

**A Prayer
for the
Protection of Unborn Babies
in Queensland**

24 August 2018

The Structure of a Judicial Appeal to God Patterned on the Lord's Prayer

No	PART	The Lord's Prayer ¹	CONTENT
1	ADDRESS GOD	<i>Our Father in heaven,</i>	Bring Yourself before the One True God
2	WORSHIP	<i>hallowed be Your Name,</i>	Praise, Adore, Ascribe etc.
3	DECLARE	<i>Your² kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.</i>	Declare God's will and purpose based on the Truth of His Word
4	PETITION	<i>Give us today our daily bread.</i>	Bring relevant needs before God
5	CONFESS, REPENT and FORGIVE	<i>And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.</i>	Confess sins of commission and omission, sins of identification etc., repent, ask for forgiveness and forgive others
6	DEMOLISH STRONGHOLDS	<i>And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.</i>	In the Name of Jesus, take authority over every work and deception of the enemy and make it obedient to Christ
7	GIVE GLORY	<i>For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours, now and forever. Amen</i>	Declare God's Kingdom authority and give thanks for the victory

¹ Parts 1 to 6 are from Matthew 6:9-13 NIV and Part 7 is from a 1988 English Language Liturgical Consultation (ELLC) version of the Lord's Prayer

² In this document, capitals are used for pronouns referring to God in the text and in the Scripture quoted.

WELCOME

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Welcome to this prayer for the protection of unborn babies in Australia.

This prayer is a judicial appeal to God. Jesus told His disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. It was about a widow who kept coming before an unjust judge with the plea *“Grant me justice against my adversary”*. Because of her persistence, the unjust judge relented and gave her justice. Jesus then interpreted the parable saying, *“And will not God bring about justice for His chosen ones, who cry out to Him day and night? ... I tell you, He will see that they get justice, and quickly”*.³ Our God hears our cries for help!

It is also a doctrinal spiritual warfare prayer. When Jesus prayed and fasted for forty days in the wilderness,⁴ He quoted the written Word of God to counter the attacks of Satan. This prayer is an attempt to follow the example of Jesus. And so you might feel led to pray this prayer during a time of fasting.

As shown in the table on the previous page, it is patterned on the seven parts of the Lord’s Prayer. All quotes from Scripture are taken from the New International Version (NIV). It is formatted so that it can be printed as an A5 booklet.

As it is a lengthy prayer it can be prayed through at different times. You can focus on different segments as you feel led. You may, for example, want to give more time to making petitions or you may feel a burden to pray for a particular stronghold.

Before praying this prayer you might like to pray the Lord’s Prayer itself. I then recommend that you ask for God’s protection over yourself, family, friends, church fellowship and all you are doing for the Lord.⁵ After praying this prayer you might like to sing songs of victory into the heavenly realms.

The abortion debate is complex and highly emotional. I respectfully ask for your forbearance for any part of this prayer with which you may disagree. I don’t want it to become a stumbling block. Please adapt this prayer according to Your conscience. Your suggestions on how to improve this prayer are very welcome.

So much is at stake for the future of our nation and our children. Please share this prayer with others. As we pray for the protection of unborn babies in Australia, let us declare with the apostle Paul, *“thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ”*.⁶

Yours faithfully,

David Rowsome
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³ Luke 18:7,8

⁴ Luke 4:1-13

⁵ You can use Psalm 18:1-3, Psalm 91:1-16, Romans 8:28-39, Ephesians 6:10-18, 1 Peter 5:6-11 and Revelation 12:10-12

⁶ 1 Corinthians 15:57

ADDRESS GOD

Abba Father, Judge of All the Earth, the Ancient of Days,

WORSHIP

We lift our eyes and look to the heavens. To whom can You be compared? Who, O God, is Your equal? It is You *“who brings out the starry host one by one and calls forth each of them by name”*. Because of Your *“great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing”*.⁷

“Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; love and faithfulness go before You”.⁸ You have declared *“I am the first and the last; apart from me there is no God”*.⁹ We worship You for You alone are *“worthy to receive all glory and honour and power, for You created all things, and by Your will they were created and have their being”*.¹⁰

You are *“the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love. You do not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities”*.¹¹

We give thanks and praise to You that *“while we were still sinners, Christ died for us”*.¹² For You *“so loved the world that You gave Your one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life”*.¹³

Thank You that Your Word assures us that nothing *“will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord”* and that *“we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us”*.¹⁴ Thank You for the precious privilege of interceding for the protection of unborn babies in Australia knowing that the *“Holy Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express”* and that Jesus is at Your right hand and *“is also interceding for us”*.¹⁵

DECLARE

God in Heaven, this day we bring before You the shedding of the innocent blood of unborn babies in Australia. In particular we bring before You those who insist upon abortion on demand for any reason right up to the day of birth. We are grieved that since the Sexual Revolution of the 1960s an estimated 4 million Australian babies have been aborted.¹⁶ This has wiped out a full third of the upcoming generations.¹⁷ In Australia alone the estimated 100,000 babies aborted each year¹⁸ is roughly the combined total of all Australian soldiers who died in both World Wars and every other armed conflict in our nation's history.

⁷ Isaiah 40:25-26

⁸ Psalm 89:14

⁹ Isaiah 44:6b

¹⁰ Revelation 4:11

¹¹ Psalm 103:8-10

¹² Romans 5:8

¹³ John 3:16

¹⁴ Romans 8:37-39

¹⁵ Romans 8:26,34

¹⁶ In the article 'Cutting Australia's Abortion's Rate', News Weekly, 5 November 2005, David Perrin, then national president of the Australian Family Association estimated three million babies had been aborted in Australia since the 1970s.

¹⁷ This is also stated by 'Survivors of the Abortion Holocaust' a Christian ministry to the youth of America.

¹⁸ The Challenge of Abortion, Bill Muehlenberg, Culture Watch, Melbourne 2015 p.52

Abortion challenges Your divine sovereignty and the sanctity of human life. Many believe that it is the defining moral issue of our day. The estimated 45 to 50 million unborn babies aborted each year¹⁹ in the world make it by far the leading cause of death. Many refer to this slaughter of unborn babies as *'The Silent Holocaust'*.

Almighty God, we declare that You are the Giver and Sustainer of life and the One who takes it away. You are the One true God who *"gives all men life and breath and everything else"*.²⁰ In You *"we live and move and have our being"*.²¹ Only You can rightfully decide life and death.

We declare that human life begins at conception. There is no point in time between the union of a sperm and an ovum and the birth of an infant at which anyone can say that this is not a human life. The fertilized ovum can develop into the embodiment of a new human being in the image of God, loved by God, replete with potentialities of not merely earthly but eternal significance.

Several millennia ago Job said to You, *"Your hands shaped me and made me ... You moulded me like clay ... knit me together with bones and sinews ... You gave me life ... watched over my spirit"*.²² David in one of his psalms expressed similar thoughts to You saying, *"You created my inmost being; You knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made ... my frame was not hidden from You when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, Your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in Your book before one of them came to be"*.²³ Job and David marvelled at how You were involved in the way they took shape in their mothers' wombs. You created them physical and spiritual beings. The same is true of every unborn baby today. Each is in the process of being fearfully and wonderfully and lovingly made by You!

After a baby boy born to King David and Bathsheba had died David stated his belief that *"I will go to him, but he will not return to me"*.²⁴ Through this we take comfort that babies who lost their lives through abortion are with You and will one day be reunited with believing parents.

You said to the prophet Jeremiah *"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart ..."*.²⁵ Our God who dwells in eternity knows each person long before he or she is born or even conceived. And an angel told Zechariah that his barren wife Elizabeth would bear him a son (John the Baptist) who would become his *"joy and delight"*.²⁶ It is a marvellous reality that You know every baby even before the baby is born! You have eternal plans for each one.

Through the prophet Isaiah, Jesus Himself, as the Servant of the LORD, declared seven hundred years before His birth that God had chosen Him to bring the message

¹⁹ The Challenge of Abortion, Bill Muehlenberg, Culture Watch, Melbourne 2015 p.52

²⁰ Acts 17:25

²¹ Acts 17:28

²² Job 10:8-12

²³ Psalm 139:13-16

²⁴ 2 Samuel 12:23

²⁵ Jeremiah 1:5

²⁶ Luke 1:11-14, 23-24

of salvation to the world. We read, *“Hear this, you distant nations: Before I was born the LORD called me; from my mother’s womb He has spoken my name”*.²⁷

In the Bible we read of a number of pregnant women who are said to be *“with child”*. Jesus’ mother *“Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit”*.²⁸ Because Mary wasn’t married at the time, she came under much social pressure. But she knew that the child within her was from God.

We are particularly grieved that Australia, like many Western nations founded on the truth of Your Word and Judeo-Christian values, is now rejecting the foundational truth of the sanctity of human life. Even though You have clearly stated in Your Word that You hate the shedding of innocent blood, much of our society has been seduced to believe that abortion is normal and acceptable.

Loving Father, we declare that while You hate the shedding of innocent blood, no sin is too great for You to forgive. So great is Your compassion that You are *“not wanting anyone to perish but everyone to come to repentance”*.²⁹ Thank You for calling us to be ministers of Your amazing grace and of Christ’s love and compassion to men and women who have yielded to killing their children through abortion. We steadfastly resolve to pray for them and *“speak the truth in love”*.³⁰

PETITION

Righteous God, we ask that You protect unborn children in Australia. We acknowledge that in ourselves we are powerless before our political leaders, pro-choice advocacy groups, the media and leading academics and overseas influences who want to decriminalise and promote abortion in Australia. Our society stands at a critical point in time, when all that we cherish about the sanctity of human life is gravely threatened. We acknowledge that *“we do not know what to do, but our eyes are on You”*.³¹

Abba Father, the apostle Paul fearlessly proclaimed Your truth during the persecution of Christians by the Roman Emperor Nero. He urged that *“supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way”*.³² For Your Word states that *“the king’s heart is in the hands of the LORD; He directs it like a watercourse wherever He pleases”*.³³

We pray that in the abortion debate that You put a guard over our mouths by Your Holy Spirit, so that our words convict but do not condemn.

²⁷ Isaiah 49:1b

²⁸ Matthew 1:18

²⁹ 2 Peter 3:9

³⁰ Ephesians 4:15

³¹ 2 Chronicles 20:12

³² 1 Timothy 2:1-2

³³ Proverbs 21:1

As we take part in the national debate let *“no weapon formed against us prosper”*. Help us *“to refute every tongue that rises against us in judgment”*.³⁴ Give us the strength and perseverance to fight this battle. Cause us to be sober and vigilant watchmen.

Your Word tells us that *“the person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit”*.³⁵ And speaking to those who were ready to kill Him, Jesus said, *“He who belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God”*.³⁶

O God, reveal Yourself to our political, civic, corporate, academic and church leaders who support or who have compromised on the issue of abortion. For those who have not invited Your Son Jesus into their hearts, bring them to repentance, faith and life in the Lord Jesus Christ. By the convicting work of the Holy Spirit bring them to faith so that their names will be written in *“the book of life”*.³⁷ Jesus said, *“no one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him”*.³⁸ For those who are already believers reveal to them by Your Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth, any matter where they have been seduced or deceived. Have mercy on our leaders. May a reverent and worshipful fear of God³⁹ come upon them. Open their eyes and unblock their ears to the horror and the injustice of this agenda to deliberately kill unborn babies. We bring before You –

- Queensland Parliamentary Committee reviewing submissions from all interested parties concerning the Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018
- Queensland Law Reform Commission who drafted the Bill
- Nine Members of EMILY’s List Queensland. These are Labor MPs Nikki Boyd – Pine Rivers; Leanne Donaldson – Bundaberg; LEEANNE ENOCH – ALGESTER; Shannon Fentiman – Waterford; Jennifer Howard – Ipswich; Brittany Lauga – Keppel; Coralee O’Rourke – Mundingburra; Jackie Trad – South Brisbane; Kim Richards – Redlands
- Queensland Premier and her Deputy Jackie Trad (who openly endorsed and facilitated the Rob Pyne Bills last year)
- Children by Choice
- Planned Parenthood of Australia (part of Planned Parenthood Federation International, one of the largest providers of abortion in the world)
- Marie Stopes International Australia (another provider of abortion in Australia)
- GetUp! (an activist group with 1.1 million members that avoids pro-life campaigns)
- (others as you feel led)

God our *“Lawgiver and Judge”*,⁴⁰ be with our Prime Minister and political leaders, newspaper columnists and church leaders as they take part in the abortion debate.

³⁴ Isaiah 54:17

³⁵ 1 Corinthians 2:14

³⁶ John 8:47

³⁷ Revelation 3:5

³⁸ John 6:44

³⁹ Proverbs 14:26,27

⁴⁰ James 4:12

Let media, social media and other discussions bring the right to life of unborn babies out of the shadows and into the public square. Give advocates (pray by name as you feel led) courage, wisdom and the right words to say.

Gracious Father, we have no desire to stand in personal judgment on either the women who have resorted to abortion or the men whose sexual self-indulgence is responsible for many unwanted pregnancies. We want to say instead, *“with You there is forgiveness”*.⁴¹ For Christ died for our sins and rose again and offers everyone who comes to Him in repentance a new beginning. Your Word says *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us of our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness”*.⁴² This is the gospel of Christ.

Sovereign God, thank You that You use Christian ministries to bring awareness to the Body of Christ and to the general public. Give them Your strategies to address this reproach to our nation. Enable them to spur us on to boldly pray and speak out against the entrenchment of abortion in our society. We bring before You these organisations, their leaders and workers -

- Cherish Life Queensland
- Abortion Rethink
- Emily’s Voice (not to be confused with EMILY’s List)
- Eva’s Place
- Priceless Life
- Prayers for Life Queensland
- Rachel’s Vineyard
- 40 Days for Life Queensland
- Australian Christian Lobby Queensland
- Australian Family Association Queensland
- Australian Prayer Network
- Canberra Declaration
- Christian Federation
- Culture Watch
- Endeavour Forum
- FamilyVoice Australia
- National Alliance of Christian Leaders
- National Civic Council
- Salt Shakers
- (others as you feel led)

Give the Body of Christ the courage to speak fearlessly in unity and strength. Thank You for Queensland MPs Fiona Simpson and Dr Mark Robinson and others who courageously stands up in Parliament to speak about the rights of the unborn. The protection of unborn children in Australia is pivotal to the future of our nation. Move us to contend for the saving of many lives that are currently lost to abortion. Stir us to pray and act to end abortion!

⁴¹ Psalm 130:4

⁴² 1 John 1:9

CONFESS, REPENT and FORGIVE

Holy God, we now confess our part in not dealing with those things in our society that have allowed abortion to become so deeply entrenched. We bring before You our actions and lack of actions which have undermined the Judeo-Christian foundations of religious freedom, marriage and family and the sanctity of human life.

- We confess our part in **looking to the wisdom of man** and not *“humbly relying on the blessing of Almighty God”* as set out in our Constitution. We are sorry for our ingratitude for all the blessings You have bestowed upon us. In our affluence we have vainly imagined that we do not need You. O God, forgive us.
- We confess **our hardness of heart** toward the wanton and widespread killing of Aboriginal men, women and children in our nation’s history. The lawless and unbridled hunting down of individuals and massacres of whole communities is a national disgrace that we have tried to minimise or ignore in our history books. We have failed to adequately recognise the horror of this shedding of blood by our forefathers. We have not empathised with the sorrow that has come down through the generations in Aboriginal communities. O God we are sorry! Break our hearts and unblock the tears which need to flow from our eyes.
- We confess our **prayerlessness in regard to the on-going effects of the Sexual Revolution of the 1960s**. This rebellion against You separated sex from procreation and sex and procreation from marriage. It is now pushing for abortion on demand for any reason up until the day of birth. We are sorry for not resisting Satan, the instigator of the Sexual Revolution, as we ought. In our apathy we have let things spiral down. Please forgive us.
- We confess our **complacency with no-fault divorce** to the extent that the number of divorces have dramatically increased since the Sexual Revolution. We are sorry that the divorce rate amongst Christians is also high. This has left behind a legacy of fatherless or motherless homes. Many young children are living with undeserved rejection and disillusionment, blaming themselves for the break-up of their parents. They have not been listened to and their lives have been permanently scarred. We have lacked real empathy. Have mercy on us.
- We confess our **silence in allowing legalised prostitution to go unchallenged**. This sends the message that sex outside a marriage relationship is wholly acceptable. Many times sexual union results in unwanted pregnancies that end up as abortions. Often couples do not know that sex is a sacred part of the mystical one flesh union of a husband and wife. Since the Sexual Revolution, sex has been reduced to a commodity that can be purchased in any registered brothel. We have not adequately confronted this evil. Please forgive us.
- We confess our **indifference to the teaching of atheistic evolution in our schools**. This unproven worldview has convinced a whole generation since the Sexual Revolution that they are just another animal on the evolutionary ladder. We are sorry that we have allowed our schools to continue teaching that man is just a cosmic accident and that emotions such as love are just evolutionary mechanisms which help to ensure the survival of the fittest. Without You,

life is meaningless. Without You, there is no accountability for how we live and no right or wrong. In our dullness we have not spoken out. Please forgive us.

- We confess our part in **allowing the insidious pornification of our society**. This means that a whole generation since the Sexual Revolution cannot escape early and frequent exposure. Indeed our society has been so saturated with pornography that our collective attitude toward sex has been poisoned with perversion, violence and self-gratification. We are appalled at what goes into our children's minds through television, the internet and public advertising. Such things have hastened the sexualisation of our children and robbed them of their childhood. For too long we have been looking the other way. Have mercy on us.
- We confess our **lack of outrage for the shedding of innocent blood of unborn babies through abortion**. This has wiped out a third of a whole generation since the Sexual Revolution. We are saddened that more and more children and young adults are realising that they are the 'survivors' that their parents' generation chose not to kill. This can only alienate the generations with a huge wedge of distrust between them. We mourn for the atrocious and deliberate killing of approximately 4 million unborn Australian babies. As Christians we have lived with that reality and have turned a blind eye. Our hearts cry out! O God, we are sorry. Have mercy on us. Help us to *"speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves"*.⁴³
- We, believing that human life begins at conception, confess our part in the **abandonment of newly-conceived babies to modern technologies**; those mercilessly killed in abortion procedures and consigned to waste bins and incinerators; those killed and expelled from their mother's womb by abortifacient drugs such as RU486; those that are stored as embryos in freezers for the possibility of future use and later quietly destroyed; those placed in test tubes for embryonic stem cell, genetics and cosmetics research. It is an ironic tragedy that innocent lives are killed in order to make life better for others. O God we are sorry. Deal with our callous hearts. Forgive us and have mercy on us.

Your Word says *"Seek the LORD while He may be found; call on Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him, and to our God for He will freely pardon"*.⁴⁴ We now repent and turn from these sins. We ask You Father to have mercy on us and forgive us. Give us wisdom, discernment and strength to resist the continuation of these sins that have shaped a whole new generation since the Sexual Revolution. Burden our hearts in such a way that we take steps to overcome these evils. Help us to make restitution or restoration where these are needed. Please also move us to forgive and have compassion on those who are perpetrators of these things. In many cases they do not know what they are doing. Stir us to pray and fast for revival so that the Church and society will be transformed. Then the lives of unborn babies will be seen once again as sacred in our society.

⁴³ Proverbs 31:8

⁴⁴ Isaiah 55:6-7

DEMOLISH STRONGHOLDS

Almighty God, though we are dismayed by all that is happening ... we now take our stand. Your Word says that *“our struggle is not against flesh and blood”*⁴⁵ and that *“the weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world”*.⁴⁶ Thank You that these weapons *“have divine power to demolish strongholds”*⁴⁷ and that we can *“demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God and take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ”*.⁴⁸ Jesus said, *“I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven”*.⁴⁹ We therefore now target, in the Name of Jesus, specific spiritual strongholds which militate against the protection of unborn babies in Australia.

We affirm that the shed blood of Jesus on the cross, His mighty resurrection and glorious ascension has utterly defeated Satan, the enemy of our souls. Jesus declared him *“a murderer from the beginning”* and *“a liar and the father of all lies”*.⁵⁰ Now as Satan is *“filled with fury”*, causing as much damage as he can, *“because he knows his time is short”*,⁵¹ we affirm that Your Word tells us to *“resist the devil, and he will flee from you”*.⁵² We therefore humbly submit ourselves to You and appropriate and claim by faith the victory of the finished work of Jesus Christ. As we pray and demolish the strongholds of Satan, we affirm our full authority and position of victory over Satan and all of his kingdom of darkness.

Stronghold 1 – Targeting the Most Vulnerable

In the Name of Jesus, who entered the human race as a helpless baby, we ask that You rebuke and restrain Satan, who is heinously targeting unborn babies throughout the world today for abortion. We are grieved that in recent decades abortion has skyrocketed as the leading cause of death in the world with an estimated 45 to 50 million unborn babies deliberately killed in their mothers’ wombs each year. Satan has targeted the world’s most vulnerable human beings for murder - defenceless, voiceless, innocent unborn babies. He will stop at nothing.

In recent decades in Australia the lives of an estimated 4 million unborn babies have been deliberately ended by abortion. We appreciate that those who emphasise the rights of the mother appeal for compassion for women who face difficult situations and even great personal suffering with an unwanted pregnancy. While such cases arouse Christian compassion we cannot accept abortion as a just response. Help us to do everything possible to respect the right to life of innocent unborn babies, including those conceived through rape and incest, and find ways to help their parents in the difficult situations they face.

⁴⁵ Ephesians 6:12

⁴⁶ 2 Corinthians 10:3

⁴⁷ 2 Corinthians 10:4

⁴⁸ 2 Corinthians 10:5

⁴⁹ Matthew 18:18

⁵⁰ John 8:44

⁵¹ Revelation 12:12

⁵² James 4:7

Thirty years ago, in the District Court of Queensland, Justice Fred McGuire stated that *“The law of the land has always held that human life is sacred and the protection the law gives to human life extends also to the unborn child in the womb”*.⁵³

God of Compassion and Justice, by *“the saving power of [Your] mighty right hand”*⁵⁴ we ask that You snatch away the precious little ones in Australia and the world that Satan intends to murder. Place them out of his reach! We pray that You *“the God of peace will soon crush Satan under [our] feet”*⁵⁵ so that we will see the saving of the lives of many unborn babies.

Stronghold 2 – The Dehumanising of Unborn Babies

In the Name of Jesus, whose mother Mary *“conceived”* and was *“found to be with child through the Holy Spirit”*,⁵⁶ we ask that You rebuke Satan who relentlessly works to dehumanise and devalue precious little ones who are made in Your image. By doing this unborn babies become more vulnerable to abortion.

We rejoice that with each new discovery, modern science continues to astound us with the sublime complexity and beauty of human life. Modern science confirms that a newly-conceived baby is a distinct human being with its own genotype or unique set of chromosomes. Then as the baby develops in its mother’s womb he or she can experience emotions as well as physical pain.

We therefore reject as totally false and abhorrent the modern-day claim that a newly-conceived unborn baby is merely a *‘ball of cells’* or a *‘patch of foetal tissue’* or a *‘small blob’* or a *‘lump of jelly’*. This attempt to devalue and dehumanise unborn babies, by those who advocate for abortion, does not recognise that a human life comes into being at conception.

We refute this lie with the example of the newly-conceived Jesus interacting with his cousin John (the Baptist) who was in his sixth month. At that time John’s mother Elizabeth said to Mary, *“as soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy”*.⁵⁷ In this story from Your Word we see that unborn babies are real persons with real emotions. But very sadly the abortion industry convinces many people to think otherwise.

Many young women today find themselves *‘with child’* in difficult circumstances and are under pressure to have an abortion. Also married women who already have children resort to abortion to limit the size of their family under financial and social pressure. In the counsel they are given at the abortion clinic they are not told that the foetus is actually an unborn child. For this reason, showing them an ultrasound of their baby is usually avoided. By the power of Your Holy Spirit help them to find strength to preserve the lives of their babies, knowing that they are precious in Your sight.

Mother Teresa said *“the child is God’s gift to the family and each child is created in the special image and likeness of God for greater things; to love and be loved”*.

⁵³ An Abortion Rethink flyer entitled ‘QLD Law Must Remain as Guardian ... of the Unborn’ handed out 16 August 2016

⁵⁴ Psalm 20:6

⁵⁵ Romans 16:20

⁵⁶ Matthew 1:18,20

⁵⁷ Luke 1:44

By the power of Your Holy Spirit help us to declare to Australian society that all human life, is made in the image of God and has intrinsic and equal value from conception to life's natural end.

Stronghold 3 – The Shedding of Innocent Blood

In the Name of Jesus, who *“committed no sin and no deceit was found in His mouth”*⁵⁸ and yet was led *“like a lamb to the slaughter”*,⁵⁹ we ask that You rebuke Satan who delights in the shedding of innocent blood through abortion. This is not ordinary murder, itself an ultimate crime, but officially sanctioned foeticide.

Your Word reminds us of how Satan wanted to kill Jesus, the future Saviour of the world, as soon as his mother Mary gave birth to Him. We read that it was Satan *“an enormous red dragon”* that *“stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that it might devour her child the moment he was born.”*⁶⁰ We are appalled that Satan in his fury sought to murder Jesus as an infant by inciting King Herod to give orders *“to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under”*.⁶¹ Satan incited in Herod an obsessive fear that Jesus, the newborn king of the Jews, would threaten his kingship. He caused Herod to stain his hands with much innocent blood.

This *“massacre of the innocents”* was but a small foretaste of what many refer to today as *‘The Silent Holocaust’* that we see throughout the world including Australia. Your Word states that *“God created man in His own image”*.⁶² Move us to pray and act to end the holocaust of abortion worldwide because every unborn baby is made in Your image and likeness and is precious to You.

Stronghold 4 – The Tolerating of Extreme Cruelty

In the Name of Jesus, of whom it was prophesied *“a bruised reed He will not break, and a smoldering wick He will not snuff out”*,⁶³ we ask You to rebuke and restrain Satan who has desensitized our society to tolerate the extreme cruelty of abortion.

It was Satan who so cruelly and violently attacked Jesus at His crucifixion so that His *“appearance was so disfigured beyond that of a man and His form marred beyond human likeness”*.⁶⁴ The brutal and barbaric killing of an unborn baby through abortion is therefore fully consistent with the character of Satan. Every day our society tolerates the decapitation, dismemberment, and disembowelment of unborn babies through abortion. Our society tolerates their slow burning alive through the injection of saline solutions into their mothers' wombs. Our society tolerates the partial-birth abortion method used in late-term and full-term abortions that sucks the brains out a live baby even though scientific research has conclusively demonstrated that unborn babies do indeed feel pain as early as 20 weeks after conception.

⁵⁸ 1 Peter 2:22, Isaiah 53:9

⁵⁹ Isaiah 53:7

⁶⁰ Revelation 12:3,4

⁶¹ Matthew 2:16

⁶² Genesis 1:27a

⁶³ Isaiah 42:3, Matthew 12:28-21

⁶⁴ Isaiah 52:14

Our society tolerates thousands of babies who have somehow survived an induced abortion, being left to die in hospitals and clinics unattended.

O God we ask You to awaken our hearts and burden and break our hearts to the utter horror of this unspeakable cruelty to innocent unborn babies. In the Name of Jesus, we ask that You destroy, once and for all, these murderous works of Satan.

Stronghold 5 – Sacrificing to Demons

In the Name of Jesus, who offered Himself as the perfect, all-sufficient sacrifice made once and for all the sins of all mankind,⁶⁵ we ask that You rebuke Satan who incites men and women today to sacrifice their children to the demons of a culture of death.

We read in Your Word how the people of Israel fell into sin as *“they sacrificed their sons and their daughters to false gods. They shed innocent blood, the blood of their sons and daughters, whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan, and the land was desecrated by their blood”*.⁶⁶ They had become ensnared in the evil practice of child sacrifice of the pagan nations that they came to dispossess. Sexual immorality was rampant and infants and children were sacrificed to fertility gods such as Molech. Because the wickedness of the pagan nations had *“reached its full measure”*,⁶⁷ You brought terrible judgment upon them.

Prior to this Moses had sternly warned the people of Israel to *“be careful not to be ensnared by inquiring about their gods ... because in worshipping their gods, they do all kinds of detestable things the LORD hates. They even burn their sons and daughters in the fire as sacrifices to their gods”*.⁶⁸

But Your Word tells us these pagan deities were not gods at all. They were demons. Paul said that *“the sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons”*.⁶⁹ Today, while our society does not sacrifice infants and children to false pagan gods such as Molech of the Ammonites, Bel of the Babylonians, Chemosh of the Moabites and Dagon of the Philistines, our society nevertheless still sacrifices to demons. Today our society, approving of immoral lifestyles, promiscuity and perversion, appeases the demons behind the modern gods and idols such as ‘convenience’ and ‘choice’. And children are still burned in the fire only that these are the fires of caustic solutions injected into mothers’ wombs and the fires of hospital and clinic incinerators.

We are appalled by the way that abortion in our society has become officially sanctioned human sacrifice. Any society which can tolerate these things, let alone legislate for them, has ceased to be civilised. O God we are racing toward judgment!

Shake us so that we will truly repent and no longer tolerate such things. In the Name of Jesus we ask You to break the power of the enemy behind state-sanctioned human sacrifice in Australia.

⁶⁵ Hebrews 10:1-14

⁶⁶ Psalm 106:37-38

⁶⁷ Genesis 15:16

⁶⁸ Deuteronomy 12:30,31

⁶⁹ 1 Corinthians 10:20

Stronghold 6 – Serving Mammon

In the Name of Jesus, who said *“you cannot serve both God and Money”*,⁷⁰ we ask You to rebuke Satan who drives the abortion industry with a love of money. Jesus warned that serving *“Money”* or *“Mammon”* leads to a covetous love of money that claims people’s hearts and causes them to turn away from You.

We see this in the abortion industry that generates wealth through the unscrupulous killing of unborn babies and lack of genuine care and after-care for the mothers and families. Misleading advertising and manipulative counselling of pregnant women is geared to winning as many paying customers as possible.

Bolstering the abortion industry is the taxpayer funding of abortion procedures through Medicare. This means the Australian government is complicit in helping the abortion industry in serving Mammon.

We have seen in other parts of the world how this love for money has resulted in the selling the body parts of aborted babies for organ harvesting, for the cosmetics industry and for medical research.

O God, expose the twisted ethics and lack of scruples of the abortion industry. Bring revulsion to our society for the generation of wealth through the killing of unborn babies. We ask that the lucrative abortion industry will go bankrupt through lack of business. In the Name of Jesus we ask that You permanently close the doors of abortion mills across Australia.

Stronghold 7 – The Coercing of the United Nations

In the Name of Jesus, who is *“the King of kings and the Lord of lords”*,⁷¹ we ask You to rebuke and restrain Satan who is using the United Nations to aggressively spread abortion throughout the nations of the world. This is in spite of its own, *‘Declaration of the Rights of the Child (1959)’*, which affirms that every child needs *“special safeguards and care, including appropriate legal protection, before as well as after birth”*.

We bring before You the UN’s *“new universal Agenda”*, which Australia signed last year, known as *‘Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development’*. Of its 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 associated targets we especially bring before You targets 3.7 and 5.6 which advance abortion through so-called *“reproductive health”* and *“reproductive rights”*. The UN has set up the Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) program to achieve these ambitious global targets. Furthermore the UN has endorsed Planned Parenthood Federation International, the largest provider of abortion in the world, as its main provider of CSE around the world, especially in developing nations.

We ask You to rebuke Satan who is orchestrating the UN agenda to advance abortion as one of its population control initiatives in the world today.⁷² It is utterly

⁷⁰ Matthew 6:24

⁷¹ 1 Timothy 6:15, Revelation 19:16

⁷² Revelation 12:10

reprehensible that Comprehensive Sexuality Education advances the sexual freedom and abortion rights of girls to access contraception and abortion without parental consent.

We thank You that Jesus is Your *“chosen One”* in whom You delight, who *“will bring justice to the nations”*⁷³ and *“in His Name the nations will put their hope”*.⁷⁴ Satan is *“the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient”*.⁷⁵ In the Name of Jesus we demolish any plans of the United Nations to impose abortion and Comprehensive Sexuality Education on Australia. As Your people we resist the unscrupulous pressure and intimidation that the UN has been exerting on the nations of the world. In the Name of Jesus we cut off all unholy treaties and conventions made between Australia and the United Nations.

Stronghold 8 – The Scheming of EMILY’s List

In the Name of Jesus, *“the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth”*,⁷⁶ we ask You to rebuke and expose Satan and his demonic forces who are behind those who devise and carry out wicked schemes to kill unborn babies in their mothers’ wombs.

We bring before you EMILY’s List, a feminist organisation which raises money to have pro-abortion women elected to Parliament. It grieves us that women have accepted money for their political campaigns in exchange for their promise to assert that women have the right to abort their babies right up to the day of birth.

Your Word says that *“There are six things the LORD hates, seven that are detestable to Him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, a false witness who pours out lies and a person who stirs up conflict in the community”*.⁷⁷ O God have mercy on the 66 Australian women politicians who have entered into a covenant with EMILY’s List.

In the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ we bind all these contractual agreements for money and loose all women in EMILY’s List from these and any other unholy vows. In the Name of Jesus we cut off the overseas roots of EMILY’s List so that, as an organisation in Australia, it will wither and die.

We also bring before You the acronym EMILY which stands for Early Money Is Like Yeast. This is a twisting and profaning of the words of Jesus when He said in a parable *“The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into a large amount of flour until it worked all through the dough”*.⁷⁸ In the Name of Jesus we bind this plagiarism which substitutes ‘early money’ for *“the kingdom of heaven”* and loose the yeast of the kingdom of heaven throughout EMILY’s List.

Gracious God, by the truth of Your Word and by the power of Your Holy Spirit transform the membership of EMILY’s List and nullify its influence.

⁷³ Isaiah 42:1

⁷⁴ Matthew 12:21

⁷⁵ Ephesians 2:2

⁷⁶ John 1:14

⁷⁷ Proverbs 6:16-19

⁷⁸ Matthew 13:33

Stronghold 9 – The Wounding of Women

In the Name of Jesus, who *“took the children in His arms, put His hands on them and blessed them”*,⁷⁹ we ask that You rebuke and banish Satan who wants women to have empty arms and wounded hearts through abortion.

Your Word asks *“Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne?”*.⁸⁰ And so we are outraged by the satanic lies of the culture of death that a mother has the right to kill her unborn baby through abortion and that to do so is perfectly safe with no lasting consequences. In the Name of Jesus, we refute and demolish these deplorable and twisted lies.

Women are forever changed by abortion. There is overwhelming evidence about the serious physical and emotional effects on women, and as a consequence, on their families. Physically, women become more prone to infection, haemorrhage, infertility and breast cancer. Emotionally, women become more prone to depression, suicide, drug and alcohol dependence, sexual promiscuity and poor self-esteem. Spiritually, women are devastated with the knowledge that they have sinned against God by deciding to kill the baby that was within them. Abortion robs women of the dignity and beauty of who You made them as women. It violates their nature as mothers who bring forth life and then nurture and cherish their babies.

Today women choose abortion for psycho-social reasons such as abandonment, coercion and desperation. There are also those who choose abortions for matters of convenience such as financial concerns, educational aspirations and career paths.

O God, please heal the wounding in their hearts caused by their empty arms and the memory of the child that they chose to abort. Help post-abortive mothers to know Your complete forgiveness and total restoration, forgiving themselves so that they can forgive others. Especially help them to forgive men who had abandoned or abused or who had not supported them and made them more vulnerable to abortion. Help local churches to acknowledge the special needs of post-abortive women and be safe communities of healing. Raise up pregnancy support centres that will help women to carry their babies and thus avoid wounding. Raise up ministries to post-abortive women as channels of Your healing to wounded women and their families.

Stronghold 10 – The Disempowering of Men

In the Name of Jesus, who *“took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows”*,⁸¹ we ask You to rebuke and neutralise Satan who seeks to disempower men and destroy fatherhood through abortion. Father God, we acknowledge that abortion has many victims and one of them is the father of the child. Fathers of aborted children can be profoundly traumatised. We therefore bring before You men who have fathered children who have been lost to abortion. Some of these men may have coerced the unborn child’s mother to have an abortion. Others strongly opposed the abortion. Many submerged their own feelings and took refuge in the idea that their role was to support their partner’s decision.

⁷⁹ Mark 10:16

⁸⁰ Isaiah 49:15

⁸¹ Isaiah 53:4

You have instilled in men the drives to procreate, to provide for and to protect their families and to perform in their work and play. When a man is confronted with the reality that he has allowed his own child to be killed through abortion he can be overwhelmed by anger, hurt, shame, guilt, grief or feelings of helplessness or hopelessness. He might see himself as too weak to prevent the death of his unborn child, his own flesh and blood. At the very core of what it means for him to be a man, the ability to provide and protect has been seriously shaken. Abortion can generate considerable resentment and mistrust in a man toward women as well as sexual dysfunction and impotency. As a result many men suppress their emotions and seek solace in drugs, alcohol, pornography and risky behaviour like extreme sports and driving too fast.

Thank You for the story of how Jesus healed a paralytic man, who was lowered through a hole in the roof by his friends, saying **“Friend, your sins are forgiven ... Get up and walk”**.⁸² Father of Mercy and Compassion, we ask that You raise up communities of men and ministries that will hasten the healing and restoration of post-abortive men. We declare that Jesus **“was pierced for our transgressions ... crushed for our iniquities ... and by His wounds we are healed”**.⁸³ Heal fatherlessness in our land and **“turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers”**.⁸⁴

Stronghold 11 – The Traumatizing of Society

In the Name of Jesus, who said **“I am the way and the truth and the life”**,⁸⁵ we ask that You rebuke and muzzle our enemy the devil who **“prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour”**.⁸⁶ He seeks to traumatise our society through abortion.

In the Name of Jesus we refute the lie of the enemy that abortion is a quick fix for many problems in society. On the contrary, abortion has been shown to contribute to a host of physical, emotional, social, economic and spiritual problems for post-abortive mothers and fathers. And so we are greatly saddened that almost a third of Australian women have gone through the trauma of abortion which often leaves her and the aborted baby’s father, siblings, grandparents and entire families with post-abortion grief and trauma and a lifetime of sadness and regret.

Late-term and full-term abortions are especially traumatising to medical practitioners who are life-affirming in their approach to patients. In regard to abortion the Hippocratic Oath for doctors from the fifth century BC states **“I will not give to a woman a pessary to procure abortion ... I will maintain the utmost respect for human life from the time of conception”**. By law, in some jurisdictions, doctors will be forced to violate their consciences and witness by taking part in abortions or by referring women to others for abortions.

We are also grieved that more and more children and young adults are realising that a third of their generation has been lost to abortion. The two-thirds who are with us

⁸² Luke 5:20,23

⁸³ Isaiah 53:5

⁸⁴ Malachi 4:6

⁸⁵ John 14:6

⁸⁶ 1 Peter 5:8

today are the survivors that their parents' generation chose not to kill. Father we pray that older generations will repent of this violation of trust lest a bitter root alienate the generations. O God, heal the trauma of abortion in our society.

Stronghold 12 – The Devaluing of Human Life through Eugenics

In the Name of Jesus, who willingly reached out his hand and touched a man with leprosy and made him clean,⁸⁷ we ask You to rebuke and confound Satan who inspired the eugenics movement which labels certain groups of people as '*inferior*', '*undesirable*', '*unworthy of life*' and '*disposable*'.

In the Name of Jesus we demolish the lies of eugenics as set out by its founder Margaret Sanger. These are based on Charles Darwin's theory of evolution that human life is governed by "*the survival of the fittest*". Planned Parenthood, now one of the largest providers of abortion in the world, was a direct and intentional project of Margaret Sanger and the eugenics movement. Her "*Negro Project*" for eliminating or "*weeding out*" black people in American society is still finding fulfilment in America today where almost half of black American babies are killed through abortion. And it was Margaret Sanger's eugenics that Hitler used in his attempts to exterminate entire races of people and achieve racial cleansing of the "*master race*".

We are alarmed that even though the eugenics movement lost momentum when it was associated with the Nazi horrors of World War II, today we are seeing its resurgence. It has now been reactivated under the guise of pre-natal health care, reproductive choice and human rights. It is inflicting serious harm on our unborn children, parents and the disability community. In the Name of Jesus we cut off the roots of the eugenics movement founded by Margaret Sanger and the present day influence of Planned Parenthood of Australia.

The setting in place of screening programs for unborn children with disabilities laid the grounds for eugenic abortion. Abortion is a modern, politically correct form of eugenics. Children with disabilities such as Down syndrome, spina-bifida and cleft palate are regarded as a liability which will consume resources of the health system and taxpayer dollars. As a result, unborn babies with a detected or suspected disability have been reduced to a valueless disposable commodity. Parents, in pursuit of a perfect '*designer baby*' of the desired sex, can '*deselect*' or abort babies who do not meet their criterion. Increasingly our society is blind to the reality that unborn babies with abnormalities are equally as precious to You as all other babies.

God of Tenderness and Compassion,⁸⁸ we ask that You rebuke Satan who tries to convince us that babies with disabilities are disposable. Jesus said, "*See that you do not look down on one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven*".⁸⁹

We come against and smash and demolish the eugenics lie that children with disabilities are not worthy of life and might be an unbearable burden on the family and on society as a whole. In the Name of Jesus we nullify this lie that can so easily

⁸⁷ Matthew 8:2-3

⁸⁸ Isaiah 63:15

⁸⁹ Matthew 18:10

lead to infanticide and euthanasia. Restore in us a heart of compassion that values and protects our most vulnerable citizens.

Eternal Father, the reality of abortion is sickening. We are appalled with the sustained push of the last fifty years to kill unborn babies. It is a massive open assault of Satan and all the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms against You and against the Judeo-Christian foundations that have made Australia a great place to live. It is not enough for us that abortion becomes illegal. We pray that You will use us to persuade hearts and minds so that it becomes unthinkable.

In the mighty Name of Jesus, we demolish, tear down, smash and destroy every satanic stronghold set to kill unborn babies in Australia. Your Word says that the followers of Jesus *“overcame [Satan] by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony”*.⁹⁰ We rejoice in the victory that Jesus won at Calvary *“through His blood shed on the cross”*.⁹¹ May You be glorified through the protection of unborn babies in this Great Southland of the Holy Spirit!

GIVE GLORY

“Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, for true and just are His judgments”.⁹² We see You, Sovereign God, coming with power. You rule with a mighty arm. Your purposes cannot be thwarted.⁹³

“[Your] works are perfect and all [Your] ways are just”.⁹⁴ *“[You are] faithful to all [Your] promises and loving toward all [You] have made”*.⁹⁵ *“[You] are near to all who call on [You], to all who call on [You] in truth”*.⁹⁶ *“Your compassions never fail. ... Great is Your faithfulness!”*⁹⁷

Thank You for the promise of Jesus that we may ask for anything in His Name and He will do it *“so that the Son may bring glory to the Father”*.⁹⁸ Thanks be to You, O God, *“You give us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!”*.⁹⁹

“Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honour and glory for ever and ever”.¹⁰⁰ *“To the only wise God be glory for ever through Jesus Christ! Amen”*.¹⁰¹

⁹⁰ Revelation 12:11

⁹¹ Colossians 1:20

⁹² Revelation 19:1

⁹³ Isaiah 40:10

⁹⁴ Deuteronomy 32:4

⁹⁵ Psalm 145:13

⁹⁶ Psalm 145:18

⁹⁷ Lamentations 3:23

⁹⁸ John 14:14

⁹⁹ 1 Corinthians 15:57

¹⁰⁰ 1 Timothy 1:17

¹⁰¹ Romans 16:27