

THE JOHN FLYNN FOUNDATION



Remembering the man on the \$20 note

John Flynn Foundation
ORDER OF SERVICE 2019



Acknowledgement of First Peoples

We acknowledge the sovereign First Peoples of these lands and waters where we meet. We pay our respects to their elders past and present and to all descendants of this nation who have cared for this place since creation. We also honour all other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples here today.

Flynn of the Inland

Excerpt taken from "The Man on the Twenty Dollar Notes - Flynn of the Inland" by Everald Compton

Flynn happily recalled one pleasant Sunday when he had attended a morning service here as one of the congregation. As he walked outside at the conclusion of worship, not wearing his clerical collar, an elderly woman approached him. She was totally unaware of who he was.



"My friends tell me that you are a clergyman, sir," the woman said.

"Yes, I am," Flynn replied politely.

"And where is your congregation located?"

Flynn waved his arm towards the horizon.

"Out there where the sun goes down," he said.

"So, it is a country parish. Is it a large one?"

"Actually, it is the largest in Australia. It covers about 80% of the continent."



Her eyes widened in amazement, so he gave her the brief version of the Australian Inland Mission's work.

"Oh, my goodness me, you are Flynn of the Inland," she stammered.

"Actually, I am just John Flynn, a bush parson."

"I really don't know what to say, Mr Flynn. I find it hard to comprehend that one man could have dreamed this vision, let alone achieved it."

"It has not been too difficult. I have had many wonderful helpers."

A gleam returned to his eye as he thought about this conversation. No matter what his Board may do to him, his life would always be centred and focused on the valiant and friendly people who lived out there where the sun goes down.

In his view, they had been, still were, and always would be, the very fibre of the nation.



Ellen Small, the first nurse at Alice Springs feeding her pet emu and kangaroo (Sourced from the photo Album of Ellen Small)

Call to Worship

Come, we are called to be God's people:
to proclaim God's word,
to praise God's name,
to rejoice in God's salvation,
to love one another –
to be the people of God.

Hymn

*Hymn 96 in Together in Song
Sing praise to the Lord!*

Sing praise to the Lord!

1. Sing praise to the Lord! praise him in the height;
rejoice in his word, you angels of light;
all heaven adore him by whom you were made,
and worship before him in brightness arrayed.

2. Sing praise to the Lord! praise him upon earth,
in tuneful accord, sing praise for new birth;
praise him who has brought you his grace from above,
praise him who has taught you to sing of his love.

3. Sing praise to the Lord, all things that give sound;
each jubilant chord re-echo around;
loud organs, his glory forth tell in deep tone,
and sweet harp, the story of what he has done.

4. Sing praise to the Lord! thanksgiving and song
to him be outpoured all ages along:
for love in creation, for heaven restored,
for grace of salvation, sing praise to the Lord!



*Opening of the new hospital
at Birdsville, 1937
(AIM Collection, National
Library of Australia)*

Prayer of Confession

God of grace and love, we recognise the struggles and sorrows of those Australians who live in the remotest parts of this country. We pray for our Outback brothers and sisters as the divide between city and the bush continues to grow – in poverty, in health outcomes and access to vital services. We pray for our Bush Chaplains and volunteers who work side by side to lend a sympathetic ear and a helping hand. We pray that Reverend John Flynn’s vision of a “mantle of safety” for those in Inland Australia continues to be pursued with his energy and passion for years to come. We pray for the wisdom to know when more needs to be done and for the strength to do it, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.



John Flynn, listening to a farmer (AIM Collection, National Library of Australia)



Readings

**According to "The Bushman's Companion" (1910)
Rev John Flynn's own suggested readings**

God's Character: Micah 7: 18-20

The New Element: Matthew 5: 43-48

Followers Found: Matthew 6: 24-33

Life's Fruit: Galatians: 5: 13-24

for grace of salvation, sing praise to the Lord!

Sermon

Hymn 382

Now the green blade rises

Now the green blade riseth, from the buried grain,
Wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been:
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

In the grave they laid Him, Love who had been slain,
Thinking that He never would awake again,
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

Forth He came at Easter, like the risen grain,
Jesus who for three days in the grave had lain;
Quick from the dead the risen One is seen:
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
Jesus' touch can call us back to life again,
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.



Pedal wireless radio (AIM Collection, National Library of Australia)



School of the Air session at Mount Isa, 1950s

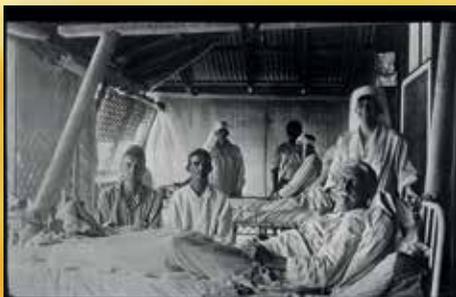
Prayer for the Others

John's Prayer for others from "The Bushman's Companion" (1910)

O God, we pray to Thee for the poor, the toiling, and the friendless; asking Thee, O loving Father, to succour them through Thy Son: who, being rich, became poor that He might be the Saviour of the poor, and needy, and lost.

We pray for our friends everywhere, keep their feet from falling, their eyes from tears; and preserve them and us, in the land of the living.

Make us able to forgive and help others: even as we would that they should forgive and help us. Hear this, our prayer, through the love of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

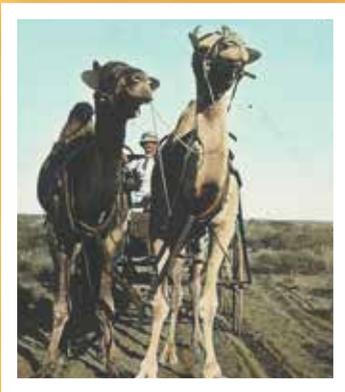


Patients in a hospital in 1927 (AIM Collection, National Library of Australia)

Traditional Prayer

Traditional Prayer in Commissioning AIM Padres from “The Bushman’s Companion” (1910)

“Let Thy blessing be upon his head; let Thy love strengthen his heart at every turn; let Thy touch give utterance to his tongue; let Thy grace rest upon his countenance and go before him to do those things that words cannot do. We set him apart in Thy name in faith that thou will also set him apart by Thy spirit.”



Padre W.J Stevens with his camel buggy on patrol in 1913 (Sourced from AIM Collection, National Library of Australia)

The first missionary appointed to the Smith of Dunesk Mission at Beltana in 1894, Rev Robert Mitchell. (Sourced from State Library of South Australia)



A Rolling Brown Land

Lord God, your Spirit has moved over the face of Australia

and formed from its dust a rolling brown land.

Your Spirit has moved over its warm tropical waters and created a rich variety of life.

Your Spirit has moved in the lives of men, women, and children

and given them, from the dream time, an affinity with their lands and waters.

Your Spirit has moved in pilgrim people and brought them to a place of freedom and plenty.

Your Spirit moves still today

in sprawling, high-rise cities,

in the vast distances of the outback,

and in the ethnic diversity of the Australian people.

Lord God, in the midst of this varied huddle of humanity you have set your church.

Give us, the people you have so richly blessed, a commitment to justice and peace for all nations;

and a vision of righteousness

and equality for all people in our own country.

Help us look beyond our far horizons

to see our neighbours in their many guises,

so that we may be mutually enriched by our differences.

And may our love and compassion for all people

on earth be as wide and varied as our land

and as constant as the grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Offering

Blessing & Benediction



“Good and faithful servant, you laid your hand magnificently on the challenge of building a great future for Australia. May God bless you and hold you in the palm of his hand.”

Reverend John Flynn



A founder of Qantas, Hudson Fysh, supported Flynn's vision and provided aircraft for the early aerial medical services. (Sourced from EA Crome Collection of Photographs on aviation, National Library of Australia)



An RFDS aircraft in flight (Richard Woldendorp)

Reflecting on the work of Rev John Flynn

- 1907** First nurse, Sister E.A. Main, based at Oodnadatta
- 1911** John Flynn ordained as a minister of the Presbyterian Church
- 1913** First active Bush Chaplain based in Pine Creek & Oodnadatta
- 1926** First successful wireless communication between Alice Springs and Hermannsburg
- 1929** First pedal wireless radio installed
- 1930** First Frontier News published
- 1939** Royal Flying Doctor Service established as a separate organisation
- 1949** Old Timers' nursing home established
- 1951** School of the Air is born, Alice Springs
- 1951** All AIM nursing homes registered as hospitals
- 1951** John Flynn's death and Fred McKay appointed as Superintendent of the AIM
- 1956** John Flynn Memorial Church opens, Alice Springs
- 1977** Church union, forming the Uniting Church in Australia
- 1980** Name change from Australian Inland Mission to Frontier Services
- 1994** John Flynn first featured on the twenty dollar note
- 2002** John Flynn Foundation established

THE JOHN FLYNN FOUNDATION



The John Flynn Foundation is the endowment fund for Uniting Church in Australia Frontier Services. It provides for the long-term needs of isolated communities and individuals by building capital where the investment income is used to fund the work of Bush Chaplains while the capital continues to grow over time and provides a sustainable income stream into the future.

We honour the memory of Reverend John Flynn in the name of our Foundation, recognising that it is not just about a gift today but an investment in the future of rural and remote Australia, continuing his vision of a “mantle of safety” over the inland.

Our work is made possible with your kind donations. We thank you for your prayers and generosity; we couldn't do the work we do without your help.



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**Frontier
Services**

Standing with
people in the bush

