

Dear Praying Partners,

September 27, 2021

As you may or may not be aware, Melbourne is now NUMBER 1 – for being in lockdown the longest of any city in the entire world! Not a statistic to be proud of, for sure. We are still in lockdown and by the end will be smashing the record – unfortunately. It looks like we won't be out of lockdown until the end of November – and then there will still be heavy restrictions on what we can do, mostly depending on vaccination status.

The reason for this update is to ask you to PRAY because right now the government plan is that ONLY fully vaccinated people will be allowed to attend church with number limits at 150 (at the end of November)– if we do not ask for vaccination status or if that status is unknown, we will only be allowed to have 20 people in attendance and that only outdoors. We have been reluctantly willing to go along with all of these lockdowns seeking to obey those in authority over us. But this is too far. The government cannot be allowed to decide who can and cannot attend church. We can't imagine standing at the door, telling a person who may not know the Lord, to leave and come back when they are fully vaccinated. We can't imagine standing at the door and telling our own members/congregation that they are not welcome to worship because of their vaccination status. So far there has been no pushback to these onerous restrictions, which makes us sad and speaks volumes for the Christian community. The government in Victoria continues to be hostile to believers, in general. We are reminded of Prov. 21:1 “The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water; he turneth it whithersoever he will.” We are asking you to join us in prayer asking God to turn the heart of our Premier (think Governor), Daniel Andrews, to relent from this plan. Our prayer first and foremost is for his salvation. That would certainly take care of the issue! But we know that God can turn his heart, even if he is not a child of the King.

Please join with us in seeking God's face. We also ask for great wisdom for ourselves and the leadership of the church as we prepare for the future – whatever it holds. We take great comfort in knowing that no matter what, God is in control.

Shining the Light Down Under,

Rob and Jackie