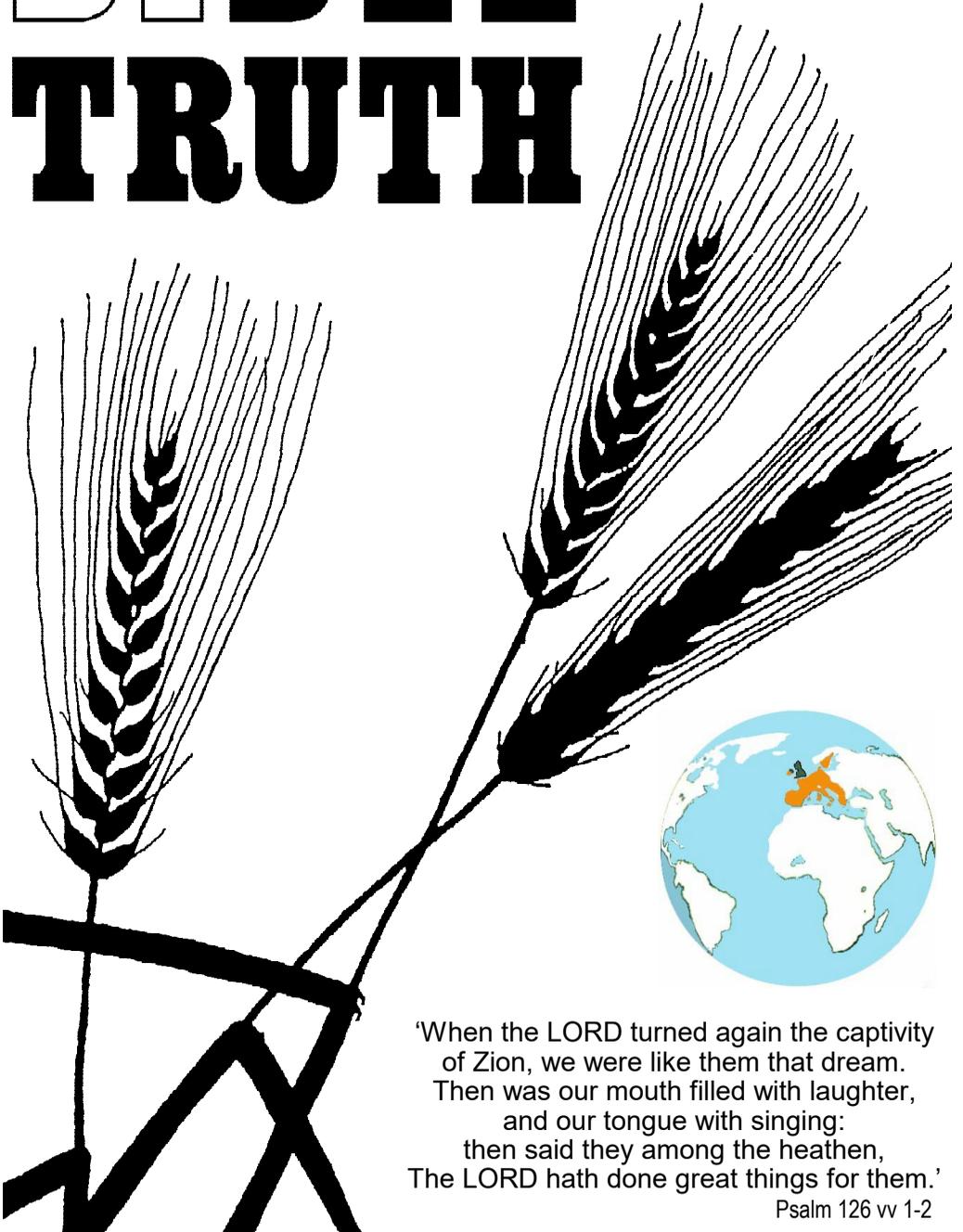


BIBLE TRUTH

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'When the LORD turned again the captivity
of Zion, we were like them that dream.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
and our tongue with singing:
then said they among the heathen,
The LORD hath done great things for them.'

Psalms 126 vv 1-2

WE MUST URGENTLY PRAY FOR OUR NATION

Guidance Notes for Prayer & Reflection from Pastor Jon

- ❖ What is my own personal standing before the Lord? For Almighty God to hear my prayer for the Nation, I myself need to be in a right relationship with Him. We come before God's Throne of grace trusting not in our own righteousness but His Mercy.
- ❖ A fruitful nation will become impoverished because of the wickedness of those who dwell in it (*see Psalm 107 v.34*). Righteousness will exalt a nation but sin will destroy any people (*see Proverbs ch.14 v.34*).
- ❖ Pray most especially for the repentance of the Nation and that people may come to truly know the Lord and follow Him; for there to be heartfelt repentance at the neglect of His Church and His Laws.
- ❖ The Lord Jesus Christ has been driven out of our culture, our Government, and education of our children. In the void we have replaced Him with idols, greed, carnality, materialism and immorality. We have polluted the land with pornography, profaned the sacred and sanctified the profane. No nation that does this can expect God's blessing of protection.
- ❖ People are increasingly frightened by events around them. The world and this country are in turmoil. Nationally we are in a mess socially, morally, politically, economically and spiritually. May people humbly seek God's guidance and help regarding these issues.
- ❖ Pray for the protection of the nation from acts of terrorism and that God may show mercy rather than judgment upon a nation that has rejected His Laws and Commandments.
- ❖ A nation or society will reap what it sows. Ask that God may open the hearts and minds of the spiritually blind in order that they see that the way of salvation, peace and safety lies in following Him.
- ❖ Pray that the Lord raises up Godly people to positions of responsibility and influence. The Church is a battleship and not a passenger liner which means that every devout 'able bodied' Christian has a role to play in some way. Pray that Christians may recognise their responsibility to be a strong Christian witness wherever they are. (*Follow the example of Timothy ch.2 vv 1-5*.)

- ❖ Pray for the Queen, Royal Family and political leaders, especially the new Prime Minister. Pray that the Lord calls more Christians to be pastors and clergy, politicians and journalists, judges, magistrates and law makers, teachers, councillors, school governors, nurses and doctors and so on, in order that a Christian influence may extend throughout every strata of Society.
- ❖ Pray for greater support for Christian run charities, missionary societies and such organisations both at home and overseas.
- ❖ Pray that while being bold in our Christian witness we remain gracious, kind and loving towards those with whom we disagree.
- ❖ Pray for those Christians who have lost their jobs or livelihood because of their faithfulness to Christ.
- ❖ Pray that the issues arising from the EU referendum will drive us toward God. Pray that God in His Providence will overrule the events of these troubled times to advance His Kingdom.

In Conclusion, as Christians we seek God's mercy, forgiveness, healing, restoration, protection and revival upon our nation. A true spirit of repentance will result in such blessings.

‘If my people, which are called by my name, shall 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.’

2 Chronicles ch.7 v.14

Let us be encouraged by this moving promise and pray -

‘O God, Who has graciously preserved our nation through two World Wars, and hast led us in wondrous ways; we confess that as a nation we have turned far from Thee and have neglected our national responsibilities before the world; we have misused the liberty for which men and women gave their lives, we have pursued pleasure and not the Living God; we acknowledge that You will not bless or deliver our nation from the future enemy until we have returned to Thee. Therefore we entreat Thy Divine Majesty, to turn the hearts of the people of this nation to true repentance. Purge out the sins that dishonour Thee. Give us true religion; crown our faith with righteousness, and lift us up, a holy people, to Thy praise and honour, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.’
