

## Big change in extremes

We are being challenged to change old habits and embrace a new way of living and conducting ourselves, both individually and collectively. In recent months we have witnessed people at their best and at their worst. We have seen many struggle with loss, fear, anxiety and uncertainty. If the pandemic has taught us anything it is: we are all in this together.

Our government has encouraged us to shop locally and to support small businesses. We have been told to only shop for “essential items”, to limit travel, to exercise more, to stay at home and to offer assistance to those who are most vulnerable. This new way has seen both negatives and positives emerge.

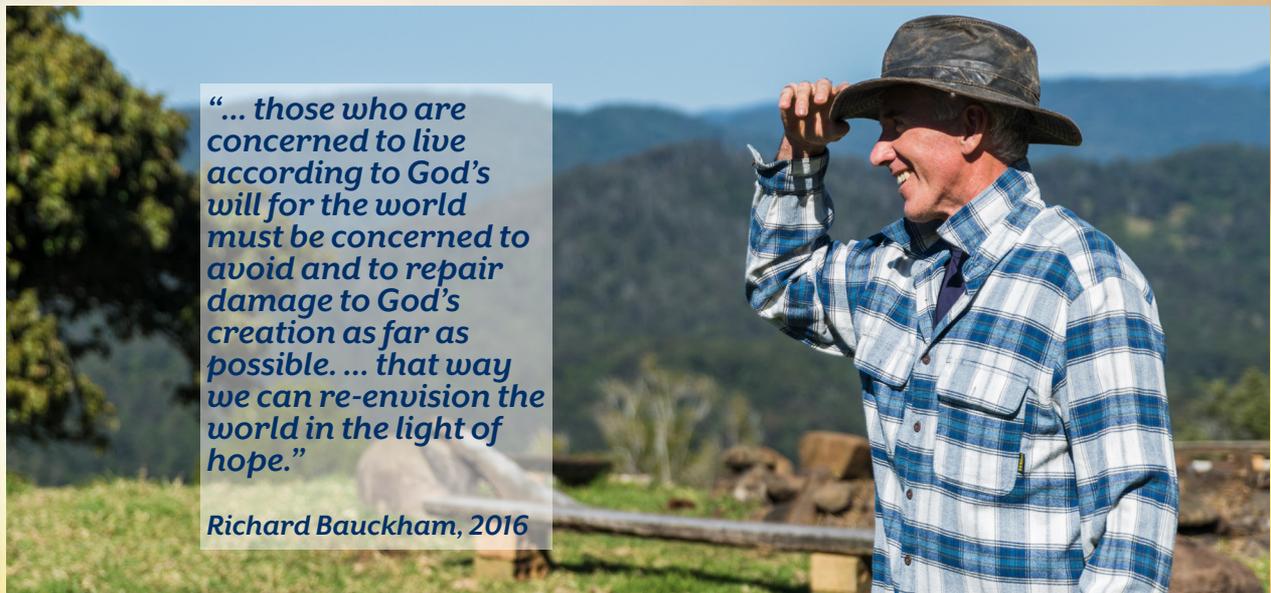
In the early stages of the pandemic restrictions, we saw abhorrent behaviour, as described by Dr Joel Hodge, “While modern societies are scientific in addressing pandemics, people still react imitatively, often resulting in violence. For example, panic-buying of items such as toilet paper became common in numerous places.

Despite supplies of toilet paper being regular and sufficient, some people even fought over it in stores.” (Retrieved from: [violenceandreligion.com/bulletin-64-may-2020/#Melbourne](http://violenceandreligion.com/bulletin-64-may-2020/#Melbourne))

As time progressed, we saw more positive changes. Queensland Government Minister Cameron Dick said the government was prioritising how it could strengthen its support for more locally made products. Food bought locally does not just support local farmers and local employment it is good for the earth as it avoids the carbon loading of our flights and long distance transportation.

As we struggle to rebuild our economy and lives, what will remain with us from this time? What have we learned? Will we have changed? And what do we want to change?

One change we can make is to buy local and support what is good for our country and our earth.



*“... those who are concerned to live according to God’s will for the world must be concerned to avoid and to repair damage to God’s creation as far as possible. ... that way we can re-envision the world in the light of hope.”*

*Richard Bauckham, 2016*

### REFLECTION

- > Do you ever consider the carbon footprint of the food you eat? The products you buy?
- > How has your life changed? Will these changes continue once the restrictions are lifted?

### REFERENCES

Retrieved from: [violenceandreligion.com/bulletin-64-may-2020/#Melbourne](http://violenceandreligion.com/bulletin-64-may-2020/#Melbourne)