

Australian Aboriginal Stolen Generations. "The inspiring story in this movie continues to fuel my prayers for reconciliation and harmony between indigenous and other peoples, not only in Australia but in other countries, too. No one can take us out of God's family." Beverly Goldsmith

Going home by 'the rabbit-proof fence'

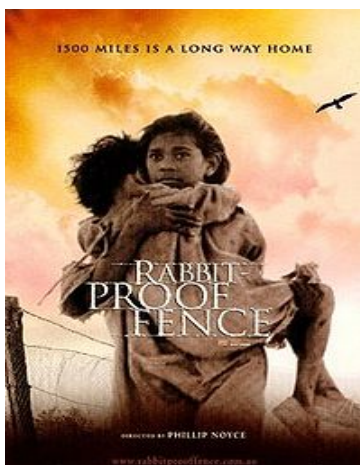
By Beverly Goldsmith, [Christian Science practitioner and teacher](#) in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia.
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Three young girls torn from the arms of their mothers. Transported far from their home and housed in grim conditions with other children. Told they will be trained as domestic servants. Unable to bear the separation from their families, they escape. On foot, they embark on an epic three-month, 2,400-kilometer (1,491-mile) journey home over desolate terrain, pursued by their captors. Their guide for this trek is the once longest unbroken line of fence in the world - Australia's rabbit-proof fence.

This is the true story of two sisters, Molly and Daisy, and their cousin Gracie. Forcibly taken from Aboriginal families in Jigalong, Western Australia, in 1931, they are removed to Moore River Native Settlement. Fleeing the settlement, they are pursued by authorities whose "official Government policy of the time decreed that all 'half-caste' children should be taken from their kin and land in order to be made white" www.rabbit-prooffence.com.au. This policy of removal continued until 1972.



The route the children took from Moore River to Jigalong along the Rabbit-proof fence.



Directed by Phillip Noyce, whose Hollywood achievements include *Clear and Present Danger*, *Patriot Games*, *The Bone Collector*, and *Dead Calm*, *Rabbit-Proof Fence* is a story of determination and courage. Based on the book by Doris Pilkington Garimara, Molly's daughter, the movie successfully depicts this extraordinary journey.

Filmed in Australia, the girls' trek through the desert and lonely outposts is captured by Christopher Doyle's camera work. The relentless heat, the endless skies, the hidden shadows of the night, and the constant pursuit by a government tracker keep you on the edge of your seat. The soundtrack by Peter Gabriel echoes the haunting sounds of the Australian bush.

Prior to the filming of *Rabbit-Proof Fence*, none of the child stars had ever seen a movie. Growing up by the ocean in the Australian Outback, they swam, fished, and tracked animals. But though inexperienced as actresses, their performances are credible, natural, and moving.

The story documents a sad and regrettable period in Australia's history. Children who were taken from their families in this way are now referred to as the "Stolen Generations." While the political issues are still being wrestled with in Australia today, the film asks us to consider the deeper, more complex matters of being human - making decisions about another person's fate, condemning another's culture, preserving family ties, persisting in the face of overwhelming odds.

Everyone wants to belong to something - family, community, culture.

This is what drove Molly on her quest to get back home. She had a mother. She knew where she belonged.

This desire to belong is powerful. I've experienced it myself. But over the years "wanting to belong" is, to me, no longer just a human yearning. It has become spiritually based.

And although I have now lost most of my dearly loved kin, moved States and home many times, I don't feel rootless. I still have a sense of belonging. Why? Because my security is anchored in divine Love. I've come to know God to be my Father-Mother. My family is God's family.

Staying connected to this spiritual concept of identity isn't easy. The "us-and-them" thinking evident in nationalism, racism, and cultural stereotyping drives wedges between people. But God's love and care are for everyone.

No matter what happens to us, or how far we may feel we've journeyed away from God, we can, like Molly, return home. As the film suggests, with courage and determination like hers, whether we take a short route or a long one, the destination is the same. The essence of home can't be lost. It is spiritual.

The inspiring story in this movie continues to fuel my prayers for reconciliation and harmony between indigenous and other peoples, not only in Australia but in other countries, too.

No one can take us out of God's family.



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[Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures](#) by Mary Baker Eddy, is her textbook on Christian Science healing practice and her class textbook in teaching Christian Science healing.



Visit her [web site](#) for inspirational [healing articles](#), [Takeaway Tips](#), [Spiritual Q&A](#) and [E-cards](#).

Footnote: On February 13th, 2008, the Prime minister of Australia, Kevin Rudd, said 'sorry' to the Aboriginal Stolen Generations in a [speech to Parliament](#).