

A prayer for Australia Day

David d'Lima - FamilyVoice Australia
January 2010



Almighty God, we give thanks for our country of Australia and for all who dwell within this great island continent.

Confessing our personal and national sins, we recognise the wrongs done in the past and in the present. Help us to turn away from all wrongdoing. Forgive and restore, we pray.

We give thanks for our beloved indigenous people, who were placed by you within this vast region, and here took up the commission given by you to all humanity: to supervise the land and give names to your works of creation. Give us deep respect and love for the first custodians of Australia. We pray especially for you to help the indigenous people facing great challenges.

We give thanks for the brave explorers who brought Australia and our neighbouring islands into the wider fellowship of nations, and into revelation of the message of Christ. We uphold the claim of Pedro de Quiros that this continent *from now on shall be called the Southern Land of the Holy Ghost*.

We claim the founding sentiment declared by Governor Arthur Phillip that Australia love its neighbours:

We have come here today to ... this fifth great continental division of the earth ... and have founded here a state which we hope will ... become the beneficial patron of all the nations of the Southern Hemisphere.

Lord, we commit to you the leaders of our nation: We pray for our Sovereign, and for the Governor-General. We pray for the Prime Minister of Australia, the Leader of the Opposition, and for all who serve within the Commonwealth Parliament, and we echo the words our parliamentary representatives use each day:

Almighty God, we humbly beseech Thee to vouchsafe Thy blessing upon this Parliament. Direct and prosper our deliberations to the advancement of Thy glory, and the true welfare of the people of Australia.

In each State we pray for the Governor, the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition, and for all who serve in civic administration. We pray for the Lord Mayor in each capital city, and for the mayors and councillors who serve within local government across each State.

Upholding our civic leaders, we gladly heed the urgent biblical imperative that:

... requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone - for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness (1 Timothy 2:1-2).

So we pray for governors - that they would supervise neutrally; for parliamentarians - to legislate wisely; for public servants - to administer the state prudently; for the police - to maintain law and order peacefully; for prosecutors - to initiate action validly; for jurors - to determine court findings truthfully; for justices - to apply laws rightly; for prison officers - to reform offenders magnanimously; for customs officials - to protect borders carefully; for the militia - to secure the nation and build up other countries diligently; for diplomats - to maintain international relations cooperatively; and for electoral officials - to run fair, free and democratic elections expeditiously. Indeed we ask you to bless and sustain the Australian Federation in every way.

Father, help us to uphold continually the assertion in the Preamble of the Commonwealth Constitution:

... the people ... humbly relying on the blessing of Almighty God, have agreed to unite

- All these things we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Amen -