

May 6th 2007:

*Mission Month
Praying for Rain
Thanksgiving Day*

3 topics that come together this month....to challenge and perhaps..rebuke us

Mission month.....Self Explanatory.....**OR** so it seems at first

For the next 4.....we will focus on.....the spreading of the Gospel throughout

Think about Missionaries doing the work....while we watch and pray give
Well that's Partly....But Not completely true

..for the emphasis ...is on the Good News **being** shared...**rather than where....**

So MM is about the MissionariesBut it is also about us....

about my mission...and your....

→**Which** is to someway talk/share...present where we stand about Jesus...
so that the Gospel is being spread through us too.

The second topichas been a big issue for Australian Christians for sometime

PRAYING FOR RAIN

We have been called to prayer....by our spiritual leaders

And recently by our Prime Minister

We have seen some resultBut still we need to Pray...(Our speaker last Sun)

The Third Topic is our Australian Thanksgiving Day:

May 26thlisted as a day to remember with thanks....Australia
and fellow Australians.....

Those of you who got the Word For Today.....also received with it a bookmark
On that bookmark a thank you ribbon

A practical way of letting someone know

This morning I want to link these three.....Beginning withthe second

Praying for Rain

The first reading we had from 2 Chron 7.....came from a period of prosperity
David's rule....had been consolidated by his son Solomon

And Solomon had at that time....been true to the Lord

He had just finished building the great Temple in Jerusalem

And the Lord appears to Him....with both a promise and a warning

- **The warning comes first.....**and it relates to what God will do
when His people forget Him

How He will use the forces of nature.....to reveal His displeasure

How He will hold back rain from the land

- **Then follows the promise**

A promise that is conditional.....on the action of God's people 7:14

*"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 will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin
and will heal their land."*

Immediately we note that it is God's people who are to act.....for the sake of their nation.

The ones called by His name.....now called upon to represent all the people

In Israel.....they were the majority

In Australia.....we are the minority.....But the task is still the same

To humble ourselves....before God.....and as the churchbefore Australians

- **The opposite of** to be humble....is not simply to be proud.....arrogant
..and at times I feel....the church has been arrogant in the way it has reacted to

- **To Pray and seek God's face**

Here we find the heart of our responsibility.....also our privilege

God hears the prayers of all.....But in this particular instance

It is our prayers that will move Him.....That is His promise

Why then have we been so slow to really pray.....So hesitant about truly seeking His face.....on this issue so vital for Australia

• **It may well** be that we are not too keen about the third part

To turn from our wicked ways.

As individuals and as a church.....we need to admit that we have not always lived...as the light of the world should

Not always stood against injustice

Not always been pure in our dealings with others.....In our lifestyle

Not put others first..in the matter of prayer

Repentance and earnest prayer....

For the blessing of rain upon the earth.....Are linked together strongly here

It is though God is saying one thing to Australia.....through the lack of rain

And another to His church

Calling us who belong to Him.....to truly care about our Nation

Surely one of our greatest failings.....that we need to turn away from

Is our unwillingness to stand for God outside of the protected environment....

That is the church

To declare ourselves as God's people.....who take seriously this opportunity

To pray for our land.....and for those in our land....who do not know Jesus as

• **And it's here we see the link...**between Praying for Rain

And accepting ...in this Mission month.....our personal mission to those around us.....who need Jesus so much

And because they need Jesus...They need us too

Our growing in godliness.....to attract them to Him

Our prayers for them.....and on their behalf.....**Placing** their needs before God

Our love for them.....Our obvious appreciation of them.....

Our concern for their eternal future.

• **Now I sense that we are truly seeking to do that**

To be known and seen as Christ ones.....To reach out with love towards

That weas the church here

We as individual believers.....really want to impact ...To draw others one step

But there are times when we need a specific challenge

To be shown a certain practical mission....that we can undertake

• **And its here we see the link to Our Australian Thanksgiving Day**

Although we call it a day.....I would suggest that it's really an opportunity

For each of us this month.....To show that we belong to Jesus

By telling someone....how thankful we are to God for them

• **I mentioned earlier about the bookmark.....**

I aim next Sunday.....ribbons available.....And some cards

Who could you give one such bookmark to ???

Your Doctor....Neighbour...chemist....workmate.....Really good friend

And as you give....will you say to them...This month is Thanking God for Australia

And I'm giving you this...to say thank you to God ...for you

And of course....if you give them.....and if you tell them....then you will pray

Because if we really are thankful for.....then the greatest gift...Is to pray

I felt led to send mine....with a letter to a sportsman

Who will God have you...send or give one to

Pray about it....think about it...Do it:

