JESUS *for* NZ

CALLING ALL BELIEVERS

MANIFESTO

KO TE AMORANGI KI MUA,
KO TE HAPAI O KI MURI.

THE CARRIERS OF GOD'S EMBLEMS FIRST,
THE CARRIERS OF FOOD LATER.

God's worship first,
worldly things second.

JESUS FOR NEW ZEALAND

WHEN NEW SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE, THE RT. HON. TREVOR MALLARD, REMOVED THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST FROM THE PARLIAMENTARY PRAYER UPON TAKING OFFICE, IT WAS DONE WITHOUT NOTICE OR APPARENT CONSULTATION.

The speaker then chose to read the prayer (rather poorly it must be said) in Te Reo Māori which seemed a bit strange but did, however, draw attention to those with understanding that something was amiss. The decision made by the speaker to exclude Jesus Christ from the prayer in such an underhanded way demanded an immediate and emphatic response from the church.

As believers how could we remain silent? Silence would only affirm and validate his decision.
If the church doesn't rise to be the voice of conscience in the nation, then who will?

There was a prompt response.

A delegation of concerned church leaders was formed and met with the speaker to voice objection, to query what had been done and why and to ask that the name of Jesus Christ be reinstated to the Parliamentary prayer. Although this was received and listened to graciously, sadly, there was no reinstatement of our Lord's name.

It seems our pleas fell upon deaf ears.

Subsequently, permission was sought and granted to assemble on the grounds of Parliament on October 30th so that we might state our case more emphatically and in greater numbers.

We will bring a strong and clear message that actually, many New Zealanders, not just the church, do not agree with what has been done, nor how it was done. We will be asking, in no uncertain terms, that the name of Jesus Christ be reinstated to the Parliamentary prayer posthaste.

This is an amazing opportunity for the church to come together at this time and make a stand as 'one' for our Lord Jesus Christ. On the steps of Parliament no less. How can we not stand for the one who gave His all for us? How can we not stand for the name which is above every name? Why would we not stand for the name to whom all will bow and confess 'Jesus is Lord'. We must and we will, with great expectation and anticipation!

October 30th is a Tuesday and there is a reason for that date. The house sits at 2pm and that being the case all members of Parliament are expected to be there, including the Speaker and the Prime Minister. We WILL be noticed. That is why YOU need to be there. That is why we ALL need to be there! We are expecting not hundreds, but thousands to gather. This will be a gathering of church and community.

Come and make known our voice and our presence in our nation.
It's said that evil abounds when good men do nothing. Well, that's about to change!

A VALUABLE LEGACY

SOME THINGS IN LIFE SHOULD BE SHOUTED FROM THE ROOFTOPS AND CELEBRATED FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION.

We do well in remembering those who have given their lives to defend the freedom and liberty we all enjoy in this nation.

Our children and our children's children have a valuable legacy to honour and uphold. They step into a powerful and precious inheritance which they will hopefully choose to enjoy and maintain.

This peaceful and free civil society many take for granted was fought for. It has a moral and intellectual base rooted in the Judeo/Christian culture of our forefathers. We are recipients of that foundation, handed down through many, many decades whether we acknowledge it or not.

In governance one was to recognise that those with power and authority were not to be unconstrained, but were, in fact themselves under a higher authority and were to represent and serve the people as men and women under God. They were not to be as God themselves.

Therein lies the danger; remove God and what does man become?

The foundation we have, has served us well in our land, and is acknowledged in the traditional opening of our Parliamentary sessions.

But now, the speaker of the house, the Rt. Hon. Trevor Mallard, seems to be on his way to ditching the opening prayer altogether, and in so doing, rewriting history in his own name, for his own agenda and taking the seat of omnipotence in Parliament.

The fact that he set about dismantling the prayer immediately on taking office says to many that there is an agenda.

The fact that he removed reference to the Queen and Jesus Christ and then read the prayer in (very poor) Te Reo Māori so that no one would understand what he had done, only confirms thoughts of personal agenda.

So much for 'preserving' and 'enhancing' (his own words upon taking office) our democratic system!

So much for being inclusive.

So much for open honesty.

So much for transparency.

So much for considered dialogue.

So much for any accountability.

Where is the integrity of the elected member?

Exactly what legacy does Mr. Mallard wish to leave?

Sorry to say, but it is not good enough. Thank God we still have the right and the freedom to let the speaker, and our elected representatives, know that it's not good enough.

Permission has been given to assemble on Parliament grounds on October 30 2018 to present our views and to ask that the name of Jesus Christ be reinstated into the Parliamentary prayer.

The prayer itself is important. It is to remind and reference the call to act in humility, to lay aside every private and personal agenda, to act with wisdom and justice for the peace of New Zealand and to acknowledge our blessing have come through Almighty God.

Do we need to remind the speaker that he is not God?

Seems he may have got things a little mixed up.

PERMISSION HAS BEEN GIVEN TO ASSEMBLE ON PARLIAMENT GROUNDS ON OCTOBER 30 2018 TO PRESENT OUR VIEWS AND TO ASK THAT THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST BE REINSTATED INTO THE PARLIAMENTARY PRAYER.

OUR PARLIAMENTARY PRAYER IS NOT THERE TO BE 'RELIGIOUS'

IT IS NOT A TRADITION FOR TRADITIONS' SAKE. THE PARLIAMENTARY PRAYER SERVES TO REMIND OUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES OF WHO THEY ARE, WHO THEY REPRESENT AND HOW THEY ARE TO CARRY OUT THAT FUNCTION. IN THAT ALONE IT IS, IN A SENSE, A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.

This nation functions and governs under the Westminster Parliamentary system, the roots of which are firmly embedded in an 800 year old document known as the Magna Carta.

The ideals of our democracy are founded in, and adopted from, the Magna Carta via Westminster.

Issues and rights such as:

- Individual liberty
- Individual freedom
- Constraints on Power, particularly in Government so that no one arm, entity or place in Government can abuse its power.
  (Seems the speaker of the house missed that memo!)
- The right for men and women to vote.

  MPs to be paid – so that there is no discrimination between rich and poor should they choose to represent the people.
- The right of every New Zealander to a fair trial.
- Since 1867, that Māori are to have a voice and be represented.

We take these things for granted because they are part of our culture. We grow up expecting nothing less than the liberties and freedoms we have.

Well thank God and thank the church! The Magna Carta was drafted by the church, not the government, and it is still of relevance today.

On Monday the 15th June 2015, its importance was commemorated at a function held in Parliament. It was the 800th anniversary of the sealing of the Magna Carta.

At that function the then Attorney-General Chris Finlayson had this to say:

"Over time the Magna Carta has come to represent a number of fundamental principles including the protection of human rights, freedom of religion, the right to justice, and most importantly the role of the law."

Our Parliamentary prayer acknowledges and reminds all concerned that they are not God, that, they are to serve and govern under a higher authority – Almighty God through Jesus Christ. His name is higher than any Politician's name. His name is an integral part of our Parliamentary system and should be celebrated and known from generation to generation. It's is part of our children's inheritance.

Deleted? ... Never! It should be shouted from the rooftops.

Believer or not, we all benefit from a democratic society rooted in an ancient document sealed in wax and covered in prayer through Christ.

The Parliamentary prayer, in the name of Jesus Christ reminds our MPs that they are not there to advance their own personal or private interests but they are to represent the people fairly – with God's help – with wisdom, equity and justice to the best of their ability.

NOT ALL MEN OR WOMEN LIKE THAT REMINDER. MEN HAVE AGENDAS. GOVERNMENTS HAVE AGENDAS. MPS HAVE AGENDAS. REMOVING THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST IS THE FIRST STEP TO REMOVING THE PRAYER ALTOGETHER.

Removing the name of Jesus Christ is not being inclusive – just the opposite in fact – for to whom are we praying now? Which or what God?

'Inclusive' has just become 'confusing' and 'unclear'. But that's easy to deal with ... remove God and the prayer altogether! ... And yes, of course the National Anthem would be next to go.

It is our right, our freedom, to protest what has been done by one man – 'consulting himself' – and demand the reinstatement of the name of Jesus Christ to our Parliamentary prayer.

Now men rule, acknowledging only themselves as having all power and authority. Do we really need reminding that power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely?

Our values are founded on Judean / Christian principles. These values are interwoven into the very fabric of our society. In the quest to be inclusive do we now remove Easter and Christmas from the calendar? Do we remint our coins to omit the date which reminds us of Jesus Christ and His place in history?

Are we not already an 'inclusive' society where many cultures are embraced and celebrated freely? There are no restrictions on religious belief, on personal ideology – thanks to the church of Jesus Christ.

We are truly blessed to live in this nation. We enjoy who we are and what we have because church and state came together under Almighty God through Jesus Christ and said there is a better way to live for all citizens.

Reinstate His name and restore the blessing on our land.

It is our right, our freedom, to protest what has been done by one man – 'consulting himself' – and demand the reinstatement of the name of Jesus Christ to our Parliamentary prayer.

AUTHORITY
THAT DOES NOT
EXIST FOR LIBERTY
IS NOT AUTHORITY
BUT FORCE

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF POWER

NOTED PSYCHOLOGIST DACHER KELTNER REFERS TO THE PARADOX OF POWER AND MAKES THE FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS:

'The very traits that help leaders accumulate control in the first place all but disappear once they rise to power. Instead of being polite, honest and outgoing, they become impulsive, reckless and rude', 'it's an incredibly consistent effect … when you give people power, they basically start acting like fools … and become totally impulsive'.

Empathy and/or sympathy for the emotions and concerns of others diminish as power increases.

This seems to be the frail nature of humanity as seen over and ever through the ages.

'Power myopia' takes hold once power is obtained. The view point of others, their perspective becomes harder and harder to imagine. One no longer cares because one no longer has to.

The innate sense of knowing and doing the right thing tends to be rationalized away by those who hold positions of high power. That very power all too often distorts one's own sense of importance and colours one's own ethical point of view.

There must be accountability, a voice of conscience somewhere in the mix.

Power in Government is not to make a name for one's self or to further personal agendas under whatever guise.

Sadly, it seems the speaker of the house must have missed the memo.

Removing the name of Jesus Christ from the Parliamentary prayer in the interest of being 'inclusive' is nonsense. All Christians are now 'excluded' and the further implications of what will surely follow (remove the prayer altogether, then the national anthem – get rid of 'Christmas' and 'Easter' etc.) point to a distorted rationale. It's like saying, I want my car to go faster and be more economical so I'm going to remove some of the weight, I'm getting rid of the wheels!

POWER TENDS TO CORRUPT
AND ABSOLUTE POWER
CORRUPTS ABSOLUTELY.

GREAT MEN ARE ALMOST
ALWAYS BAD MEN,
EVEN WHEN THEY
EXERCISE INFLUENCE
AND NOT AUTHORITY;
STILL MORE WHEN YOU
SUPERADD THE TENDENCY
OF THE CERTAINTY
OF CORRUPTION
BY AUTHORITY.

EDITORIAL PRESS SNIPPETS

OTAGO DAILY TIMES

5 FEBRUARY 2018

NEW SPEAKER TREVOR MALLARD TOOK MATTERS INTO HIS OWN HANDS LAST YEAR WHEN HE REMOVED REFERENCES TO BOTH JESUS AND THE QUEEN.

There are those who believe a prayer should be dispensed with altogether.

But whatever a person's belief or non-belief, a prayer has a gathering role and provides a short chance to reflect before business gets under way.

There is also an argument for traditional language and traditional prayers.

They add a pomp and gravitas to proceedings and a link to the past.

However, if a prayer is to help focus the minds of at least some MPs it needs to be readily understood and relevant to today.

Wisdom, humility, laying aside personal interests are all worthwhile ideals.

Those arguing for the inclusion of Jesus point to this country's Judeo-Christian origins and underlying culture.

They say the way of Jesus is one of inclusivity, care for the weak and underpins our democracy.

Christianity should, nevertheless, be acknowledged as a foundation of New Zealand's culture.

Coming generations should know the reason for the Easter and Christmas seasons.

KARL DU FRESNE

10 FEBRUARY 2018

WHEN PARLIAMENT RESUMED AFTER THE 2017 ELECTION, REFERENCE TO JESUS CHRIST AND THE QUEEN HAD BEEN DELETED. MALLARD APPARENTLY MADE THIS DECISION UNILATERALLY, SHORT-CIRCUITING WHAT WAS EXPECTED TO BE A CONSULTATION PROCESS.

It seemed high-handed but it was consistent with his style. And he was within his rights, since the Speaker is the boss in Parliament in much the same way as judges decide how their courts are run. It may seem paradoxical, but Parliament is not an institution run on strictly democratic lines.

After the summer recess, however, Mallard back-pedalled. When Parliament resumed last week it was with a compromise version of the prayer. The Queen had been reinstated – as she should be, given that she's our head of state. But of Jesus Christ, there was no mention. And just to rub salt into the wounds of traditionalists, Mallard recited the prayer in Māori.

Naturally, not everyone is happy with this compromise. The TV news showed a rally at Parliament protesting at the change. The ecstatic singing, the blissful facial expressions and the waving of arms toward the heavens suggested this was an evangelistic fringe of New Zealand Christianity rather than the mainstream.

If I understood him correctly, the protesters' leader argued that our system of government largely derives from Judeo-Christian principles and that Parliament should therefore acknowledge and honour Christ as embodying and inspiring those principles.

It's a legitimate argument but it only goes so far, because modern democracy requires that we acknowledge and respect other religious beliefs.

Some devout Christians struggle with this idea, because their faith in Christ is absolute and allows for no alternatives. Most of us, though, accept that modern New Zealand is a pluralist society that accommodates a range of belief systems, just as long as they don't intrude on anyone else's rights.

We should thank God, if you'll pardon the expression, that we live in a tolerant, liberal society rather than an oppressive theocracy, such as Iran, or one of those countries where religious passions can lead to murder and mayhem, such as India or Myanmar.

Mind you, it does our MPs no harm to start their day with an acknowledgement that they are answerable to a higher power. If only they could make a more sincere attempt to live up to the sentiments expressed in the prayer, particularly the bit about humility.

NORTHLAND AGE

By Peter Jackson, 7 February 2018

TREVOR MALLARD IS USED TO BEING CONTROVERSIAL. HIS 27-YEAR (AND COUNTING) PARLIAMENTARY CAREER HAS LONG SEEN HIM CAST AS LABOUR'S ATTACK DOG, A MAN WHO WILL ESPOUSE SOME OF THE PARTY'S LESS POPULAR IDEAS, AND WHO SEEMS IMPERVIOUS TO THE SLINGS AND ARROWS OF OUTRAGED OPPOSITION.

He's at it again now in the role of Speaker, authoring an amendment to the parliamentary prayer. Initially he removed reference to the Queen, although she has since been restored. And properly so, given that, whatever Mr Mallard and others might wish, she is our head of state. Even the staunchest republican would be struggling to oust her.

He shows no signs of relenting over the removal of the last five words of the prayer, however, ostensibly in the interests of inclusivity. Mr Mallard reckons that leaving Jesus Christ out of it can not only be defended, but is required by the need to embrace those of faiths other than Christianity.

We have learned something about our politicians courtesy of this move to change the prayer, however, something that even in this day and age is a little surprising. Mr Mallard insists that he has not acted unilaterally. He consulted widely before announcing his decision. And no doubt he did. It is odd though, is it not, that not one person with whom he consulted, and who presumably agreed with him, has spoken publicly in his defence? Mr Mallard, it seems, is a party of one.

We can only suspect that he did not find the consensus that he says he did, or that those who agree with him are too gutless to say so. The latter has rather more appeal than the former, which further suggests that even those who have not been offended by the amending of the prayer, regarding it as a non-issue, less deserving of our (and Parliament's) attention than many others, understand that it is very important to many of their constituents.

Not only, perhaps, because of the removal of Christ's name per se, but because of the principle, and the perceived arrogance of a man who would impose his wishes upon an entire institution, and nation.

The great irony, though, is offered by Mr Mallard himself, who, determined as he is to make the prayer more inclusive, opened Parliament by reciting it in te reo. Brilliant.

How many of those assembled understood more than a word or two of that? How many wondered at the blatant double standard of evicting Jesus Christ in the pursuit of inclusivity, then intoning what's left of the prayer in a language they don't understand?

Māori culture, after all, has probably maintained a closer relationship with Christianity than have many of the descendants of the missionaries who brought it here in the first place.

Certainly Māori generally are much happier about including Christian prayers in almost any ceremony, even those that have no obvious religious context, than others are.

Does that concern Mr Mallard? Obviously not.

And you can bet your bottom dollar that neither he nor others of his ilk will ever suggest that Māori abandon reference to Jesus Christ in the interests of not excluding anyone.

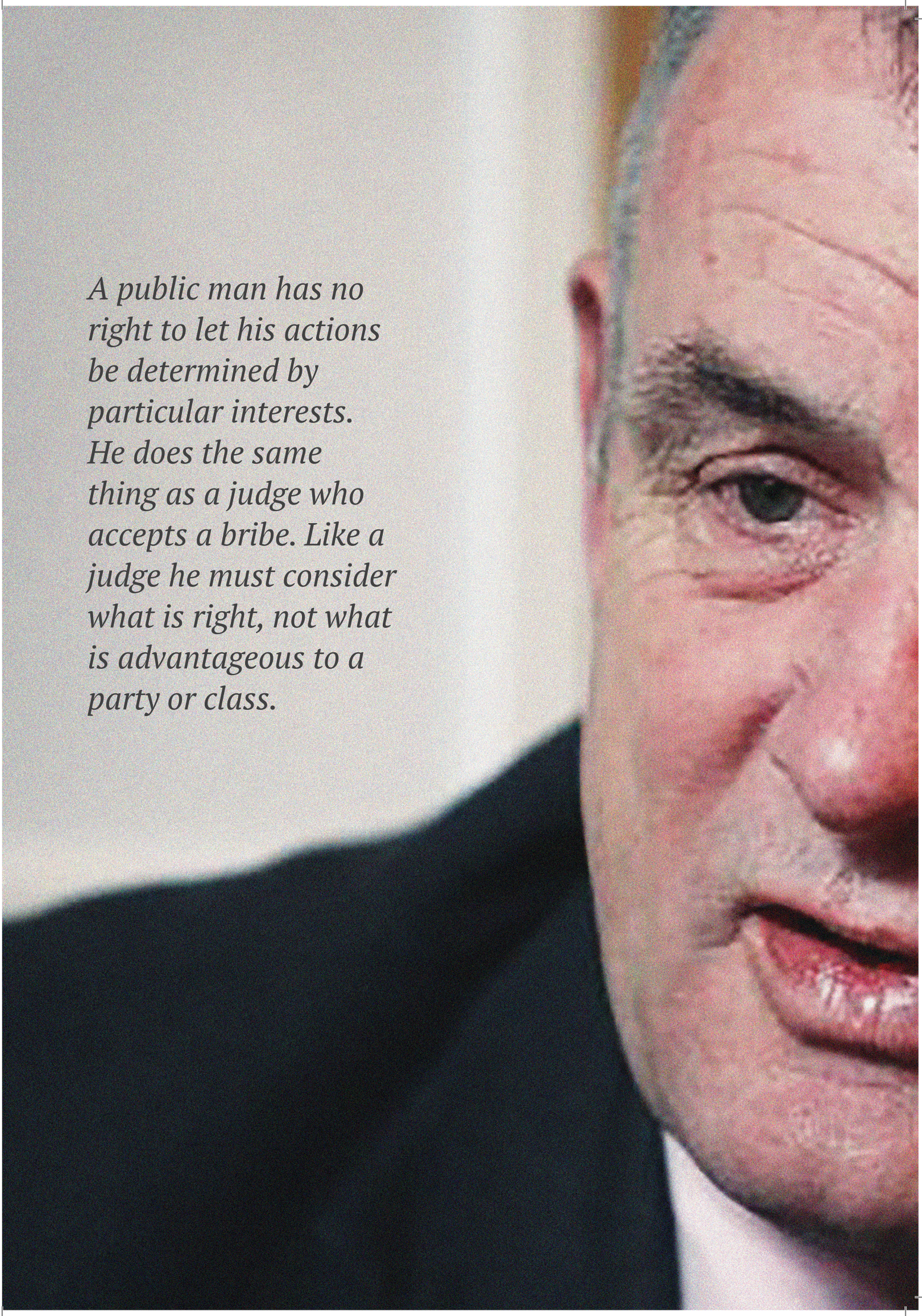
And if he is so keen to usher Parliament into a new era of acceptance of social and cultural differences, why doesn't he start with the likes of Parliament's Black Rod? That office dates back to 1642, when King Charles I entered the Chamber of the House of Commons in London in an unsuccessful bid to arrest five MPs. Still, in 21st Century New Zealand, as Black Rod nears the Chamber of the House its door is slammed shut. He knocks three times, and is then allowed in to deliver his message.

The tradition symbolises the reluctance of MPs to be dominated by the Crown. It is also why the Governor-General never enters the House. Instead, the Speech from the Throne is given in the Legislative Council Chamber, where the Upper House met until it was abolished in 1951.

All very colourful, and for many undoubtedly a treasured component of the theatre that Parliament can offer.

The Sergeant-at-Arms, ensures the rules of conduct are observed in the debating chamber, and maintains order in the galleries and among officials, and who leads the Speaker in and out of the debating chamber, goes back even further, to 1415.

None of this has any relevance to this country, certainly not those who have no British (or Commonwealth) heritage, but Mr Mallard does not seem to see that irrelevance, or consider it potentially exclusive. He seems content to give Jesus Christ His marching orders. What a disgraceful legacy that will be.



A public man has no right to let his actions be determined by particular interests. He does the same thing as a judge who accepts a bribe. Like a judge he must consider what is right, not what is advantageous to a party or class.

THE COMMON VICE OF DEMOCRACY IS DISREGARD FOR MORALITY

NZ HERALD

By Bruce Logan, 27 Februay 2018

PARLIAMENT'S SPEAKER, TREVOR MALLARD, IN A UNILATERAL FIT OF SECULAR HUBRIS, GOT RID OF THE REFERENCE TO JESUS AND PRAYS THE PARLIAMENTARY PRAYER IN MĀORI. SECULAR HUBRIS? WHAT'S THAT?

Although now in danger of slipping away, one of the great achievements of our political tradition is its grasp on freedom. After much trial and error, we managed to separate the role of priest from the role of king. It took a while to put into practice what Jesus had said, "Render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's and to God that which is God's."

For the Romans that was radical; the emperor was divine. There was no authority above the state. It didn't matter that many Romans might not have accepted the emperor's divinity, it was how it spun out in law.

The early Christians, refusing to accept the supreme authority of the divine emperor, were called "atheists", haters of mankind. It is not without irony that these hating and hateful atheists gave the West its insight into political freedom.

For most of my lifetime, the state was not absolute. There was an authority both the citizen and the government were expected to acknowledge. Certainly, the government could make laws, but even those laws were prescribed by a belief in an authority above the state.

Sometimes that division of powers is called separation of church and state. It is more than that. Secularists like Mr Mallard might find it unpalatable, but the limitation on state power is entirely the consequence of a belief in monotheism. Without God the state is supreme. It is an observable matter of historical and practical truth. Who's the boss, God, who dignifies the individual conscience, or the state?

When Parliament prays, it acknowledges its own human limitation. In a democracy that acknowledgement of limitation is essential. Prayer in Jesus' name is an exercise in humility, it is not mumbo-jumbo. It reflects the agreement that there is a power above Parliament.

We won't all have the same idea of who God is. Without some long-standing insight, men and women tend to create a god in their own image. Which is what Mr Mallard is doing. "We're not all Christians now," he says. Jesus must go.

But we don't all have to be Christians, simply recognise the foundation of our culture and in what truth our freedom lies. Mr Mallard's multicultural god is his own creation.

Mr Mallard is not advancing, in the name of diversity, the cause of a latter-day neutral secularism at all. Instead he is well on the way to creating a civil religion; a religion, whose form and subject of worship is the state itself. The demand to get rid of the prayer that has its roots in the religion that gives dignity to the individual, will erode our freedom and lead to the gradual deification of the state.

Secularism is a parasite. When it has killed the host it feeds on, it will have nothing to offer but bondage. The foundation that gives us freedom and expression of religion, free speech, freedom of assembly and freedom of conscience, will crumble.

Right now, submissions are being made on the Right to Life Choice Bill. Members of Parliament can employ a conscience vote at the third reading, if the bill gets that far. But in the secular and dechristianised society there would be no good reason to have a conscience vote.

Democracy cannot survive unless men and women possess an educated private conscience. That is, they have a duty and a right to accept an authority higher than the state. This conviction has shaped New Zealand since its foundation. The freedom we enjoy depends on it.

The secularised state will give lip service to freedom of conscience, but in practice it will not permit it. If the state has no rival power to contain its hubris, the temptation to tyranny will always overtake it. The evidence from the 20th century is overwhelming.

The conviction that we possess a private conscience is the consequence of the belief that human beings have been created in God's image. If you don't like to believe in God, it remains a matter of what you replace God by; the autonomous self? Ultimately that will become the overbearing State. And that too is the end of freedom.

BRUCE LOGAN IS A FORMER TEACHER AND DIRECTOR OF THE MAXIM INSTITUTE.

1 NEWS NOW

6 December 2017

ISLAMIC LEADER QUERIES REMOVAL OF JESUS FROM PARLIAMENTARY PRAYER

A senior Auckland Islamic prayer leader has questioned the motives and sincerity of the Government's decision to remove reference to Jesus in the parliamentary prayer – suggesting the move may be designed to marginalise all religions rather than be inclusive of different faiths.

Seyed Mohammad Taghi Derhamy is one of the trustees of the first Islamic Shia organisation in New Zealand, the Islamic Ahlul Bayt Foundation, and says the decision to make the parliamentary prayer an ambiguous uniform address, amalgamating all faiths into one, actually reduces them "all to zero" in a sense.

"If this change is to bring about more honesty and sincerity, than hypocrisy – mentioning things parliamentarians do not believe, and everybody knows they do not believe, we see that as an improvement," Mr Derhamy said.

"But if the reason people are taking the name of Jesus out is to forget about religion as a whole, I'm against it.

"To de-religionise the society, saying all religions are equal and they are all equal to zero, they are equal to nothing."

Mr Derhamy said there was no trace of resentment or alienation coming from his Islamic community, of which he leads Friday prayer and is a qualified celebrant in Pakuranga, Auckland, on the presence of Jesus in the parliamentary prayer. In fact, quite the contrary.

"No, no, no. No one in my Muslim community would resent hearing the name Jesus. The word Jesus, they love it, especially if it is pronounced by the person who believes in it," Mr Derhamy said.

"Any attempt to make the prayer something that can now can be pronounced as a collective prayer of a diverse set of beliefs I think it is not doing anybody any service.

"People who are sincere about their beliefs, they love the honesty and sincerity.

"Look, I do not mention Jesus in my prayers as a Muslim, but when I hear a Christian mentioning Jesus' name I love that, because they are honest and sincere and that is what I want them to do.

"I do not like, and I do not look for, a prayer in the parliament covering everybody, I think that would only hide lively debate."

On his first day in parliament, speaker Trevor Mallard removed both reference to Jesus and the Queen from the parliamentary prayer, telling media a consultation process with MPs would ensue before the changes were officially adopted.

However, Mr Mallard continued to exclude reference to Jesus from the parliamentary prayer up until the date, November 28, at which the supposed consultation process had resolved whether to permanently change the prayer.

Mr Mallard's explanation for the prayer amendment was that it would now be more inclusive of a "variety of religions" rather than just Christianity, and Anglicanism.

During this consultation period, National MP Jamie-Lee Ross sent a letter to Speaker Mr Mallard on behalf of the National Party Caucus to express "strong concern" over the already implemented changes to the parliamentary prayer, and the method of consultation.

Mr Ross said the National Party was concerned about the removal of Jesus Christ from the prayer for its importance to Parliament's history, and because it holds meaning "as a more personal association between members and their personal beliefs".

New Zealand's top Catholic clergy, Cardinal John Dew, also provided his very measured reservations over the Mr Mallard's impromptu removal of Jesus from the parliamentary prayer.

"While we hope that there would always be a prayer acknowledging the importance of God in our lives, it is important in today's society to be respectful of all faiths," Cardinal Dew said.

Christian Labour MPs have also been silent in their personal opinions on alterations to the 50-year-old parliamentary prayer.

Health Minister David Clark, who was a former Presbyterian Minister, only offered the following comment on Mr Mallard's prayer amendment process: "I'm following with interest the work the Speaker is doing around the daily prayer".

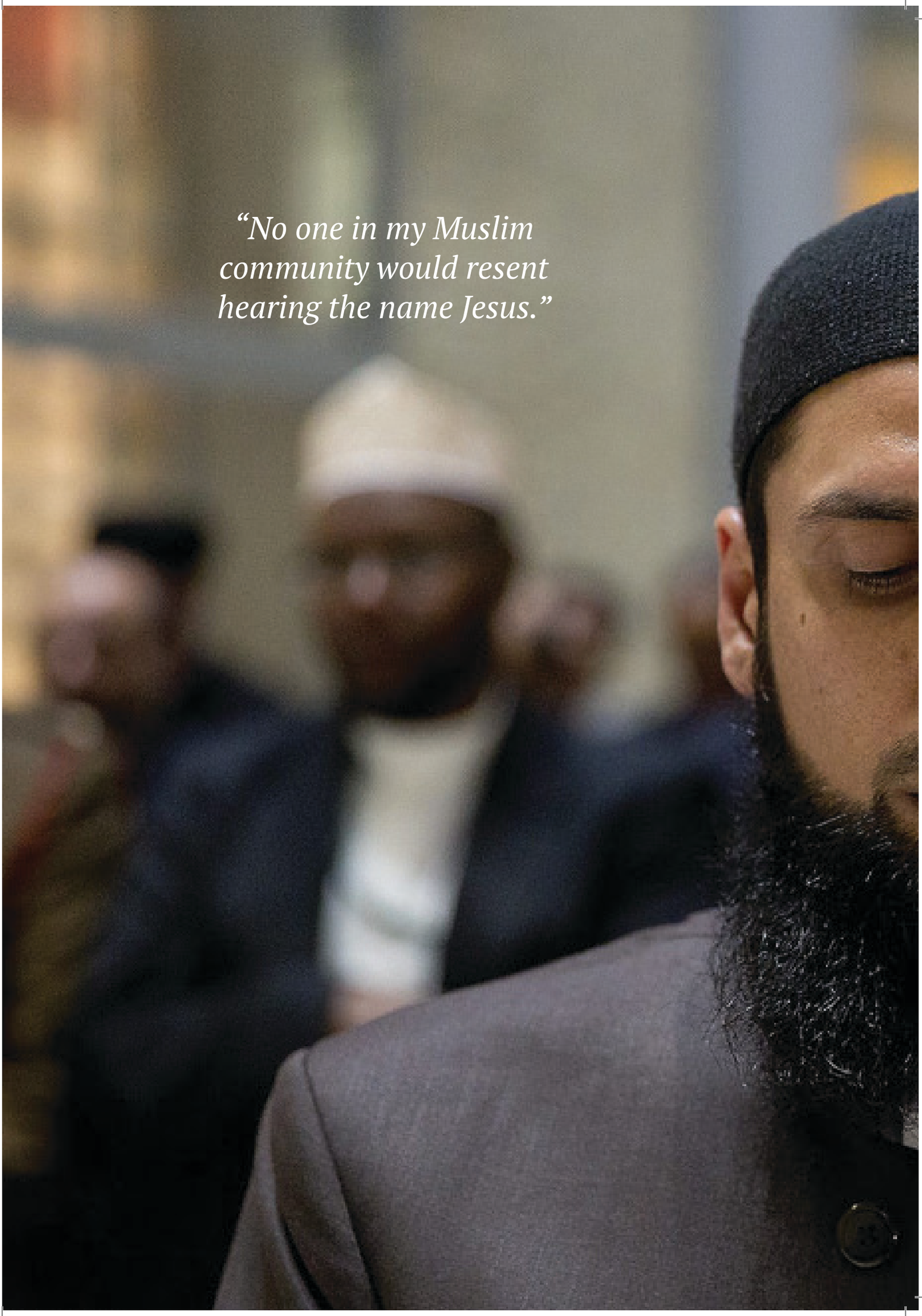
But for Mr Derhamy, the historical parliamentary prayer with reference to Jesus Christ was a healthy example of religious freedom that didn't need to speak for all faiths.

"All I am requesting, is for them to be honest and sincere, and everybody else understand that his (the Speaker's) prayer is not representing me, or any other," Mr Derhamy said.

"We must be able to say our prayers in our heart the way we believe.

"How can anybody summarise and make one out of such a diverse set of beliefs, from non-believer at all to believer in Jesus, believer in Buddha, believer in Hindu... How can you make one out of them all?

"You cannot, so why do you make an impossible task for someone to do by not mentioning Muhammad's name, not mentioning Jesus' name, not mentioning Moses' name. Are we mentioning all of them? Rubbish."


“No one in my Muslim community would resent hearing the name Jesus.”

THE RT. HON. TREVOR MALLARD, SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

WHAT ARE WE TO MAKE OF THE MAN AND HIS POSITION?

IN AN ARTICLE BY DIANA MCCURDY FOR THE NZ HERALD, BILL ENGLISH WAS SAID TO HAVE DESCRIBED TREVOR MALLARD AS 'AN UNGUIDED MISSILE ... A MIXTURE OF ENERGY AND THUGGERY'.

Russell Trethewey, former Principals' Council chairman had this to say of the man: "He is well informed but isn't willing to consider other points of view once he's made up his mind".

Sadly, there seems to be more than a little truth to that statement.

Upon his election to Speaker of the House, Mr Mallard himself had this to say: "The Speaker's office has tremendous authority. I will use that authority to preserve and enhance our democracy.'

In the interest of 'preservation' he then uses his prayer to remove the Queen and Jesus Christ from the parliamentary prayer!

And then presumably to 'enhance democracy' he read the prayer in Te Reo Māori, immediately excluding 96% of the populous from understanding what he had just done.

So much for consultation.

Where is the transparency?

What of integrity?

Such was done under the guise of 'being inclusive'.

Nonsense!

The fear is of course, that this is just the beginning, the foot in the door to total denial of any higher authority or power than self.

It's a well-worn path – man becomes his own god – and as history will attest, never advances the cause of liberty and freedom, but rather the very opposite, restriction and repression.

We the people, must, and can, do something about this.

We can object. Thankfully we have the right and the freedom to do so.

Whatever Speaker, MP or government, those elected are there to serve, represent and govern well, for the people not self-interest or to wield power just because they can.

October 30, 2018 – at Parliament grounds the people will gather and will have their say.

What will the Speaker do? Will he take note? Will he listen? Will he change?

WE SHALL SEE!

JESUS *for* NZ

CALLING ALL BELIEVERS

30 OCTOBER 2018

JESUS *for* NZ

CALLING ALL BELIEVERS

30 OCTOBER 2018

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