FrontierNews



From the Director A message from Jannine

Thank you for giving Aussie Farmers a hand up.

Our Outback Links volunteers have been giving Aussie Farmers a helping hand for more than a decade. The recent media coverage of the drought wasn't news for us, but I was thankful that it was finally being widely reported. I thought to myself, "At last, it's getting the attention that it deserves. And we're going to use this awareness to rally more support around our Aussie Farmers."

More than half of Queensland is drought declared¹ and practically all of New South Wales is affected by one of three serious drought categories². For many of the farmers we work with, this is their seventh year of drought.

Nearly every day we hear their struggles to stay on the land. They are struggling to pay their bills, feed their stock and keep their homes. They are struggling financially, physically and emotionally. And many do this in isolation.

This is where our volunteers and Bush Chaplains play a critical role. As you will read in the following articles, they bring that practical and pastoral care so desperately needed to people in drought-affected communities.

To the individuals and congregations who have registered their Great Outback BBQ and/or given to our drought appeal, I say thank you. Thank you for keeping our volunteers and Bush Chaplains on the road so they can see Aussie Farmers through this devastating drought.

To our farmers, I pray that the rains come soon. If you're in need of a helping hand, please visit www.frontierservices.org for information about Outback Links or call us on 1300 787 247.

Welcome to our President

At the time of publishing the last edition of Frontier News, the 15th Triennial Assembly took place in Melbourne where Dr Deidre Palmer was installed as President of the Church. On behalf of my team and the people of Outback Australia, I would like to extend Deidre a very warm Frontier Services welcome.

I'm so grateful for the support Deidre has extended us recently; rallying congregations around our Great Outback BBQ and our John Flynn Memorial Church Restoration Project in Alice Springs.

This year, Frontier Services turned a-hundred-and-six and what a way to celebrate our anniversary; right in the very heart of Australia, Alice Springs while working to revive the historic Church and Adelaide House. I look forward to sharing an update on this project with you in the February 2019 edition of Frontier News. Watch this space!

Jannine Jackson

National Director

References:

- ¹Queensland Government September Drought Declarations
- ²NSW Department of Primary Industries August 31 Seasonal Update



You can support Aussie Farmers and rural and remote communities in drought

- Even if you missed September, you can still host a Great Outback BBQ over spring/ summer. Visit www.greatoutbackbbq.com.au to register your event
- Visit www.frontierservices.org to register your interest in becoming a volunteer or to make an online donation



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Editor Felipe Beltran Front Cover Paul Gray (inset), Carinda



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About Frontier Services Frontier Services is a national agency of the Uniting Church in Australia, established to continue the unified work of the Australian Inland Mission, the Methodist Inland Mission, and the inland mission of the Congregational Union, and works with people across 85% of the continent, including Aboriginal communities and isolated properties.

A ray of hope for northern New South Wales

Our Barwon Remote Area welcomes our newest Bush Chaplain, Rev Phill Matthews. Phill covers a region that stretches from Narrabri and Moree in the east, up to the Queensland border, then west to Wanaaring, and down to Cobar, Hermidale and Dubbo in the south.



A major town in the centre of the Barwon Remote Area, Walgett is the regional hub for wool, wheat and cotton as well as the gateway to the opal fields of Lightning Ridge.

On any given day, Phill can make a 400km one-way trip to drop into properties between Narrabri, Walgett and Bourke to provide practical drought support as well as some counselling when it's needed.

He said he sees a lot of people who are nervous or on edge because of the

drought. They are unsure when the rains will come or if it will rain at all.

"They might tell me the bloke down the road's worse off than they are," Phill said. "But we're seeing farms that are vacant of stock and land that's been ploughed but nothing's growing on it."

"Making decisions is hard for farmers because they just don't know when things will change. And at the moment, it's pretty grim."



You can ensure Phill and our Bush Chaplains reach more people in rural and remote Australia. For as little as \$25, you can gift a 'cuppa and a chat' with a Bush Chaplain to someone living in isolation. See page 20 to find out how.

Providing a safety net for Aussie families

Sometimes, just having someone else to talk to provides incredible relief. We believe that face-to-face contact - simply sitting down over a cuppa and a chat - is critical for people living in isolation who are doing it tough.

Rev Phill recalled a time when he met a farmer riding along with her stock on the side of the road. Asking how she was, she looked at him and said, "You know, people worry about the men but they don't worry about us women."

"It made me think," Phill reflected. "The ladies out here on these farms do the book keeping, but they're farmers, too. They see the stock and they see the death. They work in the heat and then they come home to fix the books up."

"At night, they lie beside their husbands but they can't sleep because they worry about how they're going to pay their next bill."

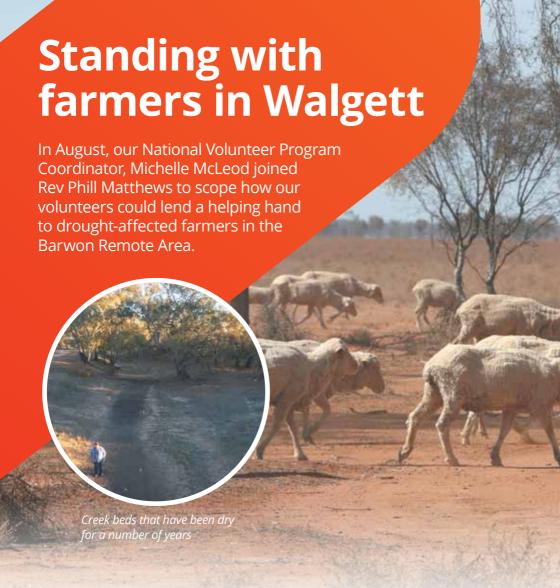
So Phill encouraged her to tell him what was on her mind. And right there, by the side of the road on her quad bike, she opened up.

"When you work as a partnership with your spouse, sometimes you need a third outlet to have a yarn. Sometimes we talk about their problems but other times we just babble on, tell jokes and be silly - it really makes a difference."

We are so grateful our Bush Chaplains are on the ground providing practical care to those who need it.

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Michelle said the situation on these farms were dire. When she and Phill were following one farmer onto their property they were rushed by a large flock of sheep waiting for feed.

"There was nothing growing on the dry and dusty ground," Michelle said. "These sheep just wait for the sound of their farmer's ute and rush towards them because it's the only time they get to eat."

"The farmers out here have been struggling with the drought for over seven years," Rev Phill added. "That's the story right across this area and sadly, it's the same all the way up to Queensland, too."



Bringing hope and mateship to farmers in Carinda

In September, we returned with our national mobility partner, the NRMA and a specialist team to provide mechanical services for drought-affected farmers in Carinda. The small town of 178 people, located three hours north of Dubbo, is incredibly dry. It has only received 96mm of rain for the entire year.

Over five days, a skilled team of longserving NRMA mechanics lent farmers a helping hand by servicing and repairing tractors, 4WDs, motor bikes, forklifts and more. These farming vehicles and equipment are essential for harvesting, mustering and bringing animals feed.



While the tasks at hand are important, our volunteers told us it was more than just getting the jobs done; it was about standing with people in the bush.

"I've been watching the drought for some time and seeing how tough they're doing it," NRMA mechanic, Marcus Titheradge said. "I just wanted to pitch in and lend a hand." National Director, Jannine Jackson emphasised the important role Outback Links plays in drought-affected communities.

"Our volunteering program is so critical to rural and remote communities right now," she said. "For group trips like this one with the NRMA, the food, accommodation and materials needed to get the job done are

How you can help bring practical support to those who need it most

For information about Outback Links, including how you can become a volunteer, please visit

www.frontierservices.org/how-we-help/outback-links/

Giving a gift today will mobilise more volunteers and keep our Bush Chaplains on the road. Simply fill out the centrefold envelope and return to us. Thank you!



financial boost to the local community."

"Furthermore, the support our volunteers bring not only empower farmers, but it shows them that people care."

The work will continue when we return in mid-October. We are so grateful to NRMA for standing with us in Carinda and showing our farmers that we care about them.



We're always ready to help

mynrma.com.au



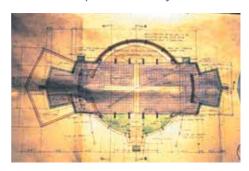


In September, a group of around 30 volunteers from across the country travelled to Alice Springs to celebrate our founder and his Mantle of Safety, and to revive the historic John Flynn Memorial Church and Adelaide House. Here, we share some highlights from the Church's early days, including it's opening weekend in 1956.

In the early 1920s, John Flynn had a vision for a 'Cathedral of the Outback'. It would be built around an inland wireless transmitting station with Sunday services broadcast across the bush. But 'The Great Depression' compelled him to concentrate every ounce of energy and every penny of funds on practical enterprises.

Upon his passing, the Board of the Australian Inland Mission decided that the greatest memorial it could build to its late Superintendent would be the Church of his early dreams.

And so, from the turning of the first sod on 29 April 1954 and the setting of the foundation stone on 26 June 1954 by then Prime Minister Robert Gordon Menzies; this vision became a reality. Through the cooperation of an ecumenical work party and contributions from across the country, the John Flynn Memorial Church was opened on 5 May 1956.



Plan of the John Flynn Church



▲ Turning of the first sod (April 1954)

Setting of the foundation stone by then Prime Minister Robert Gordon Menzies (June 1954)



Joyce Savage (nee Goulter) travelled from Adelaide to Alice Springs to be part of the Church's official opening. Below is a summary of the day's events in her words.

At last the day which everybody had been waiting arrived...

At 11.30am people were already taking their places for the ceremony which was to commence at 2.30pm, and while waiting they were able to instil upon their mind's eye the beauty of this memorial.

The Church had been designed to symbolise the spirit of Flynn – a man of the open air. For that reason, natural stone, water, sun, sky and soil are knit into the 'personality' of this unique building, although here and there throughout the design there is the typical Flynnian ultra-modern touch – for Flynn was always ahead of his time.

It was indeed a very impressive ceremony. After the Narration of Steps,
Mrs Flynn handed the key to Sir William Slim, who gave a very sincere
address before turning the key. Then the Ernabella Choir sang
We Love the Place, O God'. The Moderator-General...Rev F
W Rolland, then dedicated the Church, and after a hymn
and sermon the official party moved inside, where State
Moderators dedicated the Communion Table, Baptismal
Font, Lectern and Pulpit.

Mrs Flynn handed over the Book of Helpers and Rev Fred McKay dedicated all the gifts recorded therein. We all joined in singing the special hymn written for the occasion by Mr R S Byrnes, and the Benediction brought to a close this ceremony which had been broadcast throughout Australia.





We thank lovce's daughter, Kath Warner for sharing these memories and photos with us. For a full transcript of Joyce's notes of the Church's opening weekend, please visit our website.

In a short space of time, the John Flynn Memorial Church became an established landmark at the heart of Australia. In its first year, there were 13 communion services, 62 baptisms and 15 marriages.

Not only had it become a focal point in the lives of local residents, but a spiritual centre for all the people of inland Australia who made a point of visiting the Church when they were in Alice Springs.



Mrs Flynn with AIM Board Convenor Rev | Gray Robertson

In our next issue we share snaps of the revival works to the John Flynn Church and Adelaide House.

You can volunteer with us. If you have a set of skills you can lend to people and communities in Outback Australia, we want to hear from you. Visit www.frontierservices.org today to find out how you could take the trip of a lifetime and help someone in need.

Thoughts from our farmers

What Outback Links means to them

Our Outback Links program connects skilled volunteers with people in remote Australia in need of a helping hand. Here, we share some of what farmers had to say about the practical care our volunteers provided over the past year*.

"Graeme
helping us in times
of crisis has helped keep
our family strong. The drought
made it really hard to know if we
could get away for a couple of weeks
for (a medical appointment) when I
was well enough to travel. Being able
to get away (for treatment and
respite) has been a wonderful
support to us. Thank you,
Graeme." – Jane,
Queensland

"Given
we're in drought,
we couldn't afford help.
It's a breath of fresh air each
time volunteers arrive. Colin and
Sue were so helpful on the farm
and the homestead while I was
away looking after my dad.
(My husband) really valued their
company and help."
– Evelyn,

– Evelyn, Queensland



Frontier Flashback Our shared history:

Providing a Mantle of Safety

In August, our Bush Chaplain Benjamin Quilliam attended an event in Halls Creek commemorating the life of Jimmy Darcy, whose tragic death over a hundred years ago proved the catalyst for Rev John Flynn to start the AIM's Aerial Medical Service, which would later be known as the Royal Flying Doctor Service.



The events surrounding Darcy's death

In 1917, a Kimberley stockman named Jimmy Darcy suffered internal injuries after being thrown off his horse during a cattle stampede. Needing immediate medical aid, he was taken to Halls Creek where postmaster Fred Tuckett performed emergency surgery with only a pen knife, morphine and Dr Joe Holland's instructions, which were sent from Perth via morse code.

The operation was a success but Darcy was weak and his condition was complicated further by malaria, which he had been suffering from for months. Dr Holland journeyed two weeks from Perth to Halls Creek but arrived only to learn that Darcy had died just a few hours earlier.

Providentially, Darcy's story provided the catalyst Flynn needed to rally support for his Mantle of Safety. The story was widely reported by newspapers of the day and touched many Australians.

Innovations to bring medical care to the Outback

Flynn's vision of a Mantle of Safety for the Outback was about providing a place where people could flourish, families could be raised and life lived to the full. His aim was to provide hubs for social, cultural and religious life in the Outback, but standing in the way was the need for safety - in particular, medical care when it was needed.

Medical safety in the Outback needed the combination of three things:

- The gritty determination of people like Fred Tuckett, and the nurses and doctors who dedicated their lives to serving in remote medical outposts and hospitals;
- The ability to call up help from anywhere in remote Australia, whenever needed; and
- 3. The Aerial Medical Service to bring medical care, wherever needed.

Of these things that came together to create Flynn's Mantle of Safety, two were on the cutting edge of technology at the time: flight and wireless communication.

A marriage between aviation and medicine

A medical student and pilot, Lieutenant Clifford Peel was inspired by John Flynn's work in the Outback. In November 1917, he wrote a detailed letter to Flynn outlining the costs and advantages of using aeroplanes to bring health care to the wide-spread people of the inland. Little did he know that this would provide the blue print for the Aerial Medical Service, which Flynn campaigned the next 10 years for after Darcy's death.

The pedal wireless radio

Flynn had been studying wireless and wanted to provide people in remote Australia with a way to communicate over long distances. Working with Alfred Traegar, the world's first portable pedal radio was invented and it was soon found on homesteads, mine sites and camps all over the Outback. People could now call for help, and by 1928, for a flying doctor.



From left to right: Mr A Affleck, Rev J A Barber and Dr J A Spalding standing by the Victory plane just before a flight (Dr Spalding succeeded Dr Welch in 1929).

The first flight

On 15 May 1928, the first medical plane Victory was leased from QANTAS. Just two days later - and more than 10 years after Darcy's death - the Aerial Medical Service took its maiden flight from Cloncurry, Queensland with Arthur Affleck as pilot. During his term of 11 months as the first flying doctor, Dr K. St Vincent Welch flew nearly 29,000km, saw 225 patients and held 50 consultations with other local doctors.

As one of its founding members, Frontier Services is proud of what the Royal Flying Doctor Service has become since its humble beginnings with Flynn and the Australian Inland Mission.

We still work alongside each other, addressing other aspects of the Mantle of Safety for remote Australians, through our network of Bush Chaplains and Outback Links volunteers.



All these services are vital for the safety and wellbeing of people in the bush. You can contribute to Flynn's vision by giving a gift today. Simply complete the attached centrefold envelope and return to us. Thank you!

References:

- ¹ Flynn, J. 1929, 'A.I.M. Aerial Medical Service. No longer an experiment', The Inlander, vol. 20, pp 48-53
- ²Walton, S., 2012, 'at the Very Heart 100 Years in Remote Australia', Wakefield Press, Kent Town, South Australia
- ³Catanzaro, J., 2013, 'Legacy lives on in the nation's skies', The West Australian [Accessed online September 2018: http://health.thewest.com.au/rfds-85years.php]
- ⁴Seeds for Flynn's flying doctor sown 100 years ago', 2017, Royal Flying Doctor Service [Accessed online September 2018: https://www.flyingdoctor.org.au/news/stockmans-story-begins-flying-doctor/]





Christmas is a time when the Good News of Jesus' birth is retold. But over the last few years, with this drought biting hard, one might ask, "How do we find the Good News?"

For me, I find it in the end of year school events that bring folk out to see and hear what their children have achieved; the school plays and skits as well as graduating from primary to secondary and beyond.

Their achievements, big and small, bring good news. Life goes on. People know I cover a big area so they ask, "Rev Phill, did you drive down just for this?"

For me, by being there on the night, I'm standing with them. For me, this is sharing the Good News of Christmas. God is with us.

I go to sit with these communities and bring the gift of time. I wish for you the time with the Christmas Child this year.



the gift of hope The gift that gives twice! this (hristmas)

Give the gift of hope this Christmas and help make someone's life a little easier:

We live in a society where people are more isolated, and there's less contact, especially for people who live out bush. We dream of an Australia where everyone living in our regional and remote areas are cared for, supported and have a mantle of safety and well-being. We believe that regardless of where you live, you should have access to the basic services that others take for granted. We're the companion who turns up out of the blue to lend an ear, give a helping hand and be of service. It's called Mateship, the Australian way of giving everyone a fair go, helping other folk and together, we've been doing it for more than 106 years.

With your help, our Bush Chaplains and skilled Outback Links Volunteers provide practical, pastoral and spiritual care to individuals, families and communities in the bush.

You too can stand with people in the Bush this Christmas! Simply choose the way you would like to help, purchase a Frontier Services Gift of Hope tax deductible gift card, give it to your loved ones and know that you are making a real difference to the lives of people living in Outback Australia.

\$100









YES, I/we would like to purchase Gift Cards and/or make a donation to Frontier Services

YOUR GIFT	QUANTITY	PRICE	TOTAL
A cuppa and a chat (\$25): Isolation is one of the hardest things to endure and your gift supports our Bush Chaplains to lend a listening ear when needed.		\$25	\$
Mend a fence (\$50): Practical support is often what's needed most and your gift allows our skilled volunteers to complete repairs and maintenance on farming stations.		\$50	\$
Fill a tank (\$100): Our Bush Chaplains spend much of their time travelling to visit people in isolation. Your gift helps to keep them on the road so they can be where they are needed most.		\$100	\$
The gift of mateship (Gift of your choosing): Show people doing it tough in the bush this Christmas that they're not alone by giving the gift of mateship. Every amount helps, but gifts over \$10 means we can cover our costs.		\$ Minimum \$10	\$
I would like to include a donation to help the people of rer (Note: donations of \$2 and over are tax deductible.)	\$		
NOTE: All orders must be received by Eriday 7 December 2018			\$

NOTE: All orders must be received by Friday, 7 December 2018.

Cards are blank on the inside so you can personalise them before gifting to family and friends.

Please complete this order form and send via:

<u>Post</u>

Frontier Services GPO Box 2527, Sydney, NSW 2001

<u>Email</u>

fs fund raising @frontiers ervices.org

Alternatively, please call us on 1300 787 247 to place an order over the phone.



PLEASE ENSURE YOU COMPLETE YOUR ADDRESS DETAILS Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/ Dr/Rev Please Print
Address
Postcode
Phone / Mobile
I/WE WISH TO PAY BY Cheque/Money Order (payable to Frontier Services) Credit card – please fill in details below Credit card – please debit Visa Mastercard Amex Name on Card
Signature
Card number
Expiry Date OCT18

Order now to avoid disappointment

Christmas Cards for 2018 are now on sale! Last year we sold out, so we encourage you to order early. This is a strictly limited print run.

We hope you will love this year's cards as much as we do. Each pack contains 10 cards, two of each design.

Each design represents a facet of Outback life, that our Bush Chaplains and the communities they support face every day. Each card has a message on the reverse from one of our Bush Chaplains.

*NOTE: All orders must be received <u>by Friday, 7 December 2018</u> so they can be sent to you just in time for posting. Don't miss out!



YES, I/we would like to purchase 2018 Christmas Cards* and/or make a donation to Frontier Services

Mixed pack of 10 Christmas cards (2 of each design)* = \$12 including postage & handling

	NUMBER OF PACKS	PRICE PER PACK	TOTAL
MY ORDER (1-9 PACKS)		\$12 (including P&H)	\$
BULK ORDER (10+ PACKS)		\$10 (including P&H)	\$
I would like to include a donation to help the people of remote Australia. (Note: donations of \$2 and over are tax deductible.)			\$
		TOTAL	\$

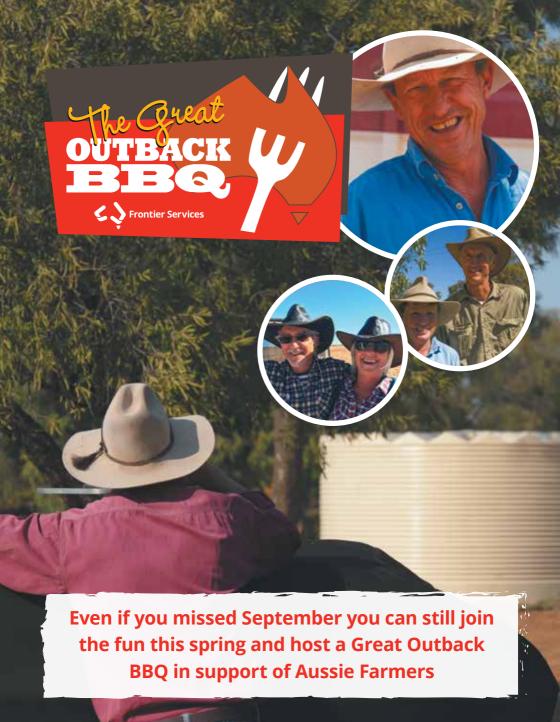
PLEASE ENSURE YOU COMPLETE YOUR ADDRESS DETAILS				
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Name on Card				
Signature				
Card number				
Expiry Date /		OCT18		

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Alternatively, please call us on 1300 787 247 to place an order over the phone.





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