

Noel & Barbara Bell
PO Box 5106 Turrumurra South
NSW 2074 Australia
Phone/Fax 61-2-91446191

Sydney Research
Intercessors for Australia

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*" In that day the Lord of hosts will become a beautiful crown,
And a glorious diadem to the remnant of His people;
A spirit of justice for him who sits in judgment,
A strength to those who repel the onslaught at the gate....
Order on order, order on order,
Line on line, line on line,
A little here, a little there....
Behold I am laying in Zion a stone, a tested stone,
A costly corner stone for the foundation, firmly placed.
He who believes in it will not be disturbed.
And I will make justice the measuring line,
And righteousness the level.....
For the Lord will rise up as at Perazim,
He will be stirred up as in the valley of Gibeon,
To do His task, His unusual task,
And to work His work, His extraordinary work."*

(Isaiah 28: 5,6,10,16,17,21)

Intercessors for Australia

P. O. Box 95, Gordon, NSW, 2072

Phone (02) 449 7332

Coordinators - Noel & Barbara Bell

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Preface

From the beginning of white settlement in Sydney there was a concerted onslaught of evil - as this research shows evil was openly manifest in many ways, let loose through the debased lifestyle and cruelty of those who came to establish a penal colony, and later immigrant expansion, on Sydney's shores.

It was a battle of DARK against LIGHT from the outset. But through the grace of God He sent His word of life carried by Godly men, with a strong Christ-centred evangelical witness, to labour for the FOUNDATION of the nation to be laid in Christ.

In viewing this valuable research, and its emphasis upon discovering the roots of evil in Sydney, we should not overlook the valiant battle that these Godly men and their wives fought day by day, against enormous odds (and at times, even to the testing of their faith) and evil which had solidly entrenched itself particularly in manifestations of cruelty, avarice, drunkenness, lust and greed and demonic control of their fellow human beings which brought about their utter degradation.

From the outset much of this controlling evil was personified through elements of the NSW Corps, which was later described as "*the most ill-advised and unfortunate measure that the British Government could have adopted, because of the influence of its low-principled officers it had done great harm in a moral and political sense to the European and native population of Aborigines.*"

In 1800 Samuel Marsden said, "*Satan's kingdom seems to be so fully established and his power and influence so universal among us that nothing but an uncommon display of Almighty power can shake this throne.*"

Later he also says in anguish: "*Besides living where iniquity abounds so much, and our civil connection with the worst of men, render our souls dry and barren.....to hold a situation in the state that calls you forth to act continually with wicked men in power, is painful and distressing.*"

During the pioneering years it was an enormous struggle for the Gospel of Jesus Christ to take root in the hearts and minds of the first white Australians, yet Godly men not only laboured among the stony ground of men's hearts, but expressed their trust that God would establish His Kingdom in Sydney. Marsden, after eight years of settlement and with hope rising said: "*it is my opinion that God, ere long, will visit New South Wales with His heavenly grace. I believe out of these stones He will raise up children unto Abraham. There has not been any shaking among the dry bones, but the Son of Man is commanded to prophesy, and I hope by and by, the Lord will command the wind to blow.*"

" Stir up Thy Strength O God, and come amongst us. "

John Newton, before sailing of the First Fleet, wrote a poem to encourage Richard Johnson as he ministered among the Establishment and convicts alike. It is the first poetry to be prompted for Australia - not yet a colony let alone a nation. The following are some lines that speak, with faith, that God will establish His glory in our midst,

*" Go bear the Saviour's name to lands unknown,
Tell to the Southern world His wonderous grace;
An energy Divine thy words shall own,
And draw their untaught hearts to seek His face. "*

The main purpose of this SYDNEY RESEARCH is to give Christians some understanding of our foundations as a city and of the battle against some of the forces of darkness that have ceaselessly worked to captivate and control the citizens of Sydney to serve the prince of this world.

It includes some insights into the current manifestation of evil powers at work in the city of Sydney. The focus of this research is intended to expose evil forces at work, and not directed at any character assassination of the persons of the historical figures mentioned in the research.

John Dawson in his book "Taking Our Cities For God" has some sound advice to give:

" Let me add this strong warning. The Bible is a carefully edited book that reflects the priorities of God for the believer and shows us the nature and character of Father God as revealed in Jesus. Although there are many Scripture passages that teach us about the devil and his devices, they are few in number compared with the space given to God's own character and ways. Even good angels are peripheral to the mature believer who is preoccupied with the majesty of the living God and Jesus, His Son.

Very little is revealed about specific territorial spirits in the Bible, and that's no accident. Daniel mentions the prince of Persia and the prince of Greece, and there are New Testament references such as Paul's struggle 'with the beasts at Ephesus' (1 Cor. 15:32). However this should not be taken as a mandate for the development of spiritual maps in which we seek knowledge for the sake of knowledge. God will reveal what we need to know when we need to know it.

There has always been a danger of either denial of satanic activity altogether or of focusing on it too much. If we gain knowledge of the name and nature of an evil spirit and publish it broadly, the enemy will only attempt to glorify himself openly or to instil fear among the immature. Joshua warned the Israelites about this temptation. 'You shall not make mention of the name of their gods.' (Josh. 23:7)

Morbid fascination is a carnal appetite that can drive us to search out the hidden knowledge of the evil realm. The Bible says in Romans 16: 19,20, "I want you to be wise in what is good, and innocent in what is evil and the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ is with us." (NAS). True, God reveals hidden mysteries to His close friends. "The secret of the Lord is with those who fear Him." (Psalms 25:14). However, the privilege of knowing God Himself should be the centre of our desire."

This research is by no means exhaustive or conclusive. In fact it is only a 'first go' and should be viewed as such - there is obviously much more to be discovered. It was prepared over a brief period of time to provide material for a season of prayer and spiritual warfare for the city of Sydney in February 1990 - and the contents must be seen in this light.

We have yet to discover clues from the history of Sydney that reveal her redemptive gift in Jesus Christ and God's purpose for her true destiny.

We thank the willing small band of researchers for the substance of this research, their names are identified with the various chapters, and particularly to Michael Morgan in putting it all together on his computer and printing it.

Our corporate aim is to stir the Church through repentance, reconciliation, prayer, intercession and spiritual warfare for a mighty spiritual awakening amongst the people of Sydney.

*" Those from among you
shall build the old waste places;
You shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
And you shall be called the Repairer of the Breach,
The Restorer of Streets to Dwell in."*

(Isa 58:12)

Even as Jesus Christ is a tested stone, a costly cornerstone.....in whom the whole building of God, His Church, is being fitted together growing into a holy temple in the Lord, so it is our prayer that many in Sydney will discover that no lasting foundation for our city can be laid, other than in Jesus Christ.

Yours in Christ.

Noel & Barbara Bell

Introduction

- * This is the second draft only of research completed and available at May, 1990. (First draft completed effective 29th Dec 1989)
- * Research in this second draft has been recast into something of a progressive order from the original report of Feb 1990.
- * A Resume is included at the beginning of each section (as had been requested) with the balance of the section representing supporting research.
- * More work will be needed to refine the research and to bring the 'resumes' for each subject into sharper focus. You really need at this stage to read through the full sweep of the material to get an appreciation of the recurring and potential issues of significance.
- * Ongoing steps from here:
 - (a) Incorporate into this Report outstanding research material as received (This is easy to do - it is all up on my Macintosh computer on a separate disk)
 - (b) Distribute to all Team Members a copy of the Report
 - (c) Encourage individual researchers to 'follow their spiritual nose' as they step back now and reflect on this first burst of research.

What really are the key things emerging for my subject area ?
 What specific things should I be concentrating on/following up ?
 What are the hunches, stirrings in my spirit etc that I should follow through ?
 - (d) Review the research material and findings 'as a whole' and start to draw together a concise overview of general themes/leading. (Was done for Kjell Sjöberg's visit to Sydney Feb 1990).
 - (e) Research additional subject areas as led (eg education, government, law, media etc)
 - (f) Maintain ongoing research material by subject as appropriate
 Separate computer files will be maintained for each subject and members of the research team are invited to contribute via Noel Bell and Michael Morgan.
- * **IMPORTANT:** At this stage this research is for your personal use only as a team member of the research group and is NOT for distribution to others or for publication in any form.

Postscript

" Our new vision of Christian missions must focus on cities. If we want to bring nations to Christ we must win their cities (because) a nation is a sum of its cities..

Is there anything in the roots of this city that could be bringing God's judgment rather than his blessing ?

We as believers hold the fate of our cities in our hands. Revival or judgment - what will it be ?

Where will destiny and purpose for our city be revealed except through the prophetic gift within God's church ? It is the goodness of God that leads to repentance. We cannot call a city to repentance without calling it to an ongoing purpose.

So, through repentance, reconciliation and prayer, the present generation can work to repair the broken down walls of our city. "

Extracts from John Dawson's book, "Taking Our Cities for God".

*' There is a river whose streams make
glad the city of God,
The Holy dwelling places of the Most High
God is in the midst of her, she will not be moved;
God will help her when morning dawns.....
Cease striving and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations;
I will be exalted in the earth. "*

Psalm 46: 4,5,10.