
strength. He is ready, willing and able to help you as soon as you ask Him. Take the opportunity today and pray the prayer on this leaflet.

Dear Lord Jesus

Thank you for helping me when I could not help myself. I confess to you that I have sinned and done things against the will of God. Please forgive me and cleanse me from all my sin.

Please come into my heart and change me so that I can truly serve you for the rest of my life.

I realise that without you I have no hope in this world but that with you I have eternal life

Lord Jesus thank you. I now belong to you and I rejoice in you as my Saviour and can now truly call you Lord. Amen



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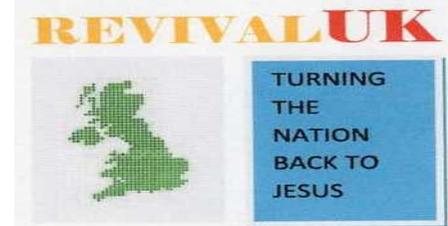
TURNING THE
NATION BACK TO
JESUS CHRIST

**OWNING
UP TO
OUR
REAL
NEEDS**



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OWING UP TO YOUR REAL NEEDS



Ownership

We live in a society in which the taking of responsibility is so often shirked. “It is not my fault”, “I am not to blame”, are regular phrases used to put off the feelings of guilt and to get away from taking responsibility for a particular problem or situation. People are so quick to blame someone else. My parents did not help me enough, the teaching was so bad at school, I did not have enough money and so on are excuses given to help to bypass the real reason for the difficulties and issues that affect human being and spoil their lives.

Drug addicts, for example, are often really bad at taking ownership of the real problems their addiction causes. Maybe they are afraid to look closely at the consequences of their habit realising the difficulties that follow when the addiction is seen for what it is. There are very many traumas involved in “beating the habit”. The truth is that real solutions to the needs of life are so difficult to find. Perhaps that is why the drug taking started in the first place. Too many people “drown their sorrows” using the numbing effect of alcohol to dim the awareness of their problems and bring some sort of cheer even if it is short lived. In this country excessive drinking is rapidly increasing demonstrating the continued unhappiness of people in an increasingly materialistic society.

There are so many stresses and strains in lives in the days in which we live. Work, family health, finance, so many burdens and no one with whom to share the need and from whom to get real help.

Humans have been refusing ownership of problems since the beginning of time. In the Bible after Adam had disobeyed God he blamed his wife. “The woman gave me to eat” was Adam’s reply to God’s “what have you done”? In his heart though Adam knew he had done wrong, he just did not want to “own up to it”. Adam’s thinking seems to have passed down to all human beings. Perhaps like Adam if we own up to our needs we can’t see an answer and that can be really painful emotionally and sends some in to despair.

In the Bible we read “in Adam all die”, spiritually that is, are separated from God, but “in Christ many shall be made alive”. That means there is an answer to our needs. Jesus Christ took the responsibility for the spiritual problem, sin the Bible calls it, for all people. “He became sin for us”, Jesus took sin and dealt with it. He took over the ownership of our sin so that once it was His He could really sort it out, once and for all. He did so when “He died for our sins”. No blaming some one else, no “sweeping it under the carpet”, but a real resolving of the needs of the human heart.

The question is will we take ownership of our needs, the state of our lives, the sort of people we are, the

way we behave. Society tells us it doesn’t matter or maybe for a solution or try some tablets or counselling or some other palliative. The problem is these things don’t really work, they just cover the problem up. The world does not own up to its needs so individuals don’t either. But if we admit our need, maybe first to ourselves and then come to Jesus He can help us as He has the ownership of our sin and has the strength to take it away. The bible tells us that “If we confess our sins “God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all that is wrong in our lives”, right down to the bottom of our hearts.

In the bible the famous parable, the Prodigal Son (Luke’s gospel chapter 15), tells of a young man who ran off from his home and wasted his life. We are told that in the midst of his despair the young man came to his senses and decided to go back home. When his father saw him he ran to meet him, rejoiced that he had come home and forgave him. The young man was restored to the place he had before he left. A wonderful story, but Jesus was telling it to show us how much God loves us and how He will react when we return to Him.

All we have to do is face up to our needs, own up to our sin, come back to Jesus and find His forgiveness and mercy. We need to realise we can’t really solve our problems ourselves and admit our sin. The joy is that has Jesus taken already taken ownership of our sin and broken its