

# INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON RECONCILIATION AND PEACE CAIRNS, AUSTRALIA 14-18 SEPTEMBER 1998

The opening ceremony consisted of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander dancers from Emmanuel College with banners and flags and Torres Strait Islander dancers from St Lukes Anglican church singing action songs in language, using a traditional drum and dressed in traditional clothes. One banner was made for our conference by a messianic Jewish sister and had Isaiah 61 on it. The traditional Aboriginal owners of the Cairns, Ethel and Patricia Singleton, welcomed conference goers to their land and Pastors Norman and Barbara Miller of the Centre for International Reconciliation and Peace, conference organizers, also welcomed delegates. Barclay and Shirley Miller sang "All Heavens Declare" and Barclay opened in prayer.

**Pastor Barry Tattersal**, President of the Cairns Christian Ministry Council gave the opening address. He said - God sent me to an encyclopedia, to the 1815 Battle of Waterloo which changed the social, economic and political situation in Europe. The battle was in Belgium. The signalman sent the message all the way to London, one word at a time. – Wellington defeated. Then it stopped because of a great fog on the hilltop. Fear and depression were experienced. Then when the fog lifted, the full message came through – Wellington defeated Napoleon. Satan's bulletin board on Good Friday read Jesus Defeated and there was a descent into a great darkness but on Resurrection Day, the true message came through – Jesus Defeated satan.

If you haven't got a victory message, wait for the fog to lift. The first part of a message is usually what's wrong. The second part of a message is what needs to be done. The fog sets in. We don't get to the last part –how it's to be done. We won't have all of God's message till we have a strategy or plan that's doable. We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us. Eph 3:16-19. I pray you'll know the fullness of God in reconciliation this week.

**Don Freeman**, Tjapukai Aboriginal Cultural Centre – On behalf of the Jewish community of Cairns, I wish you all the best for this conference. There are many conflicts the world over in religion, politics, and land but all conflicts can be resolved when people talk to each other and open their hearts to each other in reconciliation.

Barclay and Shirley Miller sang "All Heavens Declare" and Norman said it was important to honour your parents. Barclay Miller, Norman's father, opened in prayer.

A welcome was extended to Mr Paul Kamsler Snr, the owner of the Pacific International Hotel where the conference was held. He and his wife and sons have contributed to the community.

**Mr Paul Kamsler Snr** – Reconciliation and Peace. It's a bit late in the piece, isn't it? I've lived here 60 years. I'm part of the holocaust generation. I survived. Not just Jews suffered but gypsies and Aborigines. I hope this conference will be repeated all over the world. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have been very good to the Kamsler family. Even though we're not of any faith except our own, I feel tied to Aboriginal and Islander people. I remember Henry Stevens praying for my son Paul who was about to be born and that left an indelible memory. I fear for some of the things happening in Australia. A diplomat told Australia is now a mirror image of Europe 30 years ago. We've got to be very careful.

**Barbara Miller** – First off all, Paul, we'd like to present you with a certificate to recognize the work you and your sons have done in reconciliation by employing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. We apologise to you for the holocaust. We know the Christian church turned a blind eye and there was an attitude within the church that allowed that to happen and we're deeply sorry.

**Norman Miller** – We ask you to forgive us.

**Paul Kamsler Snr** – Let's make sure history doesn't repeat itself in this country.

**Norman Miller** – My dad and brother have worked for the Kamsler family. They have opened many doors for indigenous people of Cairns and people of other nations. (Barbara prayed blessings on the Kamsler family.) Norman honoured the Jewish mothers and fathers of our faith and honoured Don and Judy Freeman for their work on reconciliation being the largest employers of Aboriginal people in Australia. A certificate of appreciation was made for them as well.

**Vision for Conference – Norman Miller** – the Bible says husbands should love their wives and wives should submit to their husbands. Barbara has been my mentor and the mentor to many indigenous leaders in the secular as well. She's been mentoring them for over 20 years. The theme of the conference is the Spirit of Joseph as Joseph kept his heart right. So did Barbara over many many years. She worked on the Aboriginal Deaths in Custody. She's been a wonderful leader and made many many waves in this nation. She's spearheaded this whole ministry in the area of reconciliation.

**Barbara Miller** – I'd also like to honour Norman by saying what a wonderful husband he's been. I want to let you know how this conference was birthed. Some of you will have hopes for what will happen this week or will have had a word from the Lord about what'll happen this week. Others won't know why you're here except God told you to be here.

We went to Coventry England for Reconciliation 97 conference and on the rest day, the Lord this conference on our hearts to have in Cairns and to set up an International Centre for Reconciliation and Peace in Cairns with a worldwide network of people working on God's plans and purposes. God's brought two visions together here – ours and the British Reconciliation tour of Australia hosted by the Australian Prayer Network. These two visions have come together at this time in this place at this conference.

In England, we prayed Lord, what's your agenda and how do we fit into it? Then I had a dream someone was trying to kill Norman and I behind the altar of a church sensed a spirit of death over Britain. That same night Robyn Peebles' intercessor had struggled with a spirit of death. Princess Diana had just died. A spirit of death and war has been exported around the world by Britain.

Then I had a vision of Henry V111 and the word that the Church of England has been birthed in bloodshed and there needs to be reconciliation between the Anglican and Catholic churches. The Lord showed me there needed to be reconciliation with the Celtic peoples and church as well.

Norman repented to God and Britain for attitudes Aborigines have towards Britons because of theft of land, murder, rape etc. We felt God had brought us to the source of the problem to lay the axe to the root. We did. We didn't know the British intercessors were thinking about coming to Australia to repent. We believe we helped birth something in the spirit.

When we came back to Australia, we went to Praise Corroboree a few months later. Roger Mitchell, a leader of the British and European prayer movement, came out to Australia to help set up the tour

of the British intercessors to Australia. Tim Edwards, Jim Nightingale and John Blackett who are at this conference were at Praise Corroboree. Roger apologized to Aboriginal leaders at a small meeting on the lawns of Parliament House. As they were unsure how to respond, Norman accepted the apology and repented to him of Aboriginal attitudes. They were both precursors of what God would do.

Another British intercessor, Jackie Hopkins, came to Praise Corroboree and then up to Cairns to our church. She had been at the Coventry conference in England when we forgave Britain and she wanted to receive it on Britain's behalf as well as stand in the gap and repent for Britain. Jackie is here again this week.

While British-Australian reconciliation is very much at the heart of God's agenda, He has a wider agenda than that eg Jewish-Gentile, rich-poor, male-female, old-young, denomination-denomination, church-community reconciliation. 2Cor 5:17-19 says that we have a ministry and a message of reconciliation. Gal 3:28 says.....

We believe Jewish-Gentile reconciliation is close to God's heart. The original division between Jew and Gentile has built a platform that has given satan legal access in racial divisions around the world. So while we started working on indigenous-nonindigenous reconciliation, we've moved into the area of Jewish-Gentile reconciliation.

God really spoke to us about honouring people at this conference – the Jewish mothers and fathers of the Christian faith and the Aboriginal mothers and fathers of the Aboriginal nation. They are able to give us a special blessing and we need to come in the opposite spirit to the way they've been treated and honour them.

Some of you here in Cairns would've noticed in the papers during the week that we have an art competition on the theme of reconciliation for schools around Cairns. This was to reach out to youth in the area of reconciliation. These paintings are on exhibit now at our gallery – the Munganbana Aboriginal Art Gallery. We are also exhibiting work from an International Art Exhibition on the theme of Reconciliation and Peace which we organized to coincide with this conference. We wanted to use the arts to glorify God.

We've had an issue where two local Aboriginal artists wanted to exhibit paintings of the rainbow serpent, which they believe to be creator, in this exhibition. We refused because we believe God is the creator. We've had the ABC, a Current Affair TV, Triple J radio in Sydney and The Cairns Post newspaper on to us for statements after the Aboriginal artists complained to the media. We had abusive phone calls, me from white Australians and Norman from Aborigines. They think reconciliation means we've got to embrace anything and everything that are other people's points of view. However Christianity is above culture. When we become Christians, we examine our culture and give up what does not line up with God's word, whether that's the rainbow serpent or the materialism of western culture. In Rev 7:9, we see all cultures and nationalities and languages worshipping God before the throne.

Sometimes the church doesn't tackle the hard issues because of fear. Jesus said He had come to bring division in some situations. Even though our heat is for reconciliation, sometimes God will ask us to make a stand. Sometimes we have to die our little deaths too.

**Norman Miller** – When the enemy brings division, he wants your vision to die. The key is forgiveness. I believe there'll come a time of great humility. The secular world is leading in the area of reconciliation and Christians need to be more active in this area. We need to repent of the sins of our forefathers. We were fellowshiping at a church in Cairns and God showed us a vision of a

baby eagle being kicked out of its nest because it was too comfortable. God had to bring us out and show us a bigger picture. In 1995, we spent a year in Brisbane, after I'd been in Cairns for 17 years. I'd been working in Cairns as a drug and alcohol counsellor. The Lord gave us the scripture in Jeremiah "For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you." We worked across churches. In dreams I kept getting flashes of 1998. Now I'm seeing what God has done.

Part of this ministry is that Barbara and I walk this road together. In 1995, they wanted to make me a youth pastor but I didn't feel led to by the Lord because they weren't interested in Barbara. I wouldn't speak at the Reconciliation 97 conference unless Barbara was allowed to share my time with me because I knew God wanted us both to share. We did. I believe in releasing women to preach, song lead etc. I had the husbands in our church pray over their wives to release them into the ministry. We think women are under a curse. Men need to ask forgiveness. What God puts together let not man separate. If my wife doesn't share, I won't either. Husbands, allow your wives to minister, walk together, grow together.

Barbara prayed a spirit of Joseph over the indigenous people of this nation on Australia Day 96. God strengthened this word in our hearts so that it became part of the theme of this conference - Spirit of Joseph (Gen 50:20) - "You intended to harm me but God intended it for good, the saving of many lives". Joseph rose to rulership and authority in the land because he kept his heart right when treated badly. So will Aboriginal people. Joseph had a vision but his brothers sold him off after nearly killing him. This is not a time to sell your brothers and sisters in Christ off. Don't run them down. I believe God will break down walls between churches this week. It will open the doors for you to go into different denominations and minister.

We need to recognize our brothers in Christ, their callings etc. Joseph recognised his brothers in the famine but they didn't recognize him. He told them to bring back their brother Benjamin if they wanted to see his (Joseph's) face again. Maybe God is saying to us "You won't see My face if you don't recognize your brother. Let the healing begin!!! Stand, join hands and be led by Ps Tim Edwards in singing "You're My Brother, You're My Sister". Ps Tom Hallas ended off in prayer.

### **Tim Edwards- Indigenous - Nonindigenous Reconciliation**

#### **Jeremy Jones - Jewish - Gentile Reconciliation (Monday night)**

#### **Norman Miller (Tuesday night)**

Zech 8:23. Barbara, please pick up the land of Israel flag representing the apostolic mothers and fathers of Israel. We'll also take in our hands the Israel flag to honour the indigenous apostolic mothers and fathers of this nation of Australia. We also honour the mothers and fathers of the Torres Strait Islands and the nonindigenous mothers and fathers of Australia.

When we planted our church, many said it was segregation; that it was a black church. The Lord told us the first flag He wanted was the Jewish flag. The conference is being held at the Pacific International Hotel because it is owed by a Jewish family, the Kamslers. We need to honour and bless the Jewish people. Even the Aboriginal art gallery we rent is owned by Jewish people.

When we speak about the end times, we can't leave out Jewish people. God said our conference is like a mini Feast of Tabernacles. A small beginning to big dreams.

Jeremiah talked about two sins - forsaking the springs of living water and digging our own cisterns. We need to be like the woman at the well who said "Sir, give me water."

We need to be watchmen in the area of reconciliation over Australia and Israel. This nation of Australia was birthed in violence, rape, alcohol, theft etc. It was a penal colony. A nation divided against itself can't stand. God wants us to stand in the gap. We need to come together. He is the master potter and we need some shaping. Like the crippled man at the gate Beautiful, we need to rise up and walk. We need to march forward together.

Jeremiah was a prophet called to the nations by God. (Jer 1:1). God said to him, "What do you see?" We see faults in others but not in ourselves. It's like a car with fog on its windows. We need to wash it off. Sometimes we need to wipe the fog off our eyes to see what God wants to do in the nation of Australia.

The Lord showed Jeremiah a boiling pot. We see injustice and violence but as Christians we tend to walk away. We see racism that is even in the churches. My wife and I set up the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Ministries Fraternal which is also open to nonindigenous ministers working with indigenous people but there was opposition to it as segregation. However we needed to bring our brothers and sisters together into fellowship instead of being isolated and to provide an opportunity for mentoring so they can go forward. My wife is one of the best mentors I've had.

Rev 10:1 - the endtime angel with the rainbow. God will place His foot on this land one more time!!! Joseph had a vision. Israel gave him a coat of many colours. I believe God wants the indigenous people of this nation to wear a coat of many colours. Joseph kept his heart right when he was sold off by his brothers.

We need to recognize the gifts God has laid on our brothers and sisters church. Ministers run their wives down from the pulpit. I say to myself, God that can't be you! I know God's called Barbara and myself to work together in reconciliation. Jeremiah's ministry was unpopular. He said things people didn't want to hear. I'm not here to make my ministry popular.

The nation of Australia was birthed in massacres. It is like a valley of dry bones. Many were killed. There is a valley of dry bones in Europe where many Jews were killed in the Holocaust. Christians saw injustice and stood back. Now God wants to deal with nations. He wants all nations to repent.

We can be in a spiritual famine, a famine of hearing God's word. Before this conference, the Lord said to me, "Norman, there'll come a spiritual famine to those who've not let you in, who've not opened up doors for you and Barbara to share". For churches in this city to come into unity, God will have to do things. God told me that He had put it on many hearts to give into this conference but many had not obeyed His word.

For the massacres in Australia and Israel, God forgive us. WE see many things but failed to act. Let the people of Israel go back, draw them back Lord to their birthplace, their own nation. Save your people. We pray salvation over Israel. Israel and indigenous and nonindigenous people of Australia, call out to God. Let the mighty army of God arise and march forward. Help us Lord to be watchmen over this city and this nation.

**Barbara Miller** read and prayed in Ezekiel 37 over Norman's painting of the valley of dry bones. We prayed for massacre sites around the world. ....

We put the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags on Norman's painting of Millenium Watch. We speak to indigenous people whose hope is cut off and we say rise up in the spirit of Joseph to leadership and rulership in this nation and send out to the nations apostles, prophets, priests, evangelists and teachers.

There is a banner rising out of the Centre of this nation "AUSTRALIA IS FOR JESUS" X 3. Australia will stand among the nations as a country with much favour, a light to this world. The indigenous people are carriers of Your light and Your water. Rain is poured out on Britain, the mother country that came here with much weeping. Rain is poured out on Australia and Britain and around the world.

**Norman** - I call for Mum and Dad and Jim Nightingale to pray for the mothers and fathers of this nation.

**Jim Nightingale** - This land has lacked mothers and fathers. You're turning the hearts of the fathers to the children. Bring forth true mothers and fathers and elders of this nation. There's more to pray into. We've just lifted the lid off something here.

**Norman** - I ask for forgiveness of nonindigenous people because, as Aborigines, we've failed to see the good things you've done for us. We've spoken wrongly and acted wrongly towards you and been racist. Let's walk together in reconciliation now.

**Tim Edwards** - The rattling and shaking and joining together is happening and God is a God of life.

**Jim Nightingale** - This is the birth of something and the spirit of God needs white Australians to receive from Aboriginal elders. WE need to receive from the apostles and prophets of the land.

**Barbara** - On Australia Day in Brisbane in 1996, Jim asked Norman to sing and me to speak. I prophesied a spirit of Joseph over the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of this land. God is raising them up because of the sweet forgiving attitude of many. God is raising them up to a position of authority and sending them to the nations.

I shared on Ezekiel 37. While this is in the context of Israel, I prayed and prophesied that over the indigenous people of Australia that where there had been death, there would be life and where their hope had been cut off, that there would be hope. That birthed something in our spirit for what is happening here this week with this Reconciliation and Spirit of Joseph conference.

It's been on our hearts for years to go to massacres sites to pray over them. But God spoke to us tonight that we could use the painting of dry bones. A year ago in our church while we were praying on a Saturday night, Norman and others were praying inside, calling people in from the north, the south the east and the west and I was praying outside, walking the perimeter. As I came back inside, God had me pray to the graves that the dead would rise up from them and that the sea would spew up and cough up the dead. I thought it was strange but then I realised we were calling the spiritually dead and prophetically calling them to spiritual life.

**John Blackett** ended in prayer thanking the Lord for giving us life.

---