THE FATHER OF AUSTRALIA

Lachlan Macquarie arrived in the struggling colony of New South Wales in 1810, to become its governor. For years, the corrupt "Rum Corps" had controlled the colony. They had defied previous governors, established a currency in rum and sought only to profit themselves. Towns were run down, and conduct was disorderly.

Macquarie, however, was a man with a vision. He saw the colony as a settled community, where God-fearing men could live with their families. He set out to rebuild the colony on Biblical principles, hoping that those in his care would become good Christians.

He gained control over the rebellious "Rum Corps".

He focussed on bringing stability to family life and improving the morals of the people. He tackled the increasing trend of cohabitation by passing a regulation that any farmer wanting seed from the government stores had to show a marriage certificate!

He appointed clergy to even the most outlying areas.

He made it law that all convicts attend church on Sundays.

He closed taverns (numbers reduced from 75 to 20).

He launched the Bible Society and the Sunday School movement on the basis that the only guarantee of a moral society was a Biblically literate people.

When he left with his wife and son in 1822, he left a stable, prosperous community of 40,000 people with thriving commerce and agriculture.

Many have called Lachlan Macquarie the "Father of Australia". But we know that he was only working for the real Father of Australia! When God needed a strong leader to get the struggling colony firmly standing on a Biblical foundation, He chose a man with a good vision. God has an even greater vision for this land.

We can honour God as the Father of Australia by getting behind His vision for this nation and doing our part to bring it to pass.