

## **EUROPE/AFRICA RECONCILIATION PROCESS – BERLIN NOVEMBER 2005**

The Berlin Conference from 17-19th November, 2005 was the climax of a six year process of relationship building between Christian leaders, representing the Colonial nations who participated in the Berlin/Congo Conference of 1884, and of uncovering the sins that contributed to and resulted from that Conference. There was also a process pursued by our African brothers to connect with Christian leaders from twenty-two of the African nations who suffered as a result of that Colonial period.

The Statement below was drawn up by Roger Mitchell, Chris Seaton and Brian Mills out of our own knowledge and from an interactive time with those from Britain present in Berlin. It was formally read at the Conference, with many tears from many of the British participants. It is our prayer that this will lead to many continuing acts of love and restitution from our nation towards those nations sinned against. We recognise that this is not the whole story. The Africans were gracious to remind us of the legacy of the Gospel that was brought by European missionaries, and of the contribution made to their wellbeing through education, medicine and certain infra-structures. However this statement was specific to the 1884 Conference which did not include any representative of any African nation.

## **BRITISH STATEMENT TO THE CONFERENCE TABLE – 19/11/05**

We as the nations of Great Britain & Ireland confess and repent of the sins we have committed against Africa and Africans from many nations, and against the Living God – Father, Son & Holy Spirit. We repent with a deep sense of guilt and shame of the following:

1. Competition with our fellow European nations for imperial domination in the world that contributed to the Scramble for Africa and the Berlin Conference of 1884/5.
2. The imposition of the Empire Spirit upon Africa carrying as it does racial, cultural and linguistic superiority, the will to rule and an exclusive spirit.
3. Taking rather than giving – we greedily pillaged the nations, taking the riches and resources of the lands of Africa such as gold, silver, copper, diamonds, oil, rubber and cash crops like cotton, coffee, tea, cocoa and ground nuts.
4. Dehumanising and degrading Africans, treating them as goods, calling them “black ivory”, perpetrating the evil of the Transatlantic Slave Trade, failing adequately to judge and reform slaving within Africa and catagorising Africans as inferior people.

5. Robbing Africans of their destiny and identity through an ideology of superiority which was carried through education (e.g. Darwinism), government and employment opportunities.
6. Covenant breaking as we lied and deceived African leaders into signing away their rights to their lands for trivial returns.
7. Allowing our nation to be a seedbed for a global demonic spirit that today through globalisation in Africa perpetuates the locking up of the destiny of nations.
8. Shedding innocent blood through wars of conquest, economic and social displacements and unjust governance.
9. Imposing concentration camps in South Africa which created the ground for apartheid and was recycled by the Nazis.
10. By the roots of our arrogance and selfish ease, we gave room to the fruits of freemasonry and the occult that we were already approving in our lands.
11. Creating unjust trade patterns: taking primary resources from Africa and selling them back as manufactured goods to the detriment of the balance of payments in African economies.
12. Corrupting the agricultural patterns of African nations so that instead of growing food for its people, we encouraged cash crops to be grown for European markets.
13. Cultural domination through the imposition of the English Language in education, politics and all areas of life.
14. Inflicting the unresolved spiritual wounds of our own islands upon Africa through our damaged children, e.g. Henry Morton Stanley and Frederick Luggard.
15. Presenting the gospel to the African peoples without separating adequately the unholy alliance of the Church from the Empire and the Empire Spirit, which included imposing denominations, and failing to recognise that God had opened Africa to Britain for the expansion of the Kingdom of God.

“We have plundered many nations, shed innocent blood and built our realm by unjust gain. We have plotted the ruin of many tribes and peoples. We have piled up stolen goods making ourselves wealthy by extortion and have by deceit and treachery made false covenants.” Habbukuk 2:6-10