

# REPORT ANZAC/800 LIGHTHORSE TOUR ISRAEL 2010, Pt 1

By Ps Barbara Miller (11/11/10, Armistice Day)

## THEMES

We have just returned (8/11/10) from a blessed time of nearly 3 weeks in Israel with a team of 21, 14 Australians and 7 New Zealanders – spiritual ANZACS. Norman and I were leading the team. Three of our team are Aboriginal and one Australian is PNG and one has British citizenship which was useful as the Allied Forces fought under British command. Aboriginal people fought in Palestine as Israel was then known so it was good to have Aboriginal representation and I repented for discrimination against Aborigines in recruitment. An article, “Too Dark for the Lighthouse” tells the story. There were a number of themes the Lord put on our heart with this prayer tour. They are not in order of importance and this report deals with Part 1 only. They were:

1. IN THE STEPS OF THE LIGHTHORSE/ANZACS
2. IN THE STEPS OF JESUS
3. IN THE STEPS OF THE FATHERS AND MOTHERS OF ISRAEL
4. PRAYING ON THE BORDERS OF ISRAEL AND IN THE HEARTLAND OF ISRAEL
5. STRATEGIC LEVEL SPIRITUAL WARFARE
6. ENGAGING WITH CONGREGATIONS IN THE LAND, MESSIANIC JEWISH & ARAB
7. ENGAGING WITH COMMUNITY AND GOVERNMENT

### 1. IN THE STEPS OF THE LIGHTHORSE/ANZACS

We timed our visit to Israel so that we would be in Be'er-Sheva for the 93<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the famous charge of the Australian Lighthouse on October 31, 1917 and the ceremonies being held that day. Norman first released the vision for this tour in the Blue Mountains at a conference



Norman & Barbara Miller at the Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery after wreaths laid by our group along with a poppy wreath donated by the Cairns RSL



Australians at Park of the Australian Soldier, Be'er-Sheva, donated by Pratt Foundation, Australia. We laid wreaths there also.

in November 2008 and then at a conference held by Jill Curry in Melbourne in January 2009. Norman usually gets the vision first and then I add to it and put legs on it. We sensed that the breakthrough anointing of the ANZACS was needed in Israel with the threats to her borders and to east Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria.

Britain and the ANZACS had brought a huge breakthrough before and now it was time to saddle up and bring a spiritual breakthrough. Courtesy of the popular books and talks by Col Stringer and the excellent scholarship by Kelvin Crombie, many Christian Australians are coming to know their connection with Israel historically. (Order Kelvin's DVDs from our Ps 24:7, Government of God conference in Canberra July 2010 [www.reconciliationandpeace.org](http://www.reconciliationandpeace.org) or his latest book "ANZACS and Israel, A Significant Connection" for an excellent analysis of the geopolitics of the Middle East.)

For those who haven't heard the story before (which is most Australians and still many in Israel) I'll briefly say that the taking of the wells of Be'er-Sheva (Beersheba) was critical for Allied victory in Palestine. The British had fought all day, the NZ Mounted Rifles and an Australian regiment took the high place of Tel es Sabe after heavy fighting. Still, all would have been lost had it not been for a daring charge by the Australian Lighthorsemen (about 800 of them) charging straight into the Turkish guns. They were not cavalry but mounted infantry and the daring charge just before nightfall took the Turks by surprise and they didn't adjust the sights on their guns quickly enough. Some Australians fought hand to hand in the trenches and others jumped the trenches and rode into the city to stop the Germans blowing up the wells. German planes were firing at them as they did their dangerous but successful charge. Still, the charge could not have happened without the British fighting all day and the New Zealanders taking the high ground, preventing them being mowed down.

This happened on Oct 31, 1917. On the same day, the British Parliament passed the Balfour Declaration in favour of the establishment of a Jewish homeland in Palestine. The political will and the military victory went hand in hand. After fighting in other towns, Gen Allenby was able to walk into Jerusalem with his forces and accept the surrender of the Turks, thus ending 400 years of the Ottoman Empire, and nearly 1200 years of almost uninterrupted Islamic rule of Jerusalem. There had always been a Jewish presence in Jerusalem and Palestine however and Jewish forces fought alongside the British to free their land.

This was a precursor to the formation of the modern state of Israel in 1948 and again, ANZACS played a critical role in the defence of Israel, then Palestine.

So as we prepared to go to Be'er-Sheva for the Oct 31 service, we approached a number of organisations in Australia to let them know we were going and the Cairns RSL donated us 4 red poppy wreaths, one of which we laid at the Park of the Australian Soldier, Be'er-Sheva and one at the Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery. We laid one at the Commonwealth Cemetery at Mt Scopus in Jerusalem and one at the NZ monument in Ness Ziona. We also laid wreaths of fresh flowers at all three ceremonies in Be'er-Sheva, including the one at the Turkish memorial. Ps Howard Bass kindly got these 3 fresh wreaths for us in Be'er-Sheva.

The New Zealand team brought with them pillows with poppies sewn into them to lay as wreaths at each place noted above because the NZ soldiers didn't have pillows according to Lila Diprose who made the pillows. They also brought loose poppies to strew.

Norman is wearing a Torres Strait Islander flag at the ceremony as he gave the Aboriginal flag to Richard Evans to wear and he wanted the other indigenous group in Australia to be represented. Kris

Schlyder, an ex army man with our team laid the wreath at the Park of the Australian Soldier with Liz and Joanna.

We went to 3 commemoration ceremonies - the Park of the Australian Soldier, the British Cemetery and the Turkish ceremony where we laid wreaths at all three - Australia, New Zealand and Britain together. It was a moving time for all of us and there was time for the team to pray at the cemetery the next day when Norman and I met with the Municipality of Be'er-Sheva.

On Oct 31, we had organised for the Vice Chairman of the Society of the Heritage of World War I to be our guide. As well as going to the ceremonies, we went to Tel es Saba where the NZ Mounted Rifles and some Australians took the high place, Abraham's well and Chauvel's Hill from where he watched the 800 Australian Lighthorsemen ride into history with their famous charge. We also saw the Warriors Club where a local ex IDF serviceman has built a museum in his backyard with much war memorabilia.

While in Be'er-Sheva, we visited HaMaKom or Bible House where local Messianic congregations have a library, meeting place and coffee shop. Ps Howard and Randi Bass are very involved there and Randi had prepared a wonderful display re the Australian Lighthorse and NZ Mounted Rifles. It is becoming an ANZAC Museum and deserves support from Australians and New Zealanders. They also gave us refreshments.

Norman and I and our ministry hosted Howard and Randi in Australia (Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra) and with Sue Rowe in New Zealand (Auckland, Hamilton and Tauranga) in July 2010 in preparation for our ANZAC tour of Israel. Thank you very much Sue and Roy!!! While we were in Melbourne meeting at Jill Curry's house, Kelvin Crombie suggested HaMaKom become the ANZAC museum Jill had been working for for some years and Howard and Randi have taken up the idea but need financial support.

We followed the steps of the Australian Lighthorsemen and the New Zealand Mounted Rifles as they fought in Gaza, Be'er-Sheva, Ashkelon, Armageddon, Semack, Ayun Kara near Rishon Le Zion, Yafo near Tel Aviv, Jericho, Hebron and Jerusalem.

We prayed in the dark at Semack which was amazing as the battle was fought in the dark although early morning and we were there in the evening. It is near the Sea of Galilee and was captured 25 Sept 1918 by the 11 Australian Lighthorse who charged a heavily fortified Turkish railway station. The charge was not as big as the charge at Beersheba but just as dangerous and daring. They were mostly Queenslanders and some from South Australia. This ended Turkish and German opposition around the Sea of Galilee.

We declared victory for the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob as we went to Mt Carmel and Megiddo, the Allied forces capturing it on 19 Sept 1918, with Australian General Chauvel calling it the Battle of Armageddon. British General Allenby was made Vicount of Megiddo or Lord of Armageddon.

On Friday, Nov 5, we visited Rishon Le Zion which is built on top of Ayun Kara where, outnumbered 8 to 1, the NZ Mounted Rifles won a hard fought victory. We visited the graves of the 50 Kiwis who died in that battle buried at Ramleh. We laid wreaths at the statue to the NZ Mounted Rifles at Ben Gurion School in Ness Ziona. This statue was only built this year with the opening on March 1.

It has been said that one of the reasons why the ANZACS did not get the recognition for their breakthrough fighting and bravery in Be'er Sheva and Palestine generally as Israel was then called

was because of an incident that greatly annoyed the British. The Bedouins were robbing the camps of the ANZACS over a period of time and the British were protecting them. One night a NZ called Leslie Lowry had his gear under his head to prevent the stealing and he was awakened by a robber. He chased him and was killed. Within 24 hours of non action by the British and a build up of resentment over a long period, the NZ with some Australians accompanying them, surrounded the Bedouin village of Surafend, got the women and children out and took their revenge. It is believed about 30 Bedouin men were killed.

We understand why this happened but do not condone it. We stand with Israel and are glad for the connection between our nations and Israel. However we wanted to say sorry to a present representative of the Bedouins for this incident. We have not been able to do that but a prominent resident of nearby Rishon Le Zion recommended that we write an apology and they would see it goes into the archives of the city. This we did. We also had a special time of repentance before the Lord. Liz stood in the gap and repented for the British involvement in this incident and using the ANZACS generally as cannon fodder etc.

The New Zealanders led the prayers at Surafend as both New Zealanders and Australians repented. Joanna led the prayers at Leslie Lowry's grave which we located. He may have been of Maori descent and Joanna linked this into prayers for the Maori people.



This account is only a quick summary of one aspect, though an important one of our tour i.e. our journey in the steps of the ANZACS and Lighthorse. We prayed right through Israel, believing to bring spiritual breakthrough as we prayed what the Lord put on our heart.

		 <p data-bbox="1198 1290 1549 1357"><b>175 Aussies &amp; 31 Kiwis buried at Be'er-Sheva</b></p> 
<p><b>Joanna Moss, NZ, Liz Wright, Britain &amp; Barbara Miller, Australia after laying a wreath together at the Turkish memorial</b></p>	<p><b>HaMaKom or Bible House ANZAC Display made by Randi Bass, Be'er-Sheva for Oct 31</b></p>	<p><b>Ceremony at 93rd anniversary Be'er-Sheva</b></p>

We are grateful to Peter Wertheim of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry who sent our story and photos to J-Wire, a Jewish News Service for Australia and New Zealand and for the Melbourne edition of Jewish News who published a story on the Oct 31 ceremonies with a photo of Norman and I. See "The Australian Jewish News" Nov 5, 2010.

**Plaque** - One of the key things we were able to do was to present a plaque to Ezra Pimentel, Vice Chairman of the Society for the Preservation of World War 1 in Israel. It is beautifully engraved. While we were with the Jewish Prayer Focus Tour led by Jill Curry in Jan 2004, we presented a certificate on paper to Jewish businessmen Avi Zakai, who has now passed away but his dream was to have an ANZAC Museum in Be'er-Sheva and he had collected many items for it. He was working to have it established at the old Turkish railway station which is beside the Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery. Jill has been trying to raise support for this project with agencies in Be'er-Sheva and Australia. His dream lives on. As an acknowledgement of that history, we have included that record on our engraving. We placed an image of the statue of the horsemen currently in the Park of the Australian Soldier on the plaque instead of the image used in 2004. We hope this plaque will become part of the ANZAC Museum in Be'er-Sheva.

Kris Schlyder, who founded the Australian Indigenous Prayer Network, brought along crosses made of horseshoe nails as a gift for each participant to put on their Lighthouse hat or elsewhere for the Kiwis (NZ). They were welded together and were to help bring unity to Australians and New Zealanders known for their sporting and other rivalries. Also, Kris believed the Lord had given him an assignment to bury the crosses at certain places the ANZACS fought, along with a Kiwi intercessor, and pray for salvation for the descendants of the soldiers who fought there. Pam Benseman became the Kiwi who did this with Kris and Liz Wright joined in. This was mainly done with the whole group supporting in prayer but sometimes on their own.

	 <p data-bbox="1129 1384 1402 1444">Kris &amp; Liz burying cross at Mt Scopus</p>
<p data-bbox="175 1765 1114 1863">ANZAC team following route of Lighthouse charge Be'er-Sheva on anniversary Oct 31, 2010. We were at Chauvel Hill at the exact time of day Gen Chauvel watched the charge.</p>	 <p data-bbox="1129 1749 1402 1863">Allenby Bridge or King Hussein Bridge Jordan border where we prayed</p>

# CERTIFICATE OF COMMEMORATION

## OF THE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP OF AUSTRALIA WITH ISRAEL

BECAUSE OF THE FREEING OF THE WELLS OF BE'ER-SHEVA  
FROM TURKISH AND GERMAN CONTROL  
BY THE BRITISH, THE NEW ZEALANDERS AND THE LIGHT  
HORSEMEN OF AUSTRALIA ON OCTOBER 31 1917

THUS OPENING THE GATEWAY TO JERUSALEM  
FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A JEWISH HOMELAND  
AND LATER THE MODERN NATION OF ISRAEL



Genesis 12:2-3.

Presented at Beersheva to Ezra Pimentel, The Society for the Heritage of World War 1 in Israel by the Lighthorse Tour 31 October 2010. Initially a certificate on paper was presented to Avraham Zakai and the people of Israel by the Jewish Prayer Focus Tour on behalf of Shnat Ratzon Ministries, the Centre for International Reconciliation and Peace, Tabernacle of David Cairns & Australian Christians 7 January 2004.

What did our tour achieve?

- God only knows what our tour achieved in the spiritual realm as we did it in obedience to him.

- We don't glorify war but we follow the rider on the white horse of Rev 19:11-16. Also we know that Jerusalem is where Messiah will rule and reign from and Israel needed to be re-established as a state and Jerusalem needed to be under Jewish rule for that to happen. The ANZACS were pivotal to that process in World Wars 1 and 2.
- We continually prayed through the land and particularly at Armageddon that our nations would not be fighting against Israel in the day the nations line up to fight Israel but that we would be standing with Israel. (Zech 12 & Zech 14, Rev 16:16)
- We honoured the sacrifice of those who fought and sewed their lives into the land of Israel and those who fought and survived.
- We were able to let the present Israel government and the Municipality of Be'er-Sheva know that there are Christians from the ends of the earth who stand with them.
- We were able to let our soldiers presently serving in Israel with multi-national peace keeping forces that we appreciate their efforts.
- NZ intercessors were able to see the monument to the NZ Mounted Rifles for the first time, connect with the school where it is placed, connect with the caretaker of the cemetery and pray at the graves, connect with an interested congregation in nearby Rishon Le Zion and see the tribute to the Kiwis at the museum in Rishon. I actually put more effort into organising this day than any other on the tour and had the help of a local pastor with my research.
- We were able to build a unity between the Australians and New Zealanders as modern day ANZACS. The Lord told me before we left to call us ANZSACS – Australian and New Zealand Spiritual Army Corps.
- It was important for our nations to repent at Surafend. This place was hard to locate as the village no longer exists but we did with local help before we left Australia. We believe some healing of the land occurred here.
- The repentance of Liz as a British citizen to the ANZACS was significant. This not only included British inaction to Bedouin thieving over a period which was a causative factor to what happened at Surafend. It also included cursing the ANZACS for taking matters into their own hands, strategically bad decisions which pulled the ANZACS out of the first Gaza war when they had taken Gaza and then sending them back later to be slaughtered when the Turks had reinforcements. Having said this, on other occasions the British made very positive comments about the quality of the ANZACS.

This is a summary only. Thanks to our team members – Qld – Ps Norman & Barbara Miller, Marian Millard, Kris Schlyder, Ada Koy, John and Hazel Morgan, NSW – Sonia Harriman, Vic – Linda Bedford, ACT – Joy Salonga, SA – Brian & Margaret McElroy, WA – Richard Evans, NT – Liz Wright and New Zealand – Lila Diprose, Joanna Moss, Sue Rowe, Vicki Francis, Pam Benseman, Dorothy McLeod and Rae Jones. Rae was amazing at 83 years old, keeping up the whole trip with lots of walking. In fact she was in the front most of the time.

Thanks to Sue Rowe who organised the NZ trip of Ps Howard and Randi Bass and ourselves, Sonia Harriman who captured much on DVD and John who carried the tripod, Norman who always knew what scripture to read at each place and how to pray and packed and unpacked the bus regularly of the luggage, Vicki Francis and Sue Rowe who scribed, Pam Benseman and Norman who song led, Pam and others who took photos, Barbara, Ps Shlomy and Miriam Abramov, Joanna and Kris who did research, Leila who led the New Zealanders, Kris and Liz who brought up the rear and counted the numbers, the whole group who did not complain of 5am wake up calls and long days with an emphasis on prayer and little time for shopping or

lunch (we did take 2 Shabbats off), the whole group who prayed, read scripture, worshipped and gave generously to pastors and congregations we fellowshiped with as we travelled through Israel, and Barbara for tour organisation with Trish Cortizo of Inner Faith Travel in Australia and Meir our tour guide from Sar El Tours in Israel.