



National Council of Churches in Australia

"CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART, O GOD. AND PUT A NEW AND RIGHT SPIRIT WITHIN ME". PSALM 51:10

A change of heart is so needed in this world of tears.

Starting with ourselves, rippling out to others, we pray.

Our context calls us to deeper prayer: the continual terrorism against innocent people; crimes of violence; loveless discourse in public life; the effects of hopelessness amidst poverty ... and much else.

The new Board of the National Council of Churches met for the first time on the day many Christians remember Mary Magdalene: healed by Jesus, she followed Him to the Cross and then was at the tomb, faithful and grieving, thus to witness *"Christ is Risen."*

In Resurrection faith, the first resolve of our NCCA Board was to call us all to deeper prayer.

From the recent NCCA Forum we heard the timely request for a Year of Prayer. Hence this note to you all, with the suggestion of a theme based on Psalm 51:10. Paraphrasing Pascal, whilst Jesus suffers in His love for all humankind, we must not sleep.

A change of heart is what is needed in the human family - away from hate and fear.

Each of us prays in our own way and according to our rich Christian traditions of prayer and meditation.

Additionally, perhaps around noon each day, we might pray:

"Create in me a clean heart O God. And put a new and right spirit within me "

At every level this cleaner and purer heart is needed: in ourselves, our NCCA Churches, our nation, our whole human family on this beautiful earth in the vastness of God's creation.

The NCCA Board looks ahead to the Receptive Ecumenism Conference, November 6 - 9 2017. In the divine providence, after our year of deeper prayer, this would be a good time to share what the Holy Spirit is saying to us.

Anglican Church

Antiochian
Orthodox Church

Armenian
Apostolic Church

Assyrian Church
of the East

Chinese Methodist
Church

Churches of Christ

Congregational
Federation

Coptic
Orthodox Church

Greek
Orthodox Church

Indian
Orthodox Church

Lutheran Church

Mar Thoma Church

Religious Society
of Friends (Quakers)

Roman Catholic Church

Romanian
Orthodox Church

Serbian
Orthodox Church

Syrian
Orthodox Church

The Salvation Army

Uniting Church

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In the love of Jesus, let us pray together now and for this coming year, with special intention.

Grace and peace in the Risen Jesus,

Bishop Philip Huggins
President

Sr Elizabeth Delaney
General Secretary

Bishop John Henderson

Mr Thomas Ling

The Rt Revd Fr Nabil Kachab

Mr Artin Jebejian

Mr David Penny

Sieneke Martin

26 July 2016