



Father of four, Barry, embodies resilience and strength. Growing up in a tough environment, he had to look inside himself to make the right choices for himself and his family.

Barry, a Gamilaroi man originally from western NSW, remembers his early years as a time of enormous hardship. He didn't have a stable home or support network and was mostly brought up by his grandparents.

He became a father in his late teens and was suddenly faced with responsibilities for which he wasn't ready. He started drinking heavily, behaviour that he'd witnessed previously.

Barry, and others like him, were able to take part in Red Dust Healing – a cultural healing program, which encourages participants to examine their own personal hurt and allows them to heal from within. The program addresses family and personal relationships, and what may have been lifelong patterns of violence, abuse and neglect.

Red Dust Healing Founder, Tom Powell, is humbled that the program has won numerous awards and helped over 16,000 people like Barry across Australia.

Today, thanks to the Red Dust Healing program, Barry is an inspirational father to his four girls and a respected leader in his community. He now facilitates Red Dust Healing workshops and helps others through their healing process. A brighter future for men, women and their families can start today. Let's Go Further, Together.

REFLECTION/HOMILY NOTES

In today's gospel we hear about the woman of Samaria who was engaged in a very truthful encounter with Jesus. The Jews despised the Samaritans as having no claim on their God. This nameless woman, an outcast from her own community, chose to visit the well at a time to avoid those who judged her harshly.

It's important to acknowledge how radical this encounter was. Jesus reaches out to her as he did to outcasts demonstrating that all people are valuable to God. In this way we too are called to be radical, to uphold the dignity of all people.

The exchange was so profound, bringing about a change of heart for the Samaritan woman. She then became a witness for Jesus, influencing those around her.

This week we hear the story of Barry, an Indigenous Australian man who through a Caritas Australia supported program, Red Dust Healing, was able to confront

destructive patterns in his life. Red Dust Healing is an Indigenous led program in which participants learn culturally appropriate tools to empower them to overcome addiction, mental health, grief, abuse and other challenges. For Barry, it changed his life and helped him to recognise his hurt and anger stemmed primarily from rejection and grief. It provided a safe space to talk and connect with others who've supported each other in their healing journey. The program has also helped Barry connect back with his culture, language and stories.

Just as the Samaritan woman went on to share her revelation with others, Barry also shares the richness of his experience. His community is striving forward, facing the challenges of intergenerational trauma, past oppression and colonisation together.

How can we manifest the radical love of Christ in order to break down barriers of injustice?

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

We pray for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and for all Australians: That we may understand that for us to go further together each of us needs to be valued; and do our part to end marginalisation and injustice.

FUNDRAISING IDEA

Host an information night, inviting First Australian parishioners, your local NATSICC representative or traditional owners of the land in your parish's local area to share about their land. Invite parishioners to bring a donation and enjoy and evening of food and learning.

BULLETIN NOTICE

Barry grew up in a tough environment. With the support of a program from Caritas Australia's partner, Red Dust Healing, Barry has overcome many of life's challenges. He is now an inspirational father to his four girls and a leader in his community.