

My vote for democracy

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I inwardly groaned when the Australian Prime Minister announced October 9 as the date for the 2004 national election. "Not more politics," I thought. "Our media's already full of state and federal political news - not to mention news from overseas." Now I'd have to endure six weeks of political campaigning. I grimaced at the thought. The TV's remote control would definitely receive an extra workout during this period.

Then something happened. On September 9, terrorists attempted to blow up the Australian Embassy in the Indonesian capital, Jakarta - right when this, the world's largest Muslim nation, was preparing to directly elect a president for the very first time. No Australians were harmed, but nine Indonesian citizens were killed and 173 wounded.

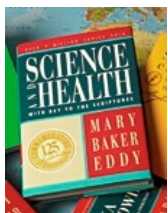


Repairs to the Australian embassy Jakarta and additional security works under construction following the terrorist bombing in September 2004

As I watched the news, it occurred to me that terrorists aim to bring down freedom and democracy - to take away personal liberty and the right of people to decide who will govern them.

That was a big wake-up call for me. I decided it was time I prayed about my apathetic attitude toward the upcoming Australian election. To live in a free society, to cast my vote, was a privilege I shouldn't take for granted.

I found these ideas in [Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures](#) by Mary Baker Eddy galvanizing:



"Love inspires, illumines, designates, and leads the way. Right motives give pinions to thought, and strength and freedom to speech and action" p. 454.

This led me to pray that divine Love, or God, was motivating me to support policies and candidates that would uphold the principles of democracy.

- I had the capacity to think clearly and make intelligent decisions.
- I could shake off political indifference.
- Divine Love was impelling me to support peace and stability through active

participation in the democratic process.

As I gave those ideas consideration - prayed - I became grateful that I had the right to vote. And when election day arrived, I thoughtfully made my choice.

Now my prayers are turning toward the United States elections. I'm valuing their political process and praying that citizens there, and everywhere, will exercise the privilege of participating in democratic government.



Voters in Australia

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