



Reverend John Flynn

*A true companion to the people of the Outback*

## *"If you start something worthwhile, nothing can stop it."* – Rev John Flynn

- 1907** First nurse, Sister E.A. Main, based at Oodnadatta
- 1911** John Flynn ordained as a minister of the Presbyterian Church
- 1912** John Flynn founded the Australian Inland Mission (AIM), which later became Frontier Services
- 1913** First active Bush Chaplain based in Pine Creek and 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
- 1951** School of the Air is born, Alice Springs
- 1951** All AIM nursing homes registered as hospitals
- 1951** John Flynn's death; Fred McKay appointed as AIM Superintendent
- 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 polymer \$20 banknote
- 2002** John Flynn Foundation established
- 2024** Bush Chaplains and Outback Links volunteers continue the work of John Flynn, providing a "mantle of safety" to our friends in the bush

*Still the welcome visitor, the friend, the counsellor, the advocate for all who live and work in remote Australia*



## *Flynn of the Inland*

Excerpt taken from *The Man on the Twenty Dollar Notes: Flynn of the Inland* by Everaldo Compton



Flynn happily recalled one pleasant Sunday when he 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?"* she asked.

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."*

## Suggested Bible Readings

According to *The Bushman's Companion*, Rev John Flynn's suggested readings:

- Psalm 23:1-6 The Lord is my Shepherd
- Luke 24:13-35 The Walk to Emmaus
- Romans 12:9-15 Rejoice in Hope, Persevere in Prayer
- Isaiah 40:27-31 The Lord Shall Renew Their Strength
- Matthew 5:1-6 The Beatitudes
- 1 Thessalonians 5:9-11 Encourage One Another

## Prayer of Confession

From *The Bushman's Companion* by John Flynn

O God, our Heavenly Father, who hast bound us together as one family and home, accept our thanks for Thy love and care. Thou hast guarded us through the days and watched over us through the nights. Thou hast granted us health and joy, and food and clothing, and the precious gifts of sight and hearing, and speech and knowledge. Thou hast surrounded us with friends, and the best and truest friendship of our parents' love, and constant defense and help. Above all, Thou hast given us Thy greatest gift, of Jesus Christ Thy son, who loved us, and gave Himself for us.

We confess to Thee our sin and faults; our wrong thoughts our selfish feelings; our false or cruel or evil words; all the untrue things we have done; and all the right things we have left undone.

Forgive us, dear Heavenly Father, we beseech Thee who art all-holy

and pure. Send, also, into our hearts love to Jesus Christ, and the help of Thy Holy Spirit; to give us right thoughts, and to make our wills strong, and true, and pure, to do good. Save us from falling into temptation. Let us remember that we have been baptised into Thy holy name, and have borne upon our brows the sign of a sacred vow to be Thy children, pure and loyal to Thee. Guide us by Thy truth in Thy way.

Make us use our knowledge and strength in being kind, courteous, and helpful to others around us, and obedient to those who are over us. So, by Thy grace, may we win the "Well done, good and faithful servant!" from Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**



## Prayer of Thanksgiving

*From The Bushman's Companion*

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
we Thine unworthy servants do give Thee most humble and hearty  
thanks for all Thy goodness and loving-kindness to us, and to all men.  
We bless Thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of  
this life;  
but, above all, for Thine inestimable love in the redemption of the  
world by our Lord Jesus Christ;  
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.  
And, we beseech Thee, give us that due sense of all Thy mercies,  
that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful, and that we show forth  
Thy praise, not only with our lips,  
but in our lives; by giving up ourselves to Thy service, and by walking  
before Thee in holiness and righteousness all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with Thee and Holy Ghost be all  
honour and glory, world without end.

**Amen.**



## Prayer of Intercession

*From The Bushman's Companion*

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.

Defend and provide for all orphaned and fatherless children; and all who  
are widowed and helpless. Strengthen them with Thy sympathy, and  
help them in their distress.

Show Thy mercy, O Father, to the children in darkened lands, who have  
not heard of Christ's love; or, in cities or the lonely "bush," who have not  
been taught of His gentleness and compassion. Let Thy mission to grace  
go forth to win, and teach, and save them.

Bless all who are wronged, oppressed, and enslaved. Enlighten the  
nations to set them free.

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.

(We pray Thee to keep, and guide, and bless our dear parents, and our  
brothers and sisters; make their hearts and lives glad with Thy peace and joy).

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.**

# A Family Prayer

From *The Bushman's Companion*

Our Heavenly Father, whose tender mercies are over all Thy works, look down upon us this morning, we beseech Thee, in Thy love and pity.

May the Spirit of grace and truth rest upon us, and accompany us through all the events of this day, enabling us to fulfil its duties, to bear its trials, to resist its temptations, and to embrace the opportunities it brings of doing good. May He deepen in our hearts the sense of sin, and make us hate it with a stronger hatred.

May we, who dwell together under this roof, be kindly affectionate one to another, with brotherly love; forbearing and forgoing one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven us.

May our friends and relatives be cared for by Thee, and, while in the world, be kept from the evil of it. Hear the cry of the poor and the afflicted; and imbue the hearts of Thy people with great compassion for their brothers and sisters who are in need; and for the ignorant, and them that are out of the way.

O send forth Thy light and Thy truth to the ends of the earth; let all flesh see the salvation of our God.

**Amen.**



## *Suggested Hymns*

Depending on your congregation's relevant CCLI license, you may like to choose one of a number of hymns found in *Together in Song*.

Suggested hymns include:

- TiS 96 - Sing praise to the Lord!
- TiS 130 - We plough the fields, and scatter
- TiS 135 - The wildflowers in their beauty
- TiS 445 - Jesus, where'er your people meet
- TiS 590 - What a friend we have in Jesus
- TiS 658 - Here I am, Lord



The John Flynn Foundation is the endowment fund for Frontier Services.

It provides for the long-term needs of isolated communities and individuals by building capital – 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 Rev 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 Rev Flynn's vision of a "mantle of safety" over the inland.



## Continuing Flynn's Legacy

Our work is made possible by your kind donations. With your support, our Bush Chaplains continue to provide practical, pastoral, and spiritual care to rural and remote communities going through hardships. Your generosity enables us to send Outback Links volunteers to remote corners of Australia to offer practical assistance and friendly connection to those who need it.

We thank you for your prayers and generosity; we couldn't do the work we do without your help.

### You can continue Rev Flynn's vision for outback Australia today and into the future.

Leaving a Gift in your Will to the John Flynn Foundation helps build a significant reserve, which provides a steady and long-term income stream to support our programs in rural and remote Australia. It is a powerful way to ensure that people in the bush never have to struggle alone.

To find out more about continuing Flynn's legacy by leaving a Gift in your Will, scan the QR code or visit [frontierservices.org/john-flynn-foundation](http://frontierservices.org/john-flynn-foundation)





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