

## A Destiny Together: Justice for First Peoples



In July 2012 in Adelaide, the members of the 13th Assembly of the Uniting Church listened to members of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC) tell stories about the effects of the Federal Government's 'Stronger Futures' legislation (and the 'Intervention' before that) on their lives and their communities.

The Assembly members were very moved by the stories of harm and exclusion and responded in two ways. The first was to 'down tools' and make a silent procession through the streets to the South Australian Parliament to pray and sing in a public vigil of lament. The second was to adopt a resolution calling on the Church to engage in a week of prayer and fasting for justice for the First Peoples.

### What is A Destiny Together?

A Destiny Together is a call from the Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia to all Church members to participate in a nationwide week of prayer and fasting for justice for First Peoples. It is a reflection of the Church's commitment to work together for justice, recognition and reconciliation and to bear witness to the genuine transformation of relationship that is possible through God's love in Jesus Christ.

... prayer, fasting and reflection. There will be many different ways to participate:

through daily personal fasting and prayer, organising a public vigil in your suburb or town, and daily prayer and Sunday services in church.

A public prayer vigil in Canberra ... on the lawns of Parliament House in Canberra, on Tuesday 18 March... a public witness to both our grief at the continued injustice, racism and exclusion suffered by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and our belief that recognition, justice and reconciliation are possible when we work together. The vigil will be led by the Chair of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC), Rev. Ronang Garrawurra, and the President of the Uniting Church, Rev. Prof. Andrew Dutney.

## A Destiny Together 17-23 March 2014



## Inside:

News from all over	2
Possession Island Declaration	2
Revival only comes	3
Indigenous Jobs Gap	4
New Book by Barbara Miller	5
Khesed's Auditor & Webmaster	5
A Destiny Together 2014	6

# 91 March 2014

# Khesed News

## Revival only comes...

### Revival comes... only after the land is cleansed

*My people are pleading with Me  
for revival,  
but there will be no revival until  
the land that has been defiled with  
innocent blood, has been  
cleansed and redeemed.*

The LORD seems to be speaking this word through a number of different sources lately.

In Ezekiel 39:12-15, the prophet speaks of people being employed for 7 months to scour the land to find the unburied bones and bury them to cleanse the land.

In other places God speaks of human bones defiling the land – such as 2 Kings 23:15-16 when a false altar at Bethel is defiled by burning bones on it.

Over 20 years ago, Rodney Minniecon was talking about the importance of healing the land and he was using salt and communion elements to bring healing to defiled places.

*continued on page 3 —>*

## ...after the land is cleansed

*238 years after Captain Cook took possession of Eastern Australia - on 23 August 2008 - a group of 12 Indigenous leaders went to Possession Island, together with women and children, for a prophetic act of worship, prayer, communion, repentance and a declaration in which they claimed back the land. Ps Rodney Minniecon (far right) and the mayor/chairman of Torres Strait were part of the group.*

*- continued on page 2*



## Possession Island Declaration

◆ On this day, Saturday 23rd August 2008, 238 years later, we, the original inhabitants of this land, have gathered here today by the authority invested in us as granted by God and before these our ancestors and our elders and before these witnesses to raise the Torres Strait and Aboriginal flag as a sign that from this day forth, we do rightly claim back our inheritance.

◆ We, therefore make this solemn statement by the authority invested in us as granted by God and before these our ancestors and our elders and before these witnesses, and break the Terra Nullius curse (lie) that was proclaimed from this place, 238 years ago by Captain James Cook.

◆ We, therefore make this solemn statement by the authority invested in us as granted by God and before these our ancestors and our elders and before these witnesses, and break the spirit of poverty and every stranglehold that this curse has brought upon us, the original inhabitants.

◆ We, therefore make this solemn statement by the authority invested in us as granted by God and before these our ancestors and our elders and before these witnesses, to forgive those who have trespassed against us, the original inhabitants.

◆ We, therefore make this solemn statement by the authority invested in us as granted by God and before these our ancestors and our elders and before these witnesses, and speak restoration to traditional livelihood, spirituality, cultures, ceremonies, lore and languages of the original inhabitants.

◆ We, therefore make this solemn statement by the authority invested in us as granted by God and before

these our ancestors and our elders and before these witnesses, and speak life and restoration of health, wealth and prosperity upon our Elders, our Leaders, our Families, our Homes, our Clans, our Tribes, us, the original inhabitants.

◆ Finally, we acknowledge the great Creator Spirit (Father God) as the sovereign ruler of all mankind who gave us this land as an inheritance, and ask for His wisdom, His guidance and His blessing.

◆ From this day the 23rd August 2008 we speak this proclamation over all the original inhabitants of this land. AMEN

Source: Aust. Indigenous Prayer Network

## Authority in Worship on the Streets

A group of Noongar and other young men have found they have strong authority in worship over the streets of Perth recently.

After the Australia Day Fireworks, they took up a point where hundreds – or more likely - thousands of people were passing on the way home. They raised an Aboriginal and a Torres Strait island flag and worshipped the Lord Jesus.

As the local custodians of the land, they really felt they had the authority of God transforming the spiritual power over that rather licentious part of the city.

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New Book by Barbara Miller:

## THE EUROPEAN QUEST To Find TERRA AUSTRALIS INCOGNITA: Quiros, Torres and Janszoon

*Review by Cairns historian, Dr Timothy Bottoms, author of Conspiracy of Silence – Queensland's frontier killing times*

This is a highly insightful coverage of the main historical characters in the early European exploration of the South West Pacific, a topic which is virtually unknown to most Australians. Miller deftly contextualises the men: Quiros ('the Don Quixote of the South sea'), Torres and Janszoon with their voyages in the 16th and 17th centuries.

Similarly, she places the actions of these adventurers in the context of the respective Indigenous responses to contact. From the Wik at Aurukun and the Tjungundji and others around (Old) Mapoon on the west coast of Cape York Peninsula, to the descendants at Big Bay on Vanuatu and other Melanesian groups, the author brings the reader up- to-date with the reconciliation process and the Indigenous perspective on these early European contacts.

This is a valuable contribution to not only understanding Australian history, but is also relevant to the Islands of Melanesia, Papua New Guinea and Indonesia.

## Khesed Auditor Thank You, LORD!

Ray Darch was handed a copy of the July issue of *Khesed News*, and read about our need for our need for a new auditor, after the resignation of Brian Birch after 15+ years service.

Ray volunteered to act as Khesed's auditor without charge, and was appointed to the position by our Board in January. He is a qualified Chartered Accountant with nine years' experience. Thank you, Ray!

Ray works with Health Communication Resources (HCR). HCR is a not-for-profit organisation which aims to equip communities in the effective use of media to promote health and community transformation, and works in rural communities both in Australia and overseas.

## Webmaster Needed

*Khesed's* website is in need of repair - probably needs rebuilding. Our shopfront is not working. Khesed Director has not managed to add information such as newsletters for over a year. John is finding this area of technology beyond his ability and energy and is praying for a webmaster to take over.

Our site uses an early version of Joomla software, which probably needs upgrading or replacing with something else.

Meanwhile, orders can be placed by phone or email. Credit cards payment is still available.

*My people are pleading with Me for revival,*

***but there will be no revival until the land that has been defiled with innocent blood, has been cleansed and redeemed.***



*Happy are those who obey his decrees and search for him with all their hearts. They do not compromise with evil, and they walk only in his paths. Ps 119:2-3 NLT  
(They also do no iniquity: they walk in his ways. KJV)*

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3. Indigenous jobs growth has not kept up with the indigenous population increase.

A spokesperson for the Abbott Government said "We cannot break the cycle of indigenous disadvantage without more people being employed. Along with education and community safety, it is our absolute priority. With work comes self-esteem, dignity and economic independence."

4. 'A Destiny Together' is a call from the Assembly of the *Uniting Church in Australia* to all Church members to participate in a nationwide week of prayer and fasting for justice for First Peoples (17-23 March 2014).

• *Pray for God's creative ways that bring real change so we will all "work together for justice, recognition and reconciliation and to bear witness to the genuine transformation of relationship that is possible through God's love in Jesus Christ."*

5. *Pray for a new webmaster for Khesed to relieve John of this work and make effective this avenue of sharing God's message and resources.*

• *Pray for John in the work of editing the new documentary film GOD'S FIRE 2,*

based on the stories of revival at Elcho Island and Warburton Ranges. This project has been consistently deferred by other projects and distractions, and we would like to see it completed by September this year.

6. There have been many Christian indigenous seminars and conventions around the nation, especially in March, and there will be many more over the Easter weekend.

*Pray for safe travel, provision of food, finance and reliable transport, and hearts to really hear and act on what the Spirit is saying to the church and its people.*

*Pray that many will make a lasting commitment to their Lord and Saviour, Who gave His all for us on the cross.*

## Revival comes... only after the land is cleansed

- continued from page 1

... These were places where the land and its people were barren and unproductive – places where sickness or death, accidents, fights and arguments and other strife came on people living there.

This message really hit me this week when Rodney Rivers spoke again to a small group of us, telling how the LORD has spoken this message to him years ago in Toowoomba, but it was then a message for the future. But now God is saying to him that now is the time for this message to go out to His people. So here is one proclamation of that message:-

***This Time: Get it Right!*** I have often reported in Khesed News on the *National Act of Recognition*, led by Ossie Cruse, Tom Hallas and Lindsay McDowell.

I am currently doing the final editing of a 19 minute video for the *National Act of Recognition* called *This Time: Get it Right!* In the video, Rodney Rivers tells some of the aspects of the history of Australia from the arrival of Captain Cook that have been swept under the carpet and almost totally ignored:

1. Captain Cook had secret orders from the King of England in 1770 to search for the "Great South Land" and to make friends and negotiate with the inhabitants of that Land, but Cook ignored those orders and fired guns at them within 15 minutes of approaching the shore at Botany Bay.

2. Cook knew the land was inhabited, but illegally claimed the whole of the east coast of Australia as belonging to the King of England and raised the British flag in several places, leading to the lie that it was *terra nullius*, a land belonging to no one.

3. Local oral history around Cooktown tells that Cook's team massacred many local indigenous inhabitants in that area

in the months they were there repairing the Endeavour after hitting a reef.

4. The King of England sent waves of ships to Australia following Cook's trip and reports, which resulted in the people of the 500 or 600 indigenous nations in this land being massacred and driven out from their lands.

5. The bones of some of those people are still lying unburied in parts of the land.

*The truth will set you free (Jn 8:32) – not burden you with shame! God's love wants to heal and release us, and Rodney makes it clear that he and his people don't hold a grudge, but it is now time for people from every ethnic group in Australia to meet together at Botany Bay and set the record straight, bury the lie from Australia's foundation, and agree to work and live together in mutual respect and recognition. (He is also working on dealing with the unburied bones in his part of the country).*

At the first screening of the film to a few people this week, it was described as 'priceless' and 'powerful'. John Yates prayed that hundreds of thousands of copies would go around the world.

Rodney has an apostolic calling to see forgiveness released, and to see the land cleansed and healed so that revival can truly come. He believes God is using Australia to set a model for other lands around the world to follow.

Look for the film: *This Time: Get it Right!* on YouTube and Vimeo – it will be available within a few weeks, and on DVD through Khesed Productions.

*(Note: The shop on Khesed's website is not working, so email or phone us. We can sort out credit card payments by phone.)*

# INDIGENOUS JOBS GAP WIDENING

Indigenous jobs growth has not kept up with the indigenous population increase.

More than halfway to the deadline for the nation's goal of halving the employment gap between black and white Australians, the disparity has widened, prompting Tony Abbott's Parliamentary Secretary for Indigenous Affairs to call for radical changes to the welfare regime. Figures released recently reveal that although there were 28,000 more indigenous people in full employment in 2012-13 than in 2008, the gap in the percentage of black and white Australians with a job widened by 2.8

percentage points. The employment rate of non-indigenous Australians increased from 75% to 75.6% between 2008 and 2012-13, but the indigenous employment rate fell from 48.2% to 45.9%.

This breaks a positive trend in indigenous employment for the 15 years prior.

Some Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) participants took up real jobs when CDEP was closed down in urban areas, but a large number became unemployed or left the labour force.

A spokesperson for the Abbott Government said "We cannot break the cycle of indigenous disadvantage without more people being employed. Along with education and community safety, it is our absolute priority. With work comes self-esteem, dignity and economic independence."

*Source: condensed from a report by Australian Prayer Network taken from media reports*



**Khesed Productions  
Video Studio**

**Rodney Rivers**

**Speaking at a  
National Act of  
Recognition meeting**



## Khesed Prayer, April 2014

*My people are pleading with Me for revival,*

***but there will be no revival until the land that has been defiled with innocent blood, has been cleansed and redeemed.***



**KHESED**

*Happy are those who obey his decrees and search for him with all their hearts. They do not compromise with evil, and they walk only in his paths. Ps 119:2-3 NLT  
(They also do no iniquity: they walk in his ways. KJV)*

1. The results of the iniquity of previous generations live on, unless they are broken through the blood of the Lamb. Iniquity is 'gross injustice' - corporate or individual. This land has been defiled with innocent blood (Numbers 35:33), broken promises (Isaiah 24:5-6), idolatry (Jer. 16:18), and sexual sin (Lev. 18:25-27) Hundreds of massacre sites have been identified across this land and the media is full of stories of these sins. Government policies like 'Protection' and 'Assimilation' have entrenched society's attitudes, bringing pain to both indigenous and non-indigenous Australians. There is so much 'gross injustice' in the form of institutional iniquity - some of which is being revealed by the current Australian Royal Commission into Institutional Child Sex - that still needs to be released through the blood of Jesus Christ. We may not feel personally responsible, but all Australians wear the consequences of iniquity.
  - Pray as Nehemiah and Daniel did - see Nehemiah 1:6 and Daniel 9:20.
  - Pray that God's people will not only repent, turn from their own sin and walk in God's paths, but seek God's direction and wisdom in cleansing His land of every iniquity from previous generations.
  - Pray the blood of Jesus will be poured out on every site where the land has been defiled.
2. Pray for the work of the *National Act of Recognition*, especially for Lindsay McDowell, Ossie Cruse, Rodney Rivers, Tom Hallas and the Botany Bay leaders.
  - for protection, health and strength - there have been many attacks in many different ways;
  - for peace and rest in the midst of a huge expansion of opportunities that is happening in the last few months, as well as for other people to join in the work;
  - for provision of open doors and finance, especially for Ossie and Rodney, two key Aboriginal Christians committed to the project, as they share the story with key leaders. Some political and indigenous leaders are frightened of the huge implications of the project;
  - for the distribution of the video 'This Time: Get it Right!' - that it will touch the heart of the nation, and people will not feel oppressed by what has happened in the past, but take action in prayer and other ways, so that the truth will set us all free;
  - for a release of true repentance and forgiveness among both black and white in the nation - and in every ethnic group.