

Petition

TO THE _____ CHURCH OF _____, VICTORIA

Brethren, we submit to you that the Federal and State level responses to the SARS CoV 2 virus have been in error. They have followed the precedent set by communist China for responding to a potential pandemic¹ rather than a Biblical precedent. In doing so, they have acted ultra vires their God-given jurisdiction in these ways:

- A. By requiring the whole population to quarantine rather than just those who are sick.
- B. By requiring businesses to close.
- C. By engaging in quantitative easing.
- D. By prohibiting protests against the lockdown.
- E. By prohibiting the church from assembling together.

The state has broken covenant with its citizens.

Insofar as the church has stood by silently while the state took these actions, the church has also broken covenant.

The Bible teaches us what we should have done.

The following are the grounds upon which our petition (on page 7) is made:

The virus:

1. As evidence for the necessity of a lockdown, we were told SARS CoV 2 was a novel virus with an unknown treatment protocol or morbidity.
2. In fact, SARS CoV 2 is not a novel virus. It is 78% similar to SARS CoV 1.²
3. It was known from the beginning that hydroxychloroquine was a treatment that worked prophylactically on SARS CoV 1 and could be presumed to work effectively on SARS CoV 2 (and has worked effectively³ wherever it has been allowed to be used). Since mid 2020 we have known that these other adequate prophylactic and therapeutic measures have also been available for the prevention and treatment of Covid-19 (making the lockdown pointless):
 - i. Vitamin D (deficiency increases persons risk of catching Covid-19 by 77%) which can be used prophylactically and as a treatment in those critically ill. In a Spanish randomized controlled trial, high-dose Vit D (100,000IU) reduced the risk of requiring intensive care by 96%.⁴
 - ii. Quercetin/vitamin C in combination have been strongly recommended in a study highlighting their antiviral properties for use prophylactically and as an early treatment.⁵
 - iii. Systemic Corticosteroids which reduces death by 20% in those critically ill.⁶
 - iii. Bromhexine which Iranian doctors say decreases intensive care treatment by 82%, decreases intubations by 89% and decreases death by 100%.⁷
 - iv. Ivermectin which was proven in March to be effective in cell cultures and has performed well in observational studies. We're unaware yet of any randomised controlled trials.⁸
 - v. Remdesivir: Proven to improve recovery time of those hospitalised.⁹
 - vi. Favipiravir: a pilot study showed better treatment outcomes for Covid-19 patients.¹⁰
4. The death rate too has been known by the Center for Disease Control in the USA to be very low. In March they reported a 0.16% fatality rate for those who caught it which was amended to 0.33% in April and amended again to 0.26% in May.¹¹
5. As the causes of death for those recorded as dying from Covid-19 in the USA have been reviewed it has become apparent that 94% of them died with an average of 2.6 other co-morbidities. Only 6% of them died only from Covid-19. In Australia, that is 9%.¹²
6. SARS CoV 2 gives every appearance of being a pretty bland virus, causing no symptoms in the vast majority of people, flu like symptoms in most of the others and for the rare few, particularly if they are already in ill health or advanced age, can be quite dangerous (as can the flu or any other illness for these sorts of folks—SARS CoV 2 isn't novel in this regard either).

Requiring the whole population to quarantine rather than just those who are sick:

7. [Leviticus 13-14](#) outlines how we are to respond to sickness: quarantine those who are sick.
8. By quarantining the whole population they have created untold damage.

9. People are suffering: spiritually from not being able to assemble for worship. Socially from not being able to fellowship with friends and relatives outside of their homes. Emotionally from fear. Health wise through being told to stay inside, being denied access to outdoor spaces and by disconnecting people from their normal purposes for living. Financially as they lose their businesses and jobs. Politically as they lose their freedoms. Physically as domestic violence increases. Mentally as they lose hope, sinking into depression and suicide.[13, 14](#)
10. On top of that, there is no scientific evidence to show that the lockdowns slow the spread of the virus. Lockdowns do not work.
 - i. Nobel Award winning scientist, Professor Michael Levitt says that modelling presumed exponential growth but that Covid-19 is not exponential. He said indiscriminate lockdown was a “huge mistake.” Instead, quarantine the sick. Assist those who are vulnerable to voluntarily self isolate. Let the rest of the population carry on business as usual. Herd immunity will quickly be established amongst this group which will provide safety for the vulnerable to get back to life as usual as well.[15](#)
 - ii. Making the point that, “Forecast deaths from epidemiological models are not valid counterfactuals”, John Gibson, in a paper from the University of Waikato, used empirical data of variation amongst US counties to conclude that, “Lockdowns do not reduce Covid-19 deaths.” [16](#)
11. Consequently, [Proverbs 12:10](#) is being borne out, “*The tender mercies of the wicked are cruel.*”

Requiring businesses to close:

12. God set the example for us in the creation order of working for six days and resting on the seventh.
13. He commands us in [Exodus 20:9](#), “Six days you shall labour and do all your work.”
14. God commands us to work because it glorifies Him, it gives us a purpose, it fulfills the dominion mandate [Genesis 1:28](#), it is a means for providing for one’s household [1 Timothy 5:8](#), it enables one to eat [2 Thessalonians 3:10](#), it creates prosperity in the family, church and state by which each institution can fulfil its God-given jurisdiction.
15. Requiring businesses to close and putting barriers in the way of work or trade contravenes the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights* to which Australia is a signatory which states in article 6 that, “*The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right to work, which includes the right of everyone to the opportunity to gain his living by work which he freely chooses or accepts, and will take appropriate steps to safeguard this right.*”
16. Small business in Victoria is dead and dying either because financially they can’t make it through the lockdowns or because it is too risky to invest in business if you never know when the next lockdown will destroy that investment.[17](#)

Engaging in quantitative easing:

17. In order to fund the lockdown, the Federal Government in conjunction with the Federal Reserve is engaging in quantitative easing (QE).[18, 19](#)
18. QE is printing money; increasing the money supply without increasing production.
19. Printing money in this way is inflation: it leads to an increase in the cost of goods.
20. Inflation in that it steals the purchasing power from money already in circulation, is theft.
21. The Bible forbids this sort of breaking of His Eighth Commandment when it says, “*Diverse weights and diverse measures, They are both alike, an abomination to the Lord.*” [Proverbs 20v10](#)
22. In essence, the Federal government is stealing from its citizens with one hand (through inflation) and with the other is giving it back to them as a bribe (to not work, to get tested, to not protest when their business is shut down, to not agitate about the destruction happening to the economy) through the cash flow boost to business, JobKeeper and the other “pandemic” payments.
23. In a country which was following and implementing God’s laws, a lockdown would never have happened not only because under God’s law only the sick are quarantined, but also because under God’s law a state would never consider printing money and giving it to people not to work. In God’s economy, he who will not work, shall not eat. [2 Thessalonians 3:10](#)

Prohibiting protests against the lockdown:

24. God created three institutions (family, church and state) each with their own God-given jurisdiction.[20](#)
25. Each is to stay within its own jurisdiction and appeal to the other institutions when they are acting outside of their sphere of authority or not fulfilling their responsibilities.[21](#)
26. Prohibiting appeals to the state in the form of protests is a sign that the state is acting way outside of its jurisdiction.
27. The right of Victorians to gather together and to take part in a peaceful demonstration or protest is not only a given (based on God’s law), it has been preserved for us in the *Victorian Charter of Human*

Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006.

28. The Federal and State governments are also acting errantly, undermining the privacy and freedom of its citizens, by employing drones to enforce lockdown²², pursuing contact tracing, encouraging neighbours to spy on and snitch on one another, imposing “as mandatory as you can make them” vaccines²³ and through the newly acquired power to enter homes without a warrant and seize and destroy any property.²⁴

Prohibiting the church from assembling together:

29. “God has not granted civic rulers authority over the doctrine, practice, or polity of the church.
30. “Therefore, when any government official issues orders regulating worship (such as bans on singing, caps on attendance, or prohibitions against gatherings and services), he steps outside the legitimate bounds of his God-ordained authority as a civic official and arrogates to himself authority that God expressly grants only to the Lord Jesus Christ as sovereign over His Kingdom, which is the church. His rule is mediated to local churches through those pastors and elders who teach His Word ([Matthew 16:18–19](#); [2 Timothy 3:16–4:2](#)).
31. “It has never been the prerogative of civil government to order, modify, forbid, or mandate worship. When, how, and how often the church worships is not subject to Caesar. Caesar himself is subject to God([John 19:11](#)).”²⁵
32. God commands us not to forsake the assembling of our selves together. [Hebrews 10:24-25](#)
33. The Centre for Disease Control (CDC) in the USA has issued guidelines²⁶ for churches to follow after the mandates forcing them to close are lifted. These are worth considering as what is being implemented in other parts of the world is regularly being implemented here too.
34. The potential outcome of the CDC guidelines depending on how they are implemented would be things like wearing masks, no physical greetings such as hugs, kisses or hand shaking, no congregational singing, no communion, no passed offering bag, no morning tea, no standing closer than six feet from someone not in your household and notifying officials if someone testing positive for Covid19 visits the facility.
35. Essentially, these guidelines amount to the state telling the church *how* it can worship. This is a concern. Most especially as God is very particular about *how* He wants to be worshipped.
36. In contrast to the CDC guidelines, God has told us to “Greet one another with a holy kiss,” [Romans 16:16](#), [1 Corinthians 16:20](#), [2 Corinthians 13:12](#), [1 Thessalonians 5:26](#) to “Come before His presence with singing” [Psalm 100:2](#), [Psalm 149:1](#) to administer the Lord’s Supper sacrament “in remembrance of [Him]” [Luke 22:19](#), not to “appear before the Lord empty-handed” [Deuteronomy 16:16-17](#), to show hospitality [1 Peter 4:9](#), [Romans 12:13](#), to show love [Romans 12:10](#), to comfort [2 Corinthians 1:4](#) and to fellowship with one another. [Acts 2:42](#) Would it rightly be called corporate worship without these things?
37. Under Stage 3 lockdown in Regional Victoria DHHS has specifically *banned* people meeting together to pray.²⁷
38. We are concerned for the church that she draw a firm line in the sand and say, “We will obey God! We will worship God the way *He* wants regardless of what the state wants.”²⁸
39. Would our church:
- Notify officials if someone testing positive for Covid19 visited?
 - Keep a record of everyone who enters the building?
 - Hand such a record to the state?²⁹
- Any of these actions would be a terrible invasion of privacy and a likely deterrent to visitors.
40. Worship belongs to God. Let us remember that when we “render to Caesar the things that are Caesars, and to God the things that are God’s.” [Matthew 22:21](#), [Mark 12:17](#)
41. The Australian Constitution recognises this when it says in section 116, “*The Commonwealth shall not make any law...imposing any religious observance, or for prohibiting the free exercise of any religion.*”
42. When the church allowed itself to be shut down it assented to the notion that the church is completely irrelevant. If it is irrelevant during a time of national crisis it is certainly irrelevant on a day to day basis.
43. The truth is that as one of God’s institutions, as a pillar of society, the church cannot be irrelevant. It will play a pivotal role. Either it will worship and obey God and point its people to Him or it will be a faithless, disobedient church leading its people astray, but it will never be irrelevant.

The state has broken covenant with its citizens:

44. The governing authorities are appointed by God to act as ministers of His law. [Romans 13:1-7](#). Their response to SARS CoV 2 has broken God’s law by quarantining the healthy, restraining its citizens from working, engaging in quantitative easing, prohibiting protest and disallowing God’s people from assembling for corporate worship.

45. The state has not only broken covenant with its citizens because of breaking God's law but through contravening the Charter Act and the Australian Constitution (which we have previously referenced in this petition).
46. Further, Australia is a party to seven core international human rights treaties.³⁰ The right to freedom of assembly is contained in articles 21 and 22 of the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* and article 8(1)(a) of the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*.
47. Also consider the historical understanding of the role of the state as the nursing father of the church. [Isaiah 49:22-23](#). Reformers understood that "nursing-fathers" meant that civil [leaders] and nations were intended to nurture the church...not for them to suppress that which Christ had ordained, or for them to dominate His own establishment. They were...obliged to succor Christ's establishment and offer it a fruitful repose."³¹
48. The state has not just broken covenant with its citizens but in light of point 47 above in regard to the state's duty to the church, the state has broken covenant with the church.

While the church remains silent it is breaking covenant too:

49. Historically, totalitarian regimes have done much to persecute the church in the name of "health".
50. The 20th century's foremost Calvinist scholar and authority on Biblical law, RJ Rushdoony, in a paper entitled, *In the Name of Jesus Christ, or, In the Name of Caesar?* states:

*The war of the early church against Rome³² was a war of names. Which name was the name of power, of ultimate authority, the name of Christ, or the name of Caesar? Rome's position was expressed in its fundamental law: "The health (or, welfare) of the people is the highest law." Rome's approach to the early church was thus in the name of the general welfare of the people, and the Roman Empire was the expression of that concern, and the source of authority. **The approach of Rome thus was to deny that it sought to suppress freedom of religion. Rather, it sought to protect the health and general welfare of the people by requiring certain submissions of all religious groups.**³³ Implicit in this position, however, was the belief that, first, the state or Caesar is the best judge of the health or welfare of the people. This meant that the word of truth and wisdom was not the word of God but the word of the state. Sound social order and health thus was held to require that Caesar's word prevail and govern.*

The governing word is the word of power, and Rome held that Caesar's word is the word of power. But Caesar's word could not save Rome, and Caesar's coercive power could kill, but it could neither redeem nor save. The more emphatically imperial Rome asserted its word and law, the greater became the decay and the decline of Rome.

"The highest law" is not the health of the people but the law-word of God, and, as a result, Roman law and society, like our own, had a false and rotting center. The more Rome developed the fundamental premises of its law, the more it hastened its decay and collapse, even as the world today increases the extent of its crisis with its remedial effort, because all of its remedies have a false premise, humanism.

The conflict then and now is a war of names. Which is the name of power, Christ or Caesar?

All too many churchmen are radically profane and blasphemous. They are either silent in the face of, or agreeable to, the state's usurpation of one area of life after another to its humanistic authority. These churchmen withdraw into a sanctimonious surrender and do nothing to stop the growing profanity whereby one area of life after another is withdrawn from the government of Christ the King and placed into the hands of Caesar. Again, all over the world, "the chief priests" of our day, like those of old, are declaring, "We have no king but Caesar" (John 19v15). If for a moment we allow humanism any title or right to any creation, we are profane, and we deny Christ to affirm Caesar.

Again and again, the summons of Scripture is to "believe on the name of Jesus Christ." This means to ground the totality of our lives, thinking, institutions, and world, including church, state, and school on the Name of Christ the King, under His authority, power, law-word, and government.

51. While we are obeying the state in its lockdown requirements, we are disobeying Christ. We are disobeying Him by quarantining the healthy as well as the sick, by categorizing some work as "non-essential" and prohibiting it and in particular by refraining from assembling together for corporate worship. The state has no authority to prohibit us from corporately worshipping Him and yet in obeying the state, we have given it authority. We have elevated Caesar over Christ.
52. RJ Rushdoony in a paper entitled *The Freedom of the Church*, states that:

- i. A state church easily becomes a controlled church.
- ii. A controlled church is very readily a corrupt church.
- iii. A corrupt church is a silent church.

There are no state churches in Victoria, but our church has bowed so readily to every state requirement³⁴ that they have certainly become a state controlled church. Are we also a corrupt church? Will we be silent?

53. Historically, the church has been a buffer between the state and the family. It has offered protection to the family from an errant state by rebuking the state and appealing to it to remember its duty to govern under God. The church has left its post.

Answering objections:

54. Some within the church are happy for the state to put restrictions upon the church so long as those restrictions are applied equally to other groups as though the church should be on the same footing before the state as the local social club. This is a nonsense. The church of God, the Bride of Christ is not a social club. It is one of the pillars upon which society is built. She should not consent to being treated the same as a bar or club. She is not the same. Her role in society is not the same nor of the same importance. As it happens, even if you want to gauge the “fairness” of the states restrictions on the church by its restrictions on other groups then consider the stage 4 lockdowns in Melbourne which currently prohibit the church from opening for corporate worship but allow horse and greyhound racing.³⁵
55. Some would say that according to Romans 13 we must obey the state. This is true. We must walk a long way in obedience with any erring authority. We should tremble to consider disobeying the state. However, would they also say that we must obey a church that wants to offer profane fire or a husband who asks his wife to sin? No! Every authority has limits to its power. And everyone under authority has limits to their obedience. Those limits are God’s law. We obey all earthly authority only “in the Lord.” [Ephesians 6:1](#) Where a state ceases to be God’s minister for good, [Romans 13:1-7](#), [1 Peter 2:13-14](#) we must appeal. We must ask the state to remember the limits of its power under God. And where the state continues to require us to disobey God, we disobey the state. [Joshua 2:3-4](#), [Daniel 3:13-18](#), [Daniel 6:10-13](#) God’s authority comes first. [Acts 5:27-29](#) All other authority is submitted to Him. [1 Kings 18:3-4](#), [Psalm 2:10-12](#) There is no tension between Romans 13 and obedience to God. We obey the state as far as we can until they ask us not to do something that God commands and then we obey God. [Exodus 1:15-17](#)
56. Some within the church say that we need to be seen to be doing what is “right”. Right according to whom? To the media indoctrinated neighbours? To the left wing press? Or to God? God tells us what is right and that is to not forsake assembling together.
57. Others have said that they would make a stand when it really becomes important. Brethren, there is no more important issue in the world than the worship of God. If we will not stand here, we will have missed the boat. This is the hill to die on.

“the whole Old Testament is in a sense the story of the establishment of the true worship of the true God, Biblically there could be no more important subject.” Quote from *The Regulative Principle of Worship* by Terry Johnson.

58. Some are satisfied with an online model of church. If you see the individual believer’s relationship to the church as primarily about the reception of information then you might say, “What’s the problem?”
- i. *“The church is not the Disembodied Brain of Christ; we are the Body of Christ. Online church as a substitute for the gathering of the body forms Christian gnostics, whose minds are free from the prison of the body, from the “prison” of talking to their neighbors, from the “prison” of making an effort to get to church on Sunday morning, from the “prison” of coffee hour. Just you and Jesus, there on your sofa, with your coffee, and in your sweatpants. Download the sermon and listen to it in the afternoon, after you’ve gone golfing on Sunday morning. Optimize your consumer church experience.”*³⁶
 - ii. Online church is not the same as [Hebrews 10:24-25](#) assembly. Zoom offers only a shadow of the glories, riches and beauty God intends us to find in true corporate worship and fellowship together. If we embrace online church as a normative model, we are swapping our inheritance for a bowl of pottage. [Genesis 25:29-34](#)
 - iii. We need one another! To stir one another up to love and good works [Hebrews 10:24](#), to pray together [Matthew 18:10](#) to comfort and edify one another [1 Thessalonians 5:11](#) to exhort one another so we do not become hardened to sin, [Hebrews 3:13](#) etc.
 - iii. Laziness, fear or selfishness are not fruits of the spirit. If these sins are what is keeping us from meeting together (can’t be bothered, it is convenient at home, like not having to interact with others or fear of getting sick) then we need to repent.

How should the church have responded?

59. We should not have obeyed a mandate from the state that contravened a command of God:

*“But in that obedience which we hold to be due to the commands of rulers, we must always make the exception, no, must be particularly careful that it is not incompatible with obedience to Him to whose will the wishes of all kings should be subject, to whose decrees their commands must yield, to whose majesty their sceptres must bow. And, indeed, how preposterous were it, in pleasing men, to incur the offences of him for whose sake you obey men! The Lord, therefore, is King of kings. When he opens his sacred mouth, he alone is to be heard, instead of all and above all. **We are subject to the men who rule over us, but subject only in the Lord. If they command anything against him let us not pay the least regard to it, nor be moved by all the dignity which they possess...**”* Page 988, The Institutes of the Christian Religion by John Calvin.

60. We should have obeyed 2 Chronicles 20:9 and actually *gathered* in our churches to cry out to God.

‘If disaster comes upon us—sword, judgment, pestilence, or famine—we will stand before this temple and in Your presence (for Your name is in this temple), and cry out to You in our affliction, and You will hear and save.’ 2 Chronicles 20v9

61. We should have fasted:

*“When pestilence begins to stalk abroad, or famine or war, or when any other disaster seems to impend over a province and people (Esth 4:16), then also **it is the duty of pastors to exhort the church to fasting**, that she may suppliantly deprecate the Lord’s anger. For when he makes danger appear, he declares that he is prepared and in a manner armed for vengeance.”* pg 820 Institutes of the Christian Religion by John Calvin.

62. We should have recognised God’s judgment:

*“Even the stork in the heavens
Knows her appointed times;
And the turtledove, the swift, and the swallow
Observe the time of their coming.
But **My people do not know the judgment of the LORD.**”* Jeremiah 8:7

In recognizing God’s judgment ([Deuteronomy 28](#), [Leviticus 26](#), [Ezekial 14:12-23](#), [Jeremiah 29](#)), we should have shared the need to repent with our nation.

63. We should have repented:

³⁷ *“When there is ...pestilence...whatever plague or whatever sickness there is; ³⁸ whatever prayer, whatever supplication is made by anyone, or by all Your people Israel, when each one knows the plague of his own heart, and spreads out his hands toward this temple: ³⁹ then hear in heaven Your dwelling place, and forgive, and act, and give to everyone according to all his ways, whose heart You know (for You alone know the hearts of all the sons of men), ⁴⁰ that they may fear You all the days that they live in the land which You gave to our fathers.*

And encouraged our communities to join us:

⁴¹ *“Moreover, concerning a foreigner, who is not of Your people Israel, but has come from a far country for Your name’s sake ⁴² (for they will hear of Your great name and Your strong hand and Your outstretched arm), when he comes and prays toward this temple, ⁴³ hear in heaven Your dwelling place, and do according to all for which the foreigner calls to You, that all peoples of the earth may know Your name and fear You, as do Your people Israel, and that they may know that this temple which I have built is called by Your name.”* 1 Kings 8:37-43

64. We should have stuck faithfully with Sola Scriptura:

- i. Consider for a moment a situation in which there is no science. There are no statistics. There is no media or social media; no neighbours or public opinion. A virus appears on the scene and there isn’t even communist China with its totalitarian lockdown measures to give a precedent for how one should act. There is just you and the Bible. With only the Bible, to inform us how to respond to a virus, how would we have responded?

- ii. At the beginning of this petition, we started by talking about the virus, about science and statistics. We did that in order to provide some perspective, but truly, even if the science weren't so clear that this is the safest "pandemic" in history, it is the Bible we must follow. And even if the virus was much, much more deadly, it wouldn't change things. It is the Bible we must follow.
- iii. We firmly believe that the science will inevitably bear out the truth of the wisdom and goodness of doing things God's way. Not surprisingly, this is happening already! For example, even the WHO admitted that it would be rare for asymptomatic carriers to spread the virus.³⁷ That is nice to know, but we don't need the WHO to tell us that in order for us to make a decision about whether to quarantine everybody or just those who are sick. The Bible says just quarantine the sick. That is the right thing to do. God's ways really are the best!

Now therefore we humbly petition you to take these premises into consideration and:

- AA. **Regarding the virus:** help put the danger of the virus into perspective for members of the church to allay fears held by many regarding assembling together.
- BB. **Regarding quarantining those who are not sick, forcing businesses to close, quantitative easing and prohibiting protests:**
 - i. Rebuke the state for acting ultra vires its God-given jurisdiction and for acting outside of so many of its own laws and the International Covenants it has signed. Appeal to it to only quarantine the sick, not put limits on peoples' ability to run their own businesses and earn an income, cease engaging in quantitative easing and dishing out pandemic payments and lift any of its limits on assembly and peaceful protest.
 - ii. Be prepared to rebuke and appeal to the state should it engage in any other like overreach such as forced medicine^{38, 39} or tying the ability to trade with possessing a "health card".
 - iii. To instruct the church in what God says about theft and taking a bribe and encourage those in the church not to receive stolen goods or take a bribe from the government by way of any of the pandemic payments and if one has been received to return it to the state.
- CC. **Regarding prohibiting the church from assembling together:**
 - i. To appeal to the congregations within the jurisdiction of our denomination to awake to their duty to obey God rather than the state.
 - ii. To appeal to the Federal and State governments to lift the restrictions on our freedom to assemble.
 - iii. To put the government on notice that the church will open from a given date and that it will not be subject again to the state in when or how it assembles and worships. [Acts 5:29](#)
- DD. **Regarding how the churches should have responded in a time of pestilence or to God's judgment:**
 - i. Call the church to a time of prayer and fasting for protection from the virus, repentance of our sin and peace for our nation. [Jeremiah 29:7](#)
 - ii. To join with the State and Federal government to make a national call for repentance.

To exert its influence on other denominations to act similarly.

Or do otherwise as in your wisdom you may consider appropriate

We have sought to have our thinking on this issue informed by Scripture. If we are in error, we would be grateful to have this brought to our attention.

Dated:

Signed:

Name:

Footnotes:

1. The numbers of cases in Australia do not justify calling it a pandemic here without completely redefining the word.
2. Go to 7:40: <https://www.bitchute.com/video/9YvbCWeVHkfh/>
3. White Paper from America's Frontline Doctors https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-gsn_Ye2EYDDkV_79Ag1tgUqZLNCMSt-/view
4. https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2770157?utm_source=For_The_Media&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=ftm_links&utm_term=090320 and <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0960076020302764>
5. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7318306/>
6. https://disrn.com/news/steroids-cut-death-rates-of--hospitalized-coronavirus-patients-by-one-third-new-study-suggests?fbclid=IwAR1xftlbozXT1noxucT_2u9pApo8CJEtUGZKk2iTq8mVdi6gDbZjNQTIkKU
https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2770279?guestAccessKey=ec87204d-c42d-4d34-bef5-077a40bc86b0&utm_source=For_The_Media&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=ftm_links&utm_content=tfll&utm_term=090220
7. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7249615/>
8. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0166354220302011> and <https://www.nps.org.au/news/ivermectin-and-covid-19-for-hps>
9. <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa2007764>
10. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2095809920300631>
11. <https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2020/05/27/cdc-suggests-coronavirus-fatality-rate-higher-than-flus-but-at-least-8x-lower-than-initial-estimates/> and <https://mises.org/power-market/cdc-slashed-covid-19-fatality-rate-fraction-earlier-estimate-used-justify-lockdowns>
12. <https://www.christianpost.com/news/94-of-covid-19-deaths-had-underlying-health-problems-6-died-of-virus-alone-cdc.html> and https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/covid_weekly/index.htm and <https://www.crikey.com.au/2020/09/14/covid-19-death-toll-figures/>
13. <https://www.news.com.au/finance/economy/australian-economy/coronavirus-victorias-new-lockdown-could-cost-1-billion-a-week-treasurer-says/news-story/9d26f9986565aee82cf69623c0b0ee6>
14. <https://www.theage.com.au/national/victoria/record-calls-to-mental-health-services-during-second-lockdown-20200710-p55asg.html> and https://www.skynews.com.au/details/_6188317803001 and <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0140673620304608#bbib7>
15. <https://unherd.com/thepost/nobel-prize-winning-scientist-the-covid-19-epidemic-was-never-exponential/>
16. <https://ideas.repec.org/p/wai/econwp/20-06.html>
17. "According to a survey of businesses performed by research firm Digital Finance Analytics (DFA)...in Victoria, almost 35 per cent of businesses surveyed stated they did not expect to be trading in six months time." <https://www.news.com.au/finance/economy/australian-economy/jobseeker-jobkeeper-changes-on-september-28-may-cause-economic-collapse/news-story/a48c4933f319c5729f80b4e0a65579bc> Here is one industry as an example: "The hospitality industry is in crisis, with many predicting up to a third of all restaurants will close permanently following the COVID-19 pandemic." "As long as there are restrictions," says [Shane] Delia, "there is no survival post-COVID. If you've got a dining room that's only legally allowed to operate at 20 per cent capacity and you've still got the same outgoings – the same rent, the same mortgage repayments, the same wage structure – there is no silver lining." Quotes from an article dated 1 September 2020, written by Tristan Luze and featured on the Gourmet Traveller website. The death throws of this industry have implications for their whole supply chain, growers, packers, transport, artisan crafters, etc.
18. <https://www.businessinsider.com.au/australia-qe-quantitative-easing-rba-first-time-2020-3>
19. <https://mises.org/wire/what-comes-after-quantitative-easing>
20. Joseph Boot in an article called *Freedom, the Church and State Absolutism* talks about jurisdictions in light of the current climate of Covid and lockdowns. <https://www.ezrainstitute.ca/resource-library/articles/freedom-the-church-and-state-absolutism/>
21. <https://www.gracechurch.org/news/posts/1988>, "When any one of the three institutions exceeds the bounds of its jurisdiction it is the duty of the other institutions to curtail that overreach."
22. <https://www.theage.com.au/national/victoria/overstepping-the-mark-in-enforcing-lockdown-undermines-the-cause-20200907-p55t1a.html>
23. <https://www.afr.com/politics/federal/coronavirus-vaccine-to-be-as-mandatory-as-possible-pm-20200819-p55n2p>
24. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-03-16/victoria-coronavirus-state-of-emergency-powers-explained/12059194> The article states that the State of Emergency gives authorised officers the right to "Enter any premises without a warrant to search and seize 'any thing that is necessary for the purpose of investigating, eliminating or reducing the risk to public health'."
25. <https://www.gracechurch.org/news/posts/1988>
26. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/index.html>

27. <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/religion-and-ceremony-regional-victoria-covid-19>
28. "People have the moral duty to disobey a human law that perverts God's law." Quote from *"The Christian Foundations of the Rule of Law in the West: a Legacy of Liberty and Resistance Against Tyranny"* by Augusto Zimmerman as found at www.creation.com.
29. Nazi Germany kept Jewish records. Where did it end? We are living in unusual times, but these are not without precedent. Remember Nazi Germany and remember Rome and what the rulers of these nations did in the name of keeping people healthy. When the government asks for records because of a "pandemic" when there is no pandemic, one is justified in asking, "Where is this going to end?"
30. <https://www.ag.gov.au/rights-and-protections/human-rights-and-anti-discrimination/human-rights-scrutiny/public-sector-guidance-sheets/right-freedom-assembly-and-association>
31. page270, *In the Name of God, Amen: Rediscovering Biblical and Historic Covenants* by Daniel J Ford
32. When considering the means by which the devil might use to overthrow the church, it can be useful to refer back in history (in a similar way in which we use the Bible study principle "The Law of First Mentions") to consider the tactics the devil used when the church was first established.
33. Are we not experiencing the same with the National Redress Scheme, Charities Act 2014, Working with Children Check, Child Safe Standards, etc and now these March and August 2020 lockdown restrictions?
34. Such as the National Redress Scheme, Charities Act 2014, Working with Children Check, Child Safe Standards, etc, as well as the March and August 2020 lockdown restrictions.
35. <https://junkee.com/victoria-stage-four-racing/264633>
36. <https://www.theamericanconservative.com/dreher/southern-baptist-online-church-gnosticism-disembodied-brain-of-christ/>
37. <https://www.cnn.com/2020/06/08/asymptomatic-coronavirus-patients-arent-spreading-new-infections-who-says.html>
38. The Nuremberg Code states that the voluntary consent of a human subject is absolutely essential in medical experimentation.
39. *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* (the Charter Act) gives protection from medical treatment without consent. <https://www.justice.vic.gov.au/justice-system/laws-and-regulation/human-rights-legislation>