

## **REPORT 24.7 CONFERENCE BENDIGO JULY 2007**

### **By Barbara Miller**

#### **SHAKING THE BUDDHIST WORLD**

The word of God says that all nations will be shaken (Haggai 2:20-23). V21-22 says "Tell Zerubbabel governor of Judah that I will shake the heavens and the earth. I will overturn royal thrones and shatter the powers of the foreign kingdoms. I will overthrow chariots and their drivers; horses and their riders will fall, each by the sword of his brother."

Myanmar or Burma and China are being shaken at the moment with aftermaths of cyclone Nargis in the Irrawaddy delta in Myanmar early May (100,000 killed & 1 million homeless) and the earthquake in the Sichuan province in China on May 12 (69,000 killed & millions homeless). Both have been huge tragedies and, like many, we have been praying for lives to be saved. Apostle John Steele in Bendigo is raising money for Myanmar relief efforts and he has been doing short term outreach trips there for a no of years. John has an art gallery and is selling paintings. Norman has donated 50 prints of "From Mourning into Dancing" and 50 prints of "From Darkness into Light" with 100% of sales going into work in Myanmar. Please email John & Elizabeth Steele to buy Norman's paintings at \$20 ea or to send donations of cash. You may want to donate paintings for sale.

Why should Myanmar interest the world, including Australia apart from concern at the tragedy that has occurred? The Centre for International Reconciliation & Peace partnered with Tabernacle of David Bendigo to hold a strategic conference in Bendigo, Australia July 18-22 2007 called "Ps 24:7 Open Heaven in 2007". Why hold a national conference in a country town? The largest Buddhist stupa in the west is being built in Bendigo. Not the largest in Australia. The largest in the western world. Bendigo has the largest dragon in the whole of the southern hemisphere. It is used for dancing at festivals like Chinese New Year & Easter. The Bendigo dragon was used outside the opening of the first Australian parliament in Melbourne in 1901. The gold from Bendigo built Melbourne and helped build the British Empire. Bendigo is strategic not just for Australia but the western world and southern hemisphere.

The Path of the Dragon spiritually has been traced from its beginning in Lhasa, Tibet through Myanmar and other Asian states to eastern Australia finishing at the end of the Great Dividing Range near Bendigo. We need strategic prayer all along the path of the dragon.

Our ministry thrust in Bendigo, working with Pray Bendigo pastors and TOD was to rebuild the altar of the Lord and see false altars fall (1Ki 18), see false foundations uprooted & Godly ones planted (Jer 1:10) & the Tabernacle of David raised up (Amos 9:11). This brought an Open Heaven (Rev 3:7) & released an abundance of rain (it had been in drought) from the throne of grace.

As the Australian constitution was written in Bendigo by one of the founding fathers of the nation, one of our themes was "Celebrate Federation – Ignite the Nation" given to Muriel Jencke. God gave Barbara a vision that He wanted to crown Bendigo (a gold mining town) with His glory (Isa 62).

We deliberately invited ex-Buddhist ministries or anointed Christians from Buddhist nations to minister in worship. Both from Tabernacle of David Malaysia were Apostle David Swan, a key speaker and master violinist Prody G. Bartolome. The dance leader was Rowena Pang-Lim from Thailand. Tabernacle of David Bendigo, led by Ruth Webb and Tabernacle of David Cairns led by Apostle Norman & Barbara Miller led worship and we were joined by a Tabernacle of David delegate from the Phillipines.

In a prayer of protection, as I prayed confusion against the enemies of the Lord and that they would fight one another, one of the dancers had a vision of a dragon trying to enter our conference in Bendigo and not being able to and also of other spirits fighting it.

The Lord spoke to me that rather than doing spiritual warfare at the conference to make a decree for Bendigo, Australia and the Nations and I taught on decrees. One thing God clearly spoke to me about before leaving Cairns for Bendigo was "removing illegal government" so I incorporated this into the decree. I read this decree out at the Open Heaven conference in Melbourne July 24-26 which was back to back with the Bendigo one. The next day the Premier and Deputy Premier of Victoria made a shock announcement that they were both retiring at the same time. We had done other prophetic acts and strategic prayer but we sensed the decree had had some effect as well. We received a number of phone calls from people saying they believed the conference had somehow affected the spiritual atmosphere and this governmental decision.

This was the government that had prosecuted Danny Nalliah and Daniel Scot, two Christian pastors, for religious vilification under the Racial and Religious Tolerance Act 2001 when some members of the Islamic Council of Victoria complained about their teaching on Islam. In Dec 2004 the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal found them guilty. The pastors had maintained they had a right to freedom of speech and had merely pointed out what was in the Qur'an.

In Jan 2007, the Supreme Court of Victoria upheld an appeal by the pastors & Catch the Fire Ministries & sent the matter back to the tribunal with the stipulation that it be heard by another judge and without the calling of further evidence. However an agreement was reached between the parties with a joint press release in June 22, 2007. Victoria was the first state in Australia to put this legislation in place and this was the first court case under that legislation. Christians lobbied that it not be enacted in other states and were largely successful. Much prayer of Christians around Australia and the world went into this test case. Did the decree provide the spiritual last straw? Was it a coincidence that the Premier and Deputy Premier resigned? Prayers were not against them, only **for** godly government.

When I spoke at the All Pacific Prayer Assembly (APPA) Women's Meeting in August 2007 in PNG to thousands of women from the Pacific about the power of decrees, they adopted the decree for Bendigo, Australia and the Nations and changed the wording to make it PNG and the Pacific and women from the 19 provinces of PNG eagerly signed it and the women from other Pacific nations took it home to get it appropriately endorsed. It has been a focus of passionate prayer since then leading up to this year's APPA in Hawaii on around 24 July.

In Cairns, we've continued to declare the decree for Bendigo, Australia and the Nations daily in our corporate prayer time since July 07 and daily pray for PNG & the Pacific.