

## FROM THE DESK OF RASIK RANCHORD

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**TO:** Leaders in The Body of Christ

**FROM:** Rasik Ranchord

**TOPIC:** ELECTION 2020

Dear Christian Leaders in the Body of Christ

### ELECTION 2020

#### A Clarion Call to Prayer & Participation

*In a world that might say one vote doesn't matter....it does matter because each person is of infinite worth and value to God .....Your vote is a declaration of your importance as a person and a citizen' .....**Billy Graham***

#### 1. ALARMING STATISTICS!

Consider the following Statistics –

a) **2017 Elections**

670,000 – number of voters who **enrolled** but did **not** vote

270,000 – number of voters who did **not even enrol** even though it is required by Law

940,000 – Total number of eligible people who did not participate in the last Election.

b) **2018 Census**

38% of the population described themselves as Christian

c) Assuming that the proportion of people voting is the same as the portion of Christians to the total population and allowing for any other variables – at a very considerate estimate we estimate that at least 250,000, eligible Christians (a quarter million) did not engage in the last Election. This should cause alarm bells to ring in all the Christians in New Zealand.

#### 2. RESOURCES

I have updated pamphlets that I have written especially for Christians.

1) **Should Christians Be Engaged in Politics?- If so, to what Extent?**

It addresses 4 questions –

**Q.1** – How have we **arrived** at our present position of large scale disengagement?

**Q.2** – What do we **mean** by Politics?

**Q.3** – What should be the **extent** of Christian political engagement?

**Q.4** - Where does the Bible speak about **voting**? see [www.prayeratparliament.org.nz](http://www.prayeratparliament.org.nz) for downloads.

2) **Vote Smart 2020** - This is now in its 5<sup>th</sup> Election Edition.

This deals with factors to consider in the Election Equation under **MMP**. **A simple step by step concise non-partisan guide**. *I do not encourage Church Leaders to tell people which candidate or what party to vote for*. That, I believe to be the prerogative of the individual. As Christian Leaders our responsibility is to teach our people the Biblical basis for engagement in the public square and also give them some criteria as to how to come to an **informed and prayerful decision** and direct them to where they can find **relevant resources**.

These pamphlets teach Christians how to keep a balance between two extremes. **A Privatised faith** (where we do not engage in any kind of civic responsibility) **and a politicised faith** (where we give people directions who to vote for and confuse “Kingdoms of this world with the Kingdom of God.

**Our Policy: “We educate, you decide.**

3) **God Gospel and Government**

This is a new **6-page article** that I have written especially for **Christian Leaders** setting out the biblical **balance of our responsibilities to God and to Government**. In the words of Jesus, “Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s.”(Mark 12:13-17). There are other resources. See

[www.prayeratparliament.org.nz](http://www.prayeratparliament.org.nz)

**I recommend these ‘tools’ to you for your prayerful consideration.**

I also recommend .....publications (1) Value Your Vote (2)

by [www.familyfirst.co.nz](http://www.familyfirst.co.nz)

4) **Distribution**

I would greatly appreciate you making these **Élection Tools’** available in your **church members** and **fellow ministers** and other Christians in your city and encourage each **person to distribute them to at least 5 people in their circle of influence**. This would be one practical way of being salt and light in society.

3. **REFERENDUMS**

There are **two** Referendums namely, (1) Cannabis Use (2) Euthanasia attached to this Election. I highly recommend resources n these issues produced by Family First – [www.familyfirst.co.nz](http://www.familyfirst.co.nz)

4. **PRAAYER**

We are expressly instructed in 1 Tim 2:1-2 to pray for those in authority. Our engagement must be **two-dimensional, vertical** (with God in prayer) and **horizontal** (with people in engagement). Our strategy at this Election time will be **TWO-DIMENSIONAL –**

1) **GOD-WARD** in **intercession** (1 Tim2:1-2).

2) **PEOPLE-WARD** - **Educating** and **motivating** people to actually vote: I emphasise our approach is **non-partisan** and **non-directive, educative** and **prayerful**.

Prayer @ Parliament (convener Rasik Ranchord) and Pray for the Nation (Director Brian and Tricia Caughley) are launching a joint-initiative “**40 Days of Prayer**” as a build-up to the Election. Details will be on our website

[www.prayeratparliament.org.nz](http://www.prayeratparliament.org.nz)

## 5. SUGGESTED STRATEGY

**4 weeks before the Election Day** (Sat 19 September) –

- 1) Begin teaching people on a ‘A Christian’s Civic Duty as a New Zealand citizen’
- 2) Every subsequent week exhort every eligible Christian in your congregation to vote
- 3) Make a special appeal on Sunday 13 September (last Sunday before Election)

## 6. ENROLING AND VOTING

1) Enrol if you are

- I. turning 18 before the Election Day
- II. If you are eligible but have not enrolled before
- III. enrolment is compulsory but voting is not in New Zealand

2) **Voting**

Stats Electoral Commission have increased the opportunities to vote

- 1) Voting will start 5 September 2020
- 2) You can enrol and vote up to and including Election Day (19 September 2020)
- 3) If you enrol early, you will receive an Easy Vote Card that will make your voting easier.
- 4) Almost 50% votes are sent before Election Day!
- 5) We need to especially encourage people in New Zealand 18 to 34 age group to vote. Over 34 the voting percentage is much higher (according to last Election figures).

## 7. COUNTDOWN

There are **70 days to the Election**. If you truly love this country of ours which has a **Christian Foundation** then **Pray, be Informed, Enrol, Vote, Encourage others**. “**Evil prevails when good people do nothing**” (Edmund Burke).

I will be communicating with Leaders of all major church denominations, movements and many networks and Christian Members of Parliament to enlist their support. With your conscientious operation we can **mobilise THOUSANDS OF CHRISTIANS** and let us work together to significantly reduce the number of non-voting Christians (Last Election at least 250,000). It will need due diligence from the whole Body of Christ.

Will the salt remain in thousands of salt-shakers? Will thousands of lights be covered by bowls? Jesus said we are the salt of the **earth** and the light of the **world** ! (Mat 5:13-16). We can make a world of difference if we are engaged in the **world**!

**Let Davids arise to slay Goliaths of unbalanced theology, apathy and cynicism !**  
**by P.I.E.V.E. Project: Pray; be Informed; Enrol; Vote; Encourage others**

**CAN I COUNT ON YOUR SUPPORT !**

United in Christ for the welfare of our Nation

***Rasik Ranchord***

***Spokesperson on Public Issues – New Life Churches NZ***

***Spiritual Advisor to Christian MPs***

***Convener of Prayer@Parliament***

***A Minister for 50 years***

**Resources**

- 1. Pamphlet 1: Should Christians be involved in Politics?**
  - 2. Pamphlet 2: Vote Smart 2020**
  - 3. Pamphlet 3: God Gospel and Government**
  - 4. Other resources see [www.prayeratparliament.org.nz](http://www.prayeratparliament.org.nz)**
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