

# THE GREAT SOUTHLAND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

*A research discussion paper on  
De Quiros' supposed "prophecy" over  
Australia and its implications*

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("Gideon's 300")  
convened by Dr. Peter Wagner  
and held in  
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the Lord Jesus.

## Introduction

This research was done as part of the Spiritual Mapping programme of the International Spiritual Warfare Conference held at Seoul, in October 1993, called by Dr. Peter Wagner.

I was part of the Australia-Pacific delegation invited to attend, to present material pertinent to our region regarding Spiritual Warfare and Spiritual Mapping techniques. Our regional co-ordinator was Noel Bell, of Intercessors For Australia.

Three hundred ministries were invited from around the world to share and encourage each other to adequately prepare for the coming Harvest into the Kingdom. Already, at that time, significant revivals were underway in Latin America and elsewhere, often spawned by Spiritual Mapping techniques backed up by prayer, intercession and evangelism.

These invited ministries were dubbed "Gideon's 300 Army" by Peter Wagner. It was a significant milestone in the networking of many different ministries that would eventually take many forms, some of which are known today as The International Prayer Network, AD 2000, Global Prayer House, Reconciliation Marches, Prayer Walking, Taking our Cities for God, and so forth.

My research project was to present material on Spiritual Mapping regarding Australia in particular, with some reference to other insights from around the world.

During my preparation I came across articles relating to the discovery of the South Pacific by the Portuguese, especially the voyages of Fernando De Quiros, and his claims on the region in the name of the King of Spain and Roman Catholicism.

It was during one of these expeditions that the name "*Great Southland of the Holy Spirit*" was used.

As will be seen on the following pages, this does not refer to the Australian Continent at all, but to the entire region of the southern Pacific Ocean.

Christians today need integrity in making claims about the supposed "words" spoken over this nation.

This research project was an attempt to help address this issue.

**Peter McArthur**  
Carnarvon  
December 1993-99

## The Great Southland of the Holy Spirit

The Spaniard Alvaro de Mendana made it his ambition to find *Terra Australis Incognita*, the long sought-for *Unknown South Land*. In 1567 he set sail with Pedro de Quiros, his chief navigator, to find the fabled land, but ended up charting what we now call the Solomon Islands.

Mendana named this region the "*Mother Continent*," but after he sailed back to his base port in Peru, it was not sighted again by him or any other known European adventurer until 1606.

The next recorded sighting was that of the Portuguese explorer Pedro Fernandez de Queiroz (de Quiros), who had met Pope Clement VIII in Rome on the 28th of August 1601. De Quiros attempted to convince the Pope that the pagan millions who supposedly inhabited the Unknown Southland needed the salvation offered by the Catholic Church.

The King of Spain, Philip III, was then encouraged by the Pope (who did not personally want to fund such an expedition) to back de Quiros in his discovery of Terra Australis Incognita, and convert its inhabitants to Catholicism.

On Saint Thomas' Day, 21st of December 1605, de Quiros left his base in Peru with three ships, holding 280 sailors, soldiers and Catholic friars. He sailed first to Polynesia, and finally, on May 3rd 1606, dropped anchor and went ashore on land which he believed to be Terra Australis.

It was, in fact, an island now known as Espiritu Santo, in the Vanuatu group (formerly called The New Hebrides).

De Quiros knelt, kissed the soil and proclaimed with these words the possession of **"all the lands which I sighted and am going to sight, and of all this region of the south as far as the Pole, which from this time forth shall be called *Australia Del Espiritu Santo*, with all its dependencies and belongings."**

The lands were claimed for Philip of Spain and the Catholic faith.

In religious fervour de Quiros proclaimed the land to be "***Australia del Espiritu Santo***" (note the spelling of the first word).

This deliberate mis-spelling was in homage to King Philip's Hapsburg line to honour his wife, Margaret of Austria, thereby introducing a pun into the name of Terra Australis!

De Quiros then declared that a stream running into the island's bay was *the River Jordan*, and that *the New Jerusalem* would be built there amid the coral reefs!

His religious mania eventually caused his sailors to react just short of mutiny.

Luis de Torres, the captain of one of the accompanying ships, then sailed back to Mexico after navigating the strait between the north of Australia and New Guinea, which now bears his name. He kept close to the shores of New Guinea, and so did not sight the continent of the Southland at all.

By the 8th of June 1606, due to a combination of bad weather and ill health, de Quiros set sail to return to Peru, arriving there on the 23rd of November, that same year.

He had travelled more than 38,000 kilometres, never to raise another expedition, and died in obscurity in the year 1614, thinking he had actually stood on the great land mass of the southern continent.

### **SOURCES**

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## What Does This Mean?

First of all, Christians need to be careful in jumping to conclusions, such as saying God has named Australia *the Great Southland of the Holy Spirit*.

De Quiros obviously had religious mania, and his quest was not for the spreading of Biblical Christianity, but to extend the power of Roman Catholicism and the authority of the Pope.

Second, we need to be discerning in taking so-called “prophecies” and making them fit our scenario today. The words spoken by de Quiros were not a prophecy, but simply a way at the time of proclaiming a possession.

Having outlined the historical facts relating to the naming of the region, we are now in a position to discern how we can turn it to our advantage without losing our integrity.

It may have been that the whole thing was very religious and lacked true spiritual application (as we understand the terms today), but it can still excite us to think that the Lord can use another “Cyrus,” in the form of de Quiros, to bring about His destiny for this region.

So I would not want to write off using the term *Great Southland of the Holy Spirit* if we can use it as a springboard for our faith for national revival.

But if we are going to capitalize on this, we need to have historical integrity about it and not presume that it is only Australia that has this name and destiny.

De Quiros named every island south of Vanuatu, so that means that those islands, as well as the Cook Islands, New Caledonia, Fiji, New Zealand and Australia are all candidates!

Let us be honest in our use of the term *Great Southland*.

On top of this, I wish to point out another important issue; the naming of these lands after the country “Austria,” in homage to Queen Margaret.

She was a Catholic devoted to the honour of the Virgin Mary. In naming the Southland after Austria (with a deliberate misspelling) de Quiros had in fact dedicated the land under the patronage of Mary, the Queen of Heaven. This point was picked up by the Catholic Church in later years when they reaffirmed Australia, in particular, to be dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary! (See footnote below on page 7.)

Those who realize that Marian devotion is not Biblical, but a form of Jezebelic influence, can then understand that since de Quiros’ proclamation, Australia (in particular) has been given over to the power of a Jezebelic spirit.

I know that some Christians find this concept controversial, but there is power in the words we speak, particularly in giving children, nations and cities certain names. There is, of course, much Biblical evidence for this.

I simply say this to stir us up. I do not believe that demonic powers and principalities can extend their kingdoms without the wilful cooperation of man.

And I do not accept that our whole national heritage and destiny is controlled by the fact that this nation of Australia has been given over to the powers of demonic influence. For “greater is He who is in us than he who is in the world.”

But having said that, it would be amiss of us not to “cleanse the land” the best we can, of unwanted spiritual influences.

I suggest that we need to re-dedicate this nation under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, thereby breaking any undue spiritual effects lumped upon us by de Quiros or the Popes.

What I am speaking of is what has come to be called *Spiritual Mapping*; the exposing of historical issues that have influenced a nation’s identity for either good or evil.

Once these have been noted, the people of God can rise up, and through prayer and identificational repentance, bring blessings to bear upon the land and its people.

**Peter McArthur**

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#### **Footnote to Page 6**

Australia has been dedicated to Mary on two other occasions, other than de Quiros’ proclamation.

In 1844, the first Provincial Synod, held in Sydney, appointed “*Mary Help of Christians*” to be the Patroness of Australia.

This was approved by the Vatican in 1852. Since then the Catholic people of Australia have acknowledged Mary to be the nation’s special protectress.

On Sunday the 10th of April 1988, during the so-called Marian Year, the Catholic Bishops of Australia again assembled at St. Mary’s Cathedral in Sydney to repeat that first Synod’ s trust in the “Mother of God.”

Before a large congregation in the Basilica, specially dedicated to “*Mary Help of Christians*,” Cardinal Clancy led the bishops to re-dedicate Australia to Mary, Queen of Heaven.

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