all nations, telling men and women the good news, that all might have the chance of salvation before final judgment, when Satan and his hordes – that's all who've given him allegiance – will be cast into the lake of fire. And, of course, the Church is the guardian of truth and defender of the flock, called to protect the vulnerable and fight off the wolves, and to help believers grow in faith, by teaching sound doctrine, and helping them grow spiritually.

Mt 28:18 Jesus said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you..."

This is the Church, 'in' but not 'of' the world. A light in the darkness, a still beacon at the heart of the spinning confusion, deceit and delusion that holds this fallen world in thrall, providing a moral compass that will protect the weak, and get the lost safely home.

Has the Church fulfilled this mission? Has it defended the truth that salvation comes through Christ alone?

No, it hasn't. As it's grown over the centuries, it's become complacent and it's compromised. It's traded the values and teachings of the Bible for those of society, and it's become rotten at the core. It no longer upholds truth, purity, righteousness, responsibility ... duty, but has taken over the values of this fallen world. Some still hold

to the truth, of course, and are fighting valiantly to be faithful to God's charge, but in the main the church militant has become degenerate and corrupt. It's swapped Christ for climate change, love for sex ... truth for so-called inclusivity and diversity ... and it compounds it all by saying we all worship the same god, so that whether we pray to Mohammed, Buddha, or Gaia is immaterial.

Well, I have news, all gods are not the same, and our saccharine-coated affirmation and worship of human inclination and endeavour is an abomination to God. In the UK today we have a Church of England – and I'm talking about all denominations here – but we don't have a Church of God, and He wants His Church back. Like it or not, we're going to be purified and pruned so that the plant may once again become healthy and grow.

Areas for repentance:

1. Our failure to stand up for the truth, and our embrace of all religions as one.
2. Our failure to stand on the teachings of the Bible and to protect the vulnerable.
3. Our worship of other gods: other religions, the occult, worship of the god 'Self'.
4. Our failure to protect the unborn, turning a blind eye to child sacrifice, which has fed the power of evil.
5. Our worship of sexual licence, promiscuity and immorality.

Proclaim and declare the sovereignty of God. Proclaim and declare that Christ alone is the Way, the Truth, and the life. Proclaim and declare Christ's inalienable sovereignty over the Church, claiming it in the name of the King.

Pray the Lord raise up new and godly leaders, and that those in leadership in the Church have a fresh, and perhaps 'first' encounter with God. Pray they be re-anointed or removed.

Pray the Lord remove the dead wood and prune the branches, that life and growth may return, and that we may see a new harvest in this land.

Pray for a new vision, steadfastness, courage, and humility.

Pray that the Lord release His gifts in power on and amongst the faithful.

Pray blessing and release, and that in these troubled and challenging times a new 'Church' may emerge, that will be truly the Church of God and of His Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.

Government: the recovery of values, strong leadership

Philip Quenby

As we look back over our long history as a nation, three things can hardly fail to strike us: how much God has blessed us, how much God has protected us, and how many believers from these islands have loved not their lives even unto death. We've been a sheep nation

and a sending nation, and through the Palestine Mandate we were given the honour of being midwife to the rebirth of the state of Israel. But, oh! How we are fallen. The prophet's heart cry in Lamentations seems to fit us all too well: "How deserted lies the city, once so full of people! How like a widow is she, who once was great among the nations! She who was queen among the provinces has now become a slave." (Lamentations 1:1).

Heaven knows, we've been far from perfect, but despite our many faults and failings as a nation, God has caused His Word to bear great fruit amongst us. A biblical heritage has helped give rise to a system of government and law that's birthed greater freedom than most of the world has known. It's helped spur a spirit of enquiry and invention, which in turn has delivered greater progress and well-being, not just for our people, but for countless numbers overseas. And the Holy Spirit has stirred consciences in ways that paved the ground for abolition of the slave trade and, eventually, of slavery itself, for better working conditions, extended voting rights, and much more besides.

Yet, like Esau, we've rejected our birth-right and sold it for a mess of pottage (Genesis 27:31-34). Times without number, God has called us back, saying, "Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls." (Jeremiah 6:16). But, like Israel of old, we've replied, "We will not walk in it." (Jeremiah 6:16).

Over decades, we've progressively hollowed out every aspect of national life and every institution of Church and State. We still have the forms of the past, but we've turned our backs on God, who gave them life and breath. We're still going through the motions, but somehow our heart isn't in it. The clockwork has been running down for years, and now we can no longer pretend things are working as they should. The death of Queen Elizabeth kicks away the last prop from the past that was providing some semblance of order and stability for a people who are "harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd." (Matthew 9:36). Well might we say of this nation: Ichabod, for "the glory [of the LORD] has departed" (1 Samuel 4:21).

We're in the state we are because the Church has failed to be what it should be:

- We've failed to stand firm on the Word of God, and because we've aborted God's Word, we've given the enemy the legal pretext to abort our children.
- We've failed to stand against ungodly legislation, approving things that are an abomination to God: "Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter." (Isaiah 5:20).
- We've allowed mixture into the Church, approving idols rather than denouncing them. Instead of contradicting the world's claim that "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt" (Exodus 32:4), we've made a Golden Calf and pronounced, "Tomorrow there will be a feast to the LORD." (Exodus 32:5).
- We've neglected to shepherd the nation, to speak prophetically into national life, or to teach the full, undiluted Word of God.

- We harbour the canker of Replacement Theology and speak against God's purposes for Israel.
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- We hinder the work of the Spirit and try to do things man's way, rather than God's.

We've fallen so far, there's nothing we can do to save ourselves. All we can do is to cry out for mercy to a God who still yearns to bless this land, and to use us again. And so, we pray:

LORD, like your servant Daniel, we cry out on behalf of your Body in this nation and on behalf of the nation itself:

"Now, our God, hear the prayers and petitions of your servant. For your sake, O LORD, look with favour on your desolate sanctuary. Give ear, O God, and hear; open your eyes and see the desolation of the city that bears your Name. We do not make requests of you because we are righteous, but because of your great mercy. O LORD, listen! O LORD, forgive! O LORD, hear and act! For your sake, O my God, do not delay, because your city and your people bear your Name." (Daniel 17:19).

Father, we repent of how Your Church has failed to be all You wish it to be. As we plead before You for the restoration of godly and righteous government in this land, we recognise judgment begins at the house of God (1 Peter 4:17). We hang our heads in shame at all we've done and failed to do. Forgive us, LORD.

We repent of our failure to teach and disciple properly, to speak truth to power and to take to heart the vital lesson that government begins with self-government. Like Israel, we have "sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry." (Exodus 32:6). We've been undisciplined, self-indulgent and given over to sin. Forgive us, LORD.

We repent of our cowardice in the face of State power. We've failed to insist on the distinction You make between different spheres of government – between family, Church and State – and we've allowed the State to claim for itself an authority God never intended it to have. Forgive us, LORD.

We repent of failing to insist on the pursuit of holiness, of failing to tell the truth about hell and damnation, and of failing to proclaim that "righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people." (Proverbs 14:34). Forgive us, LORD.

We repent of the root of pride that is in us as a nation, and our failure as your Church to confront it. We know that "pride comes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall." (Proverbs 16:18). Forgive us, LORD.

Father, we gratefully receive your forgiveness, and from that place of forgiveness we ask if you will please grant the following requests:

- That you, Lord Jesus, will come to rule and reign in this land, and that the government of this nation will be upon your shoulders;
- That you, Lord, will raise up the leaders you have chosen in every sphere of our national life, and that you will guide, guard and prosper them in the days ahead;

- That you, Lord, will cause the ungodly legislation of recent years to be repealed, and will lift from our people the burden of excessive regulation and unrighteous directives;
- That you, Lord, will bring conviction on those in positions of power and authority, that they should be servants of the people rather than try to lord it over them or seek selfish gain;
- That you, Lord, will cut off all ungodly influences and silence all contrary voices that speak falsehood into our government, laws and institutions;
- That you, Lord, will cleanse the well-springs of our law and make it flow again in the right paths, inspired by your Word and Spirit;
- That you, Lord, will set the agenda for this nation and its leaders, and cause this agenda to be carried through according to your ways and timing;
- That you, Lord, will make this nation once again an example to the world of good and godly government;
- That you, Lord, will cause the wind of the Holy Spirit to blow through the institutions and structures of our State, to bring life to what is dead;
- That you, Lord, will enable us to recover the birth-right we have lost, and to treasure and value it as we ought;
- That you, Lord, will cause our leaders to be guided by biblical principles, whether or not they acknowledge Christ as Lord and Saviour, and to give clear and godly direction to the nation;
- That you, Lord, will silence, restrain and curtail all demonic activity in and around our Prime Minister, cabinet, government, Parliament, Civil Service, monarchy, courts, media, police, armed forces and security services;
- We ask in particular that you deal with the spirits:
 - of a counterfeit Jezebel in 10 Downing Street
 - of a counterfeit Haman in the Foreign Office
 - of Europa in law, government and administration
 - of Diana operating through Freemasonry and the New World order
 - of the Queen of Heaven operating through religion
 - of Britannia in the nation at large
- That you, Lord, will set your seal of governmental authority over what has been prayed, so the enemy will be unable to undo, pervert or delay your intentions for this nation.

Father, we know that despite everything, your hand is still upon this nation and that your arm is not shortened to save. We recognise your handiwork in the circumstances surrounding the death of HM Queen Elizabeth, and we acknowledge it is the immutable

law of heaven that something must die so that something greater or better might live.
LORD, for all this we bless you.

We say yes and amen to your plans and purposes for this nation and submit ourselves gladly to your direction. Put us to what you will, rank us with whom you will, put us to doing, put us to suffering, let us be used by you or laid aside by you, exalted for you or brought low for you, let us be full, let us be empty, let us have all things, let us have nothing. But LORD, let this nation once again be yours.

Amen

The moral heart of the nation, repentance and reclamation

Steve Campbell

In 432AD St Patrick landed on the North East coast of Hibernia, and thus began the conversion of the Irish. One hundred years after Patrick's death, St Columba landed on the island of Iona and from there the gospel spread throughout Scotland and beyond. Around the same time, St David evangelized throughout Wales, eventually becoming its Archbishop. Then in 597AD St Augustine arrived at Canterbury and under his influence the Church eventually became united.

So for almost 1500 years these islands have been under the influence of the Christian gospel. Many would say it became a Christian nation. That doesn't mean that everyone born here is truly a Christian, but that the laws, culture and moral heart of the nation are firmly grounded in the Christian faith. For example, the law pertaining to marriage was solidly biblical: one man, one woman, in a faithful, monogamous relationship for life.

Throughout the centuries the Christian influence has waxed and waned somewhat, but from the Evangelical Revival of the 18th Century led by Whitefield and the Wesleys, and under the leadership of prominent Evangelicals in the 19th Century, the Christian influence in society was very strong and the morality of the nation was generally of a high standard.

The Church, as the body of Christ on earth, is supposed to be the moral compass for the nation, upholding truth and righteousness and denouncing evil. At times the Church has held that compass firmly, as in the period just mentioned. However, the past 100 years or so, that compass has slowly but surely become distorted.

The change has come about so slowly and subtly that it can be hard to discern. It's like the old saying – place a frog in a pot of boiling water and he will leap out, but place him in a pot of cold water and slowly bring it to the boil, he will not notice until it is too late. We have been sitting in a pot of simmering water for a long time and it is now at boiling point.

It's difficult to pinpoint when it all started to go wrong, but there are certain events which became catalysts.

Charles Darwin published his book 'On the Origin of Species' and here he first outlined his Theory of Evolution, which today is almost universally accepted as fact. The result of evolution is that it removes God as the primary cause of all things.

Karl Marx, born a Jew but turned atheist – 'Religion is... the opium of the people.' End of religion... end to God.

Higher Criticism – This method of examining the Bible first developed in Germany, but instead of making the word of God clearer, these so-called biblical scholars were tearing the word of God apart. They placed doubt on the Mosaic authorship of the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Bible, claiming it's a conglomeration by four separate authors from different periods in history all pasted together. They also placed doubt on the historicity of Israel and the Exodus, the dating of many of the documents, the authenticity of some of the Apostolic Epistles, and even on the teaching and miracles of Jesus, including his resurrection!

All of this helped to undermine confidence in the Bible, God's word written, his self-revelation to us. All orthodox Churches acknowledge the Bible as the word of God, but its ministers do not always preach it as such nor do all its adherents necessarily believe it. Without the Bible the Church cannot orientate the moral compass in the right direction. It's like going back to the time of the Judges where, 'Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.' (Judges 21:25)

Morals are not something instinctive, they need to be taught – we need guidance, we need direction. The Ten Commandments have been the bedrock of our laws and national values. The Commandments were not given to show us *how* you can be saved – the Israelites were already saved by the blood of the lamb at Passover and through the Red Sea.

The Commandments and law given at Mt Sinai showed how a saved people were to live before a Holy God.

So, where have we gone wrong and how can we reclaim the moral heart of the nation?

We have heard much about the late Queen's Christian faith; a faith which she held not only personally but promised to uphold as a public figure.

During the Coronation a Bible was presented to her along with these words –

"Our gracious Queen: to keep your Majesty ever mindful of the law and the Gospel of God as the Rule for the whole life and government of Christian Princes, we present you with this Book, the most valuable thing that this world affords.

Here is Wisdom; This is the royal Law; These are the lively Oracles of God."

This symbolism showed that the Queen's reign was to be under the ultimate sovereignty of God through his word. During her 70 year reign Her Majesty lived out that vow of faith under God. Sadly, the nation has not followed suit, nor has the Church of which she was supreme governor.

Who do we blame for the decline in national morality?

Do we blame the government for passing ungodly laws?

Do we blame the police and courts for arresting and sentencing those doing God's work?

Do we blame educationalists for teaching falsehood?

Do we blame the health service for performing unnecessary procedures?

No! None of these institutions claim to be Christian. As John Stott once said, 'You cannot blame the meat for going rotten, that's what meat does. You blame the salt for not being there to preserve it.'

Jesus said, 'You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again?' (Matt 5:13)

The blame must therefore rest fairly and squarely on the Church, the body of Christ here on earth, of which you and I are a part. That is why this call to repentance is so important, and must include *us* along with the whole Church.

We must no longer allow the media, nor the government, nor popular opinion to set the moral compass. The Church the Ecclesia, the Body of Christ must repent of past failures and be determined to get out of the saltshaker, preserve what is good and stop the rot.

In New Testament Greek, repentance is metanoia, which means having a change of mind, but it also leads to a change of action. So while we repent and are truly sorry for shortcomings of the past, we want to ensure that in future we allow the Bible to be central in our thinking.

The Apostle Paul's charge to his two assistants in his Pastoral Epistles are pertinent to our thinking –

To Timothy he writes: 'All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness' (2 Tim 3:16)

And to Titus: 'an overseer... must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.' (Titus 1:7,9)

Although addressed directly to Church leaders these verses can apply to all Christians.

When we, through repentance, return to our roots and allow God through his word to direct our thoughts and actions; and give us the courage to teach the truth, rebuke wrongdoing, correct error, and train in all righteousness – then we can hope to reclaim the moral heart of our nation.

Prayer for the Young

Jane Woodford

A Recent Event:

Two weeks ago, today, Lynn Hotton, of Followers of the Way, and I stood in the grounds of a private school in Somerset, remembering and praising God for everything He had done. Some years ago, this venue had hosted Christian holidays for teenage girls. Over a period of at least twenty-five years, thousands of young people attended these holidays and many came to know the Lord. Most of the officers, or leaders, at the camps were teachers who invited pupils from their schools, 99% of whom weren't Christians.

We were blessed and privileged to serve as officers at some of these camps and were witnesses to the amazing ways in which the Lord permeated all the activities, from morning prayers to the various leisure, arts and sports pursuits to the evening worship and teaching sessions. His presence, and power at work, was tangible. This initiative, along with others, was part of an extended, incredibly fruitful season of outreach among young people.

Standing in the grounds of the school, we were looking back on a season of tremendous openness and opportunity, in terms of sharing the Gospel with children and young people.

The school that Lynn and I visited closed suddenly, this summer, after only a small number of pupils had enrolled for this academic year. This was another instance of the end of a season.

As we looked across the rolling hills, there was a sense the Lord speaking:

'For the old order of things is gone. It has passed away. What was light, where there was openness, where there was willingness and anticipation to engage - that has gone. It is the end of a season, even the end of an era. Many young people came, were blessed, were touched by My Holy Spirit and came to know Me.

But now, this young generation, over them a mist has come down – subtly, initially. A mist descended and the mist became a fog, and the fog became a black cloud. And what is operating through that black cloud has captured them and taken them to hidden places, where they almost seem out of reach. These hidden places are increasingly dark, and becoming darker to the point where their very identities are being dismantled. This is grievous to Me.

Many in My Church have not observed this, have not seen this process and don't even witness to it. But you, My Beloved, those who are close to My heart, those who feel My pain, for you the new season has begun. Come to Me. Seek Me with your whole heart. Take the burden that is Mine, with respect to this younger generation. For only Spirit-led, heart-felt intercession, with fasting, can begin to unlock those hidden places, where those of this generation are held captive. Come to Me. Seek Me. Seek openings of access to them, but

only from a place of sustained intercession. All that you need is in Me. Your protective armour, It is the work of My Spirit that will bring the victory and release to those I love and want to make Myself known to.'

What has brought this change of season? From generation to generation, have we dropped the baton?

As we remembered what the Lord had done at the camps, we realised that those girls would now be in their forties and fifties, and that their children and grandchildren are the present generation of children and young people. We began to pray for them.

God works from generation to generation and the baton – of the knowledge of Him - is meant to be passed on:

Lamentations 5:19 *You, LORD, reign forever; your throne endures from generation to generation.*

Exodus 10:1-2 *Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go to Pharaoh, for I have hardened his heart and the hearts of his officials, that I may perform these miraculous signs of Mine among them, and that you may tell your children and grandchildren how severely I dealt with the Egyptians when I performed miraculous signs among them, so that all of you may know that I am the LORD."*

Psalms 78:2-4 *I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things hidden from the beginning, that we have heard and known and our fathers have relayed to us. We will not hide them from their children, but will declare to the next generation the praises of the LORD and His might, and the wonders He has performed.*

Referring to the Report to the General Synod 'Children and Youth Ministry' 2020 GS2161

'Over the last 18 months the Evangelism and Discipleship Team, with support from the Research and Statistics Team, have been analysing our engagement with under 16s.

A Few Statistical Headlines

1. We have many opportunities as a Church to engage with children and young people through schools, Messy Church, Toddler Groups and midweek youth and children's ministry. These activities often happen outside Sunday services and are picked up in Statistics for Mission, in Worshipping Community Statistics, and October count midweek attendance. But we also need to recognise that in 2018 we reached a new stage, where nationally Sunday attendance for 0-16's dropped below 100,000 for the first time ever.
2. According to the single church returns, 38% of these churches have no 0-16's and 68% of them have 5 or fewer 0-16's.
3. Decline among under 16's is much faster than decline among all other generations. The number of under 16's reported in Average Child Sunday attendance has decreased by 20% over the last five years compared to a 12% decline in average adult Sunday attendance.

Someone commenting on this and asking, "Where did all this begin to go so badly wrong — when did we see this dramatic failure to engage with young people, where previously this had been an area of strength for the Church?", realised that the main group that is

missing in church attendance, and which shapes our demographic more than any other, is people in their 30s and 40s. These are people who were teenagers and young people in the 1990s.

During the 1980s and 1990s the UK experienced massive cultural shifts – Individualism, Family Breakdown, Rights & Equalities...The Church adapting, seeking to be more relevant, but diluting the message. These shifts can be defined as: moving ***from core family values (Christian) to globally defined, state initiated & social media driven agendas, for example, RSE- (Anti-Christian). Huge prayer is needed.***

But It's Not All Bad

- There are still good things happening:
- There are many young people who know and love the Lord, and many examples of outreach to children and young people e.g.:
- The Magnets Holiday Outreach, in Spain, led by Steve and Irene Maria
- Bible Explorer Programmes in schools, which involve Bible story telling. In one of the South Wales valleys, a group of older ladies, in their 80's, was regularly going into primary schools to deliver this programme. This was shut down, because of Covid, and the ladies disbanded. However, the schools have been asking for the programme to be continued, and so the ladies are going back in.

Note - ***Psalm 71 v. 18 Even when I am old and grey, do not forsake me, my God, till I declare your power to the next generation, your mighty acts to all who are to come.***

The Lord's Heart in All This

God's desire is for the children to come to Him. He holds the lambs next to His heart. He warns those who would corrupt the hearts of children: ***Luke 17 v. 2 It would be better to be thrown into the sea with a millstone hung around your neck than to cause one of these little ones to fall into sin.***

We Need to Pray, Let's Do That Now

Father, we thank You that from everlasting to everlasting, You are God. You, LORD, reign forever; Your throne endures from generation to generation. We worship You and we bless You. You are the Lord of times and seasons.

Father, we want to cry out to you for these younger generations, for the missing 30s and 40s, for the absent teenagers and for those in between, and either side of those ages. Father, we humble ourselves before You and ask for Your forgiveness for dropping the generational baton: for allowing the culture, and social and political trends of the day to frame our thinking and define our behaviour, for adapting instead of lovingly confronting, and for diluting Your truth in order to be accepted. Father, as part of Your Church we are culpable in all of this. As we repent before You, would You do a deep, lasting work in our hearts. Would You, in Your mercy and grace, redeem our failure, that we might pick up the baton and seek every opportunity to declare Your truth to the next generation. In Jesus' name.

Father, we ask You to strengthen, help and encourage those of these younger generations who know You. Help them to stand as their faith is being serially undermined by the prevailing culture. Help them to be salt and light to their peers,

to run counter to the culture and to stand for what is right. Father, we ask for grace in abundance for those teenagers who so desperately want to belong and fit in, but for whom that means compromise. Father, give them mentors and cheerleaders who will faithfully and prayerfully support and encourage them. Give them networks of peers they can stand alongside. Father, give them the hearts of lions in the presence of wolves. Make them powerful influencers in their generation, and baton passers to the next. In Jesus' name.

*Father, we cry out to You for those younger generations who don't know You: whose minds have been infiltrated by the lies of the enemy and who are hidden in the darkness. In Your mercy and grace, please bring them into the light. Father, You told Cyrus, in Your word: **Isaiah 45 v. 2 I will go before you and will level the mountains; I will break down gates of bronze and cut through bars of iron. I will give you hidden treasures, riches stored in secret places, so that you may know that I am the LORD, the God of Israel, who summons you by name.***

Father, would You raise up, now, those who will do that in our generation. Would You raise up unbelievers in positions, who don't agree with the enforced dogma and indoctrination imposed on this younger generation, and would You liberate these precious treasures to the hope and future that You have for them. In Jesus' name.

Father, we pray for Christian parents, for great wisdom as they train their children up in the way they should go, and navigate the cultural context. We pray for Christian teachers, and others working with children and young people, for wisdom, encouragement and courage.

Father, as we close this short time, we thank You for Your mercy and grace, and for Your heart and power to save. Keep us faithful in prayer. In Jesus', name. Amen