

What's your vision for the year 2020?

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- What's your vision for your country in the year 2020?
- What good ideas do you have for its future?
- What solutions can you think of to meet your nation's current challenges?



These are questions Australia's new Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, sought answers to at the *Voices of the Future Schools Summits*, the *Youth Summit* for those aged 15 -24, and the April [Australia 2020 Summit](#) that included Australian Hollywood movie stars Cate Blanchett and Hugh Jackman amongst the 1,000 participants.

Mr Rudd wanted the nation's previously "unheard thinkers" to unleash their best ideas and creativity on the following 10 issues: productivity; the economy/economic infrastructure/the digital economy; population/ sustainability/climate change/water; rural industry; health; social inclusion/ families/ communities; indigenous people and services; the arts; governance; and national security.

These are big issues. It's commendable that the leader of a country asked to hear from citizens of all ages and walks of life about their vision for making their homeland a better place in 2020. That's



why on day one of the *2020 Summit*, participants broke into 10 groups of 100 people each, where they put forward their individual visionary ideas. On the second day, they distilled these proposals into one really big idea from each group and proposed one idea that wouldn't cost anything to implement.

The Prime Minister and his summit team now plan to spend the rest of 2008 studying the ideas presented to them, and reporting back to the nation in December on the ideas that will be implemented. It's a big commitment and the country is anticipating radical and innovative changes that will improve the well being of all who live here.

Thinking about the future of one's country's and the best way it can move forward, is something that each person can do wherever they live around the world.

Beneficial, problem-solving ideas exist, and they can be obtained, supported and implemented with the help of spiritual, pro-active thinking and prayer. Such spiritual activism leads to solutions that better mankind. Where do such beneficial results begin?

Change for the better begins with genuine, profound, thought-provoking, outside-of-the-box kind of thinking. It's visionary, flowing out of inspiration. This type of thinking is essential if there is to be change for the better. Why? Because as the [King James Bible](#) states, "Where there is no vision, the people perish." [See [Proverbs 29:18](#)] Without forward-looking thinking, there is stagnation that eventually leads to the collapse of a society's well being. Where then, are far-reaching ideas found?

Constructive, progressive ideas abound in the realm of divine Mind and are thus accessible to all thinkers. God is All-knowing, divine Mind. God thinks. He has great thoughts about His creation, man and the universe. God is the supplier of grand thoughts. He gives His men and women made in His intelligent likeness, the ability to think, to find ideas that lead to right actions for communities. Anyone who wants to benefit others can seek God's guidance by taking time to stop, pray and listen for solutions. This is something that Biblical thinkers such as Moses did frequently.

As the leader of a nation, Moses was called upon to find solutions to such issues as water, hunger, shelter, homeland, security, community, as well as establishing moral and ethical standards. There were times when problems facing the people seemed insurmountable. He had critics and detractors who complained about the state of affairs and his leadership. He often found himself in un-chartered waters. Yet he didn't stop thinking about what needed to be done to benefit the people and keep them safe and well. Along the way he enlisted the aid of others around him, and above all Moses prayed - sought direction from God, and the divine Source-of-ideas provided him with solutions.

Moses' spiritualized thinking about current issues and future prospects achieved much for the collective and individual welfare of those he led. And when his leadership time ended with his passing, a new man, Joshua, took over the role. This new leader didn't remain static either. He too listened to God and continued to move the people forward to implementing and accomplishing bigger and better outcomes for their welfare.

Bright ideas that encompass leadership and community initiatives, pave the way for progressive steps and the unfolding of higher standards and improvements for society. To achieve this, people with forward thinking, far-reaching concepts of the future are needed. Often classified as idealists, they are able to discern things the way they could be - ways that are not readily apparent to others.



The Bible records this example. St John, while imprisoned on the Isle of Patmos, glimpsed a grand design, a new order - "a new heaven and a new earth" where "the former things are passed away." To this visionary, the previous thought-models were eliminated and God's transforming presence was seen to eliminate all tears, death, sorrow, crying and pain. This ideal model for living was perceived through spiritual sense - a faculty which everyone has as God's son or daughter.

Every individual can employ spiritual sense to think deeply about the way ahead and be ready to support visionary initiatives. This may mean letting go of pessimistic attitudes about outcomes - for example, "it's all talk and no action; nothing will come of it; this won't work." When these negative thoughts appear in the media, it's good to remember Ezekiel's experience. "Son of man, what is that proverb that ye have in the land of Israel, saying, The days are prolonged, and every vision faileth? Tell them therefore, Thus saith the Lord God; I will make this proverb to cease, and they shall no more use it as a proverb in Israel; but say unto them, The days are at hand, and the effect of every vision. For there shall be no more any vain vision." Ezekiel 12:22-24, King James Bible

Constructive ideas that bless a nation's peoples have their source in God who cares about and preserves the wellbeing of His men and women. His intelligent thoughts guide their actions and dealings with each other. As divine Principle, God's governance is orderly, precise and productive. This means that God's right ideas come forth at the right time in the right way. This is not a pie-in-the-sky attitude. God's ways are always worthwhile and successful. Through respect, good-will, community consensus, and a desire for positive action, visions of a better future can be fulfilled.

Is this the time to be a visionary thinker? Yes. Why? What we think and do now will have an impact on our future and that of coming generations. That's why we'll want to wake up one morning in 2020 glad that we seized the opportunity for progress when we had the opportunity.



So if you have a vision for your country, if you have good ideas, cherish them. Pray about them. Share them with others. Affirm the spiritual principles that allow advancement in the ten key areas mentioned at the start of this article.

Practical, creative ideas are not limited to people in government, industry, or academics. Your spiritualized thinking can make a difference in the acquisition of Mind's ideas that will forward the welfare of all citizens.

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