Let’s Rebuild Australia

There is a jigsaw coming together today from the visions and dreams that a number of people have had during the last twenty-five years. Some of these people know that what they have seen and felt is really important, but they are now realising that those things are also a part of an awesome picture that God is putting together. We want to explain that picture to you.

The picture is one of repairing and affirming godly foundations for the nation and replacing ungodly ones, so that Australia can move forward from this point in time, to be:

- a nation with relationships of trust and respect between all peoples, especially between indigenous and non-indigenous people
- a nation fulfilling its very significant destiny in the world by helping others find release from bondage and oppression through Jesus Christ.

{mospagebreak title="The Broad Picture"} The Broad Picture The foundations of Australia as a nation are based on a number of factors, some of which are very negative influences. Others, such are Christianity, have been very positive, despite the actions of some individuals. Large numbers of indigenous Australians are very thankful to God that missionaries brought them the Gospel of Jesus Christ [and it is probably a much higher percentage than among the non-indigenous community].

The negative foundational factors include the action of James Cook when he illegally claimed this land in the name of the King of England. Another involved the establishment of the nation as an English penal colony and a place to hide the victims of an unjust social system that tried to control its starving people harshly.

We do not want to concentrate here on the negatives, but few people would claim that Australia today is in a good state spiritually or morally – or even physically, with land degradation, droughts, bushfires and floods. Much of this is the result of bad stewardship of God’s land.

It is time to restore Australia for God’s glory and purposes, based on God’s standards: spiritually, morally, economically and physically. The process includes restoring the place God has given to the indigenous people He put in this land, and setting things right to re-establish righteous foundations. This will include ripping up and re-laying some bad foundations and repairing others. Then we can repair and rebuild in real partnership between all peoples in a land that honours God and His standards. {mospagebreak title="The False Foundations"}

The False Foundations

Australia’s foundation as one nation is based on violence and a lie. Here is the situation:

- Captain James Cook was a godly man who treated his men much better than most other ship’s captains. Cook’s trips inspired William Carey to take the Christian message to remote parts of the world.
- When Cook arrived in this land, indigenous people were living in many highly developed social, economic, legal and spiritual nations or tribes. They had systems of trade links between their nations that extended across the land and right up into China through the annual visits of Indonesian tribes-people. Large quantities of local produce, including cultured pearls, were involved. They had complex legal systems and artistic talents that are finally starting to be recognised across the world today.
- But Cook did not learn any of this, and made some drastic mistakes. His orders were to make friends with people living in lands he visited so he could explore the possibility of establishing colonies. However, within 15 minutes of his arrival in this land he ordered his men to fire their muskets so that he could land at Kurnell in Botany Bay, Sydney. An Aborigine was injured. As a result, their subsequent entry to this land was a forced and violent entry to this land.
- A few months later, Cook landed on an island in Torres Strait, raised an English flag and claimed the whole of this land in the name of the King of England. This was based on the clear lie that no one lived in the land and it belonged to no one. This was an illegal act, against the orders of his government and contrary to the international law of his day.

We need to show dramatically that we reject the violent entry of English people, and the lie that led to the illegal claiming of this land by the English king’s representative. To deal with this issue there must be a positive recognition of the historical presence and responsibilities of the ‘First Nations’ indigenous people in this land and an appropriate correction to the recorded history of Australia.

These issues cannot be discarded simply as historical events. The process of rebuilding Australia requires an acknowledgment of the mistakes of the past that are still offensive to God and a bondage to this nation today. It is about discovering the truth by starting at the beginning, rather than halfway along the story, and putting things right. It is about admitting the truth of what happened and accepting responsibility for the effects of our heritage, just as King David had to do with the Gibeonites (2 Samuel 21) and today’s business executives have to do over mistakes made by their predecessors.

{mospagebreak title="What has been done"}

What has been doneA number of steps have been made, particularly in the last twenty-five years in rebuilding the nation. In 1978 and 1979, there was concentrated prayer and spiritual warfare in north Australia which prepared the way for the 1979 indigenous revival at Galiwin’ku, Elcho Island, that later swept across the land. Also in 1979, around 70 leaders from around the nation met for three weeks for the Intercessors For Australia Leaders’ Prayer camp, where the Run Of Faith organised by Youth With A Mission was birthed, along with many other strategic steps.

Another step was the opening of the new Parliament House in Canberra in May 1988, when a crowd of 50,000 circled Parliament House to surround the whole nation in prayer. The Awakening movement with major gatherings and prayer, has called the church to reclaim Easter and Christmas. Currently this move is focusing on ‘reclaiming community’.

In 1998 a group of over 30 British intercessors came to Australia for over a month, travelling to many parts of every state to apologise and repent over their nation’s actions in this land. In 1999 the Australian Prayer Network organised a significant gathering of leaders and intercessors at Uluru. During 2003, tens of thousands of Christians across Australia are joining in special prayer for the nation, called by the Australian Prayer Network.

In these and other events and times of prayer, God is producing a spiritual change over the land.

{mospagebreak title="A National Act of Recognition"}

A National Act of Recognition

Rev Lindsay McDowell (Chairman, Southern Cross Ministries Australia) had a vision of sailing a tall ship into Botany Bay and re-enacting Captain Cook’s arrival at Botany Bay and, with the support of the indigenous community, ‘getting it right this time’. He plans a National Act of Recognition, which would:• Re-enact the arrival of Cook in this land.
• Recognise the place of indigenous people in this land.
• Seek their permission for the first migrants to stay.
• People representing the English and other immigrants would honour and respect indigenous Australians as a people who were living in their own homes.
• They would repent for their predecessor’s wrongs against the indigenous people of the land.

• They would pledge their commitment to cooperate with the indigenous people in our shared use of the land and of the skills and values of all people living in this land.

{mospagebreak title="Indigenous Spirits"}

Let’s Rebuild Australia

Indigenous Spirits God, the Great Creator, has been in this land through the Holy Spirit since the time of creation. He revealed stories and pictures about God to indigenous people, which is shown in many of their stories, ceremonies and beliefs.

However, there are also aspects of indigenous culture that come from Satan. Australian Aboriginal Christian Leader, Tim Edwards says:

The legend of the rainbow serpent is told all over Australia, that this serpent is the all knowing,great creator. The rainbow in scripture speaks about God’s Covenant and Promise to all mankind. Today this old serpent is exposed as the father of lies who doesn’t have covenants or promises, but has established himself through myths and legends as the creator of Australia.

…the First Nation people have been bitten by this serpent of old… have believed in the legend of the rainbow serpent and to this day seem crippled in economics, health, employment, housing, social rejection plus many other disabilities.

In 1606 it was prophesied that Australia would be the “Great Southland of the Holy Spirit”... this is God’s Promise and Covenant for our land... If ancient spiritual strongholds are not identified and exposed, then God’s destiny for Australian Aborigines (as first people in the land) and the Australian Church will not be as affective or be fulfilled.

Ps Tim Edwards SpearMaker Australia

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