

THE JOHN FLYNN FOUNDATION



TRALIA



20



Continuing his vision for the Inland

John Flynn Foundation
ORDER OF SERVICE 2020



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

I was with John Flynn up in the Cape York cattle country. His easy-going habit was to sit on a log, on a fence, on a swag - on anything - and talk to men of the bush. He was a gifted storyteller.



He came and sat beside me on the sand at Southport beach. I was in my surf lifesaving gear. At first, I had little interest. I had other dreams for my career. But the compassion of the man grabbed me.





From left to right: Revs Skipper Partridge, Chris Goy and Fred McKay.

There was a simple warmth in his slow voice. His eyes lit up with an inward enthusiasm. He was no pretender; flying doctors, bush nurses, pedal wireless - they were God's gifts. Flynn knew this and claimed no personal credit. "God supplied the rations," he said.

A miracle happened that day on Southport beach. It was the beginning of my life work beside this man and his Australian Inland Mission.

...like no other, (Flynn) revolutionised the lives of people in the "Never Never" country of Australia.

~ Rev Dr Fred McKay OBE



Dr & Mrs Spalding on arrival from Cloncurry, pictured outside the first AIM hospital when it was located in the old Royal Hotel at Birdsville.

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

*Taken from a selection of hymns
in John Flynn's 'The Bushman's
Companion' (1910)*

Abide with Me

1. Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens, Lord with me abide;
When other helpers fail, and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.
2. Come not in terrors, as the King of kings,
But kind and good, with healing in Thy wings,
Tears for all woes, a heart for every plea;
Come, Friend of sinners, thus abide with me.
3. Thou on my head in early youth didst smile;
And, though rebellious and perverse meanwhile,
Thou hast not left me, oft as I left Thee:
On to the close, O Lord, abide with me.
4. I need Thy presence every passing hour;
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.
5. I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness:
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still if Thou abide with me.
6. Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes,
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadow's flee;
In life and death, O Lord, abide with me.

Prayer of Confession

Work while yet the daylight shines,
Man of strength and will!
Never does the streamlet glide
Useless by the mill.
Wait not till tomorrow's sun
Beams upon the way;
All that thou canst call thine own
Lies in thy today.
Power and intellect and health
May not always last;
The mill cannot grind
With water that is past.

~ Sarah Doudney
(*The Bushman's Companion*, p 48)



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

But what avails the acne of
Remorse or vain regret?
We'll battle for the sake of
The men we might be yet!
We'll strive to keep in sight of
The brave, the true, and clean,
And triumph yet in spite of
The men we might have been.

Excerpt from 'A ramble among ideals'
(*The Bushman's Companion*, p 50)



Readings

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

Psalm 23

John 8: 2-11

Matthew 21: 28-32

Isaiah 40: 27-31

Sermon

Hymn *Where wide sky rolls down*

(Together in Song 188)

Where wide sky rolls down and touches red sand,
Where sun turns to gold the grass of the land,
Let spinifex, mulga and waterhole tell their joy in
The One who made everything well.

Where rainforest calm meets reef, tide and storm,
Where green things grow lush and oceans are warm,
Let every sea creature and tropical bird,
Exult in the Light of the life-giving Word.

Where red gum and creek cross hillside and plain,
Where cool tree-ferns rise to welcome the rain,
Let bushland, farm, mountain top, all of their days
Delight in the Spirit who formed them for praise.

Now, people of faith, come gather around
With songs to be shared, for blessings abound!
Australians, whatever your culture or race,
Come, lift up your hear to the Giver of Grace.



Deaconess Sister Latto Bett (above left) and AIM nurses at Flynn's first nursing home at Oodnadatta (opened 1911).

Prayer for the Others

May the Creator Spirit continue to watch over this land of many contrasts, cultures and peoples.

May Christ walk alongside us as we move in His presence.

May the cool wind of the Spirit refresh, replenish and restore our souls.

And may the land speak to us in such a way that we may see, feel and hear God the Creator, God the Spirit and God the Son in the cool murmur of the breeze.

Praise be to God

*Pastor Gary Ferguson, Bush Chaplain
Ceduna Remote Area
(South Australia)*

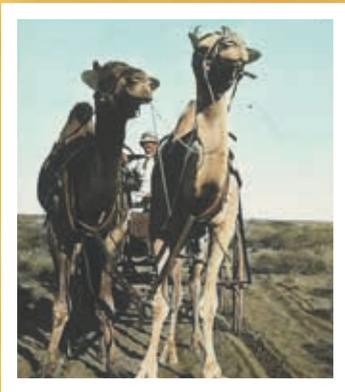


Transporting a patient from Fitzroy Crossing during the wet season.

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)

Rev John Flynn and ‘Skipper’ Partridge next to the Dodge sedan used by Skipper on patrol between 1932 and 1937.



There is a Green Hill

There is a green hill far away,
Without a city wall,
Where the dear Lord was crucified
Who died to save us all.

We may not know, we cannot tell
What pains He had to bear;
But we believe it was for us
He hung and suffered there.

He died that we might be forgiven,
He died to make us good,
That we might go at least to heaven,
Saved by His precious blood.

There was no other good enough
To pay the price of sin;
He only could unlock the gate
Of heaven, and let us in.

O dearly, dearly has He loved,
And we must love Him too,
And trust in His redeeming blood,
And try His works to do.

Amen.

Offering

Blessing & Benediction



The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of
the Holy Spirit be with you all,
evermore.

Amen.



Residents shield their eyes against the westering sun to greet HRH Princess Anne when she visited Old Timers.



School of Air session at Mt Isa (1950s).

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
- 2019** New \$20 note



The John Flynn Foundation is the endowment fund for the 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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Standing with
people in the bush

