

Our Australian Christian Heritage

Dr. Graham McLennan

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God Speaks To Nations As Much as To Individuals

The OLD TESTAMENT prophets, both minor & major, spoke mainly about God's dealing with nations, rather than just to individuals.

- Example: Genesis through to Judges speak mainly of Community & Government.
- Landa Cope's <http://www.templateinstitute.com/> Domain Bible Study

EXAMPLE: [Domain Bible Study Reference](#): Government, Economics, Science & Technology, Church, Family, Education, Arts & Entertainment, Communication

- ISAIAH 9:7 Of the increase of his government & peace there will be no end.
- JESUS The Lord's prayer ... thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

– **PSALM 2**

- **“Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain**
- **Ask of me and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession”.**

– **PSALM 22:27-28**

- **” All the ends of the earth WILL remember and turn to the Lord, and ALL the families of the nations WILL bow down before him, for dominion belongs to the Lord and he rules over the nations.”**
- **PSALM 33: 12 "Blessed is the nation whose God is the lord..."**

– **PSALM 46:8**

- **“Be still and know that I am God I WILL be exalted amongst the nations I WILL be exalted in the earth”**

– **PSALM 57: 9**

- **“ I will praise you, O Lord, among the nations..”**

PSALM 67:2,4

“May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine upon us, that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among ALL nations... May the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you rule the peoples justly and guide the nations of the earth “

PSALM 79:6

“Pour out your wrath on the nations that do not acknowledge you, on the kingdoms that do not call on your name;”

PSALM 86:9

“All the nations you have made WILL come and worship before you, O Lord; they WILL bring glory to your name.”

PSALM 94:10

“Does he who disciplines nations not punish?”

PSALM 96

“Declare his glory among the nations, his marvellous deeds among all peoples. Say among the nations,

“THE LORD REIGNS”

MATTHEW 12:17-21 (ISAIAH 42:1-4)

“ Here is my servant whom I have chosen, the one I love, in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, And he will proclaim justice to the nations. He will not quarrel or cry out; No one will hear his voice in the streets. A bruised reed he will not break, and a smouldering wick he will not snuff out, till he leads justice to victory. In his name the nations will put their hope.”

REV 15:4

“ALL Nations will come and worship before you”

REV 21:24,26

“ The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendour into it. The glory and honour of the nations will be brought into it”

1 TIMOTHY 2:1-4

“I urge, then, FIRST of all that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone---for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good and pleases God our Saviour who wants all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth” (PPN)

Predominant Religion By Nations

R	Afr	As	Eur	Am	Pac	W
C	31	3	47	51	32	164
M	23	26	1	0	0	50
B	0	11	0	0	0	11
No	0	5	1	0	0	6
H	1	2	0	0	0	3
Eth	2	0	0	0	0	2
Je	0	1	0	0	0	1
Tot	57	48	49	51	32	237

Our Australian Christian Heritage

J. D. Bollen, Senior Lecturer in History at Macquarie University in 1973 stated that it's “a good historical rule that the way to understand something is to look at it's origins.”

He further comments that the Christian should not think that religion is “purely domestic, insignificant by any public standard, when he turns to the history of Christianity in Australia. He is dealing with part of Australian history.”

J.D. Bollen, *Religion in Australian Society: an Historian's View*, p1,2.

Our Australian Christian Heritage

Individuals

- Before Settlement
- After Settlement

Institutions

- Parliament
- Law
- Education
- Welfare and Health
- Media

Documents

- Governor Phillip's Instructions
- Founding of South Australia
- Federal Constitution

Events

- First Christian Service
- [Days of Prayer](#)
- [National Gathering](#)

Our Australian Christian Heritage: Individuals

"Whereupon it was most apparent, that God miraculously preserved the English nation. For the L. Admiral wrote unto her Majestie that in all humane reason, and according to the judgement of all men (every circumstance being duly considered) the English men were not of any such force, whereby they might, without a miracle dare once to approach within sight of the Spanish Fleet: insomuch that they freely ascribed all the honour of their victory unto God, who had confounded the enemy, and had brought his counsels to none effect... While this wonderful and puissant navy was syling along the English coasts, and all men did not plaine-ly see and heare that which before they would not be persuaded of, all people throug England prostrated themselves with humble prayers and supplications unto God: but especially the outlandish churches (who had greatest cause to feare, and against whom by name the Spaniards had threatened most grievous torments) enjoyned to their people continual fastings and supplications, that they might turne away from God's wrath and fury now imminent upon them for their sinnes; knowing right well, that prayer was the only refuge against all enemies, calamities, and necessities, and that this was the only solace and reliefe for mankind, being visited with afflictions and misery..."

Man Proposes
God Disposes

Our Australian Christian Heritage: Individuals

Before Settlement

- Columbus
- Magellan
- Tasman
- De Quiros
- Cook

Reasons for the Delayed Settlement of Australia

- Chinese
- Hindu/ Buddhists
- Muslims

Our Australian Christian Heritage: Individuals After Settlement

Explorers

- Flinders
- Sturt
- Eyre
- Leichhardt
- Grey
- Forrest
- Warburton
- Stuart

Sports

- Booth
- Court

Statesmen and Governors

- Brisbane
- Hunter
- Macquarie
- Latrobe
- Arthur
- Deakin

Missionaries

- Threlkeld
- Watsford
- Florence Young

Pioneers

- Chisholm
- Flynn
- Elizabeth
Macarthur

Inventors

- Ridley

Industry

- McKay

Entertainers

Medicine

Clergymen

- Johnson
- Marsden
- Scott
- Broughton
- Polding
- Vaughan
- Lawry
- Orton
- Watsford

Scientists

- Graeme Clarke

Australian Dictionary of Evangelical Biography with over 600 Early Australian Christian Pioneers, Missionaries and Church Leaders.

Link: <http://nla.gov.au/nla.cat-vn1848178>

Educators

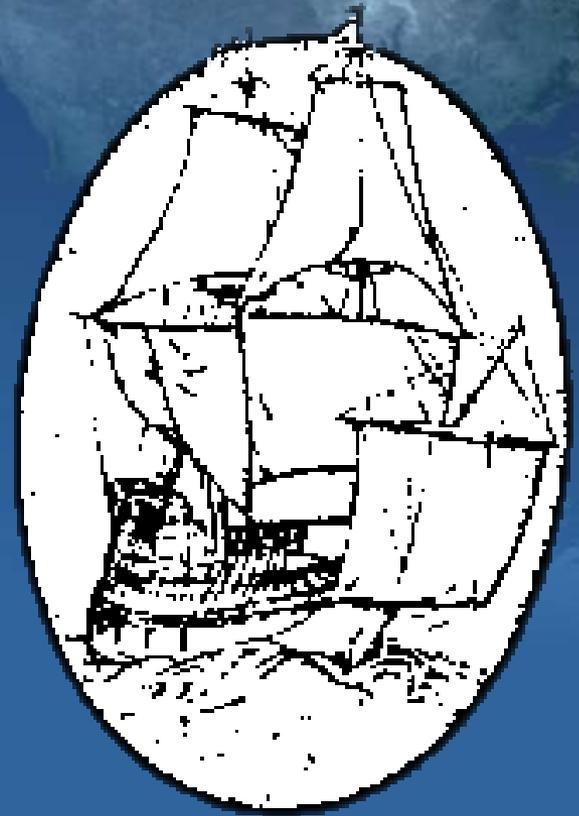
AUSTRALIA'S FIRST HUNDRED YEARS THE ERA OF CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

[UNDERSTANDING OUR CHRISTIAN HERITAGE VOLUME II Chapter 4](#) Allen S. Roberts

Our Australian Christian Heritage: Individuals

Christopher Columbus

When he set out,
 he didn't know where he was going,
When he got there,
 he didn't know where he was,
When he returned,
 he didn't know where he had been.



Our Australian Christian Heritage: Individuals



COLUMBUS

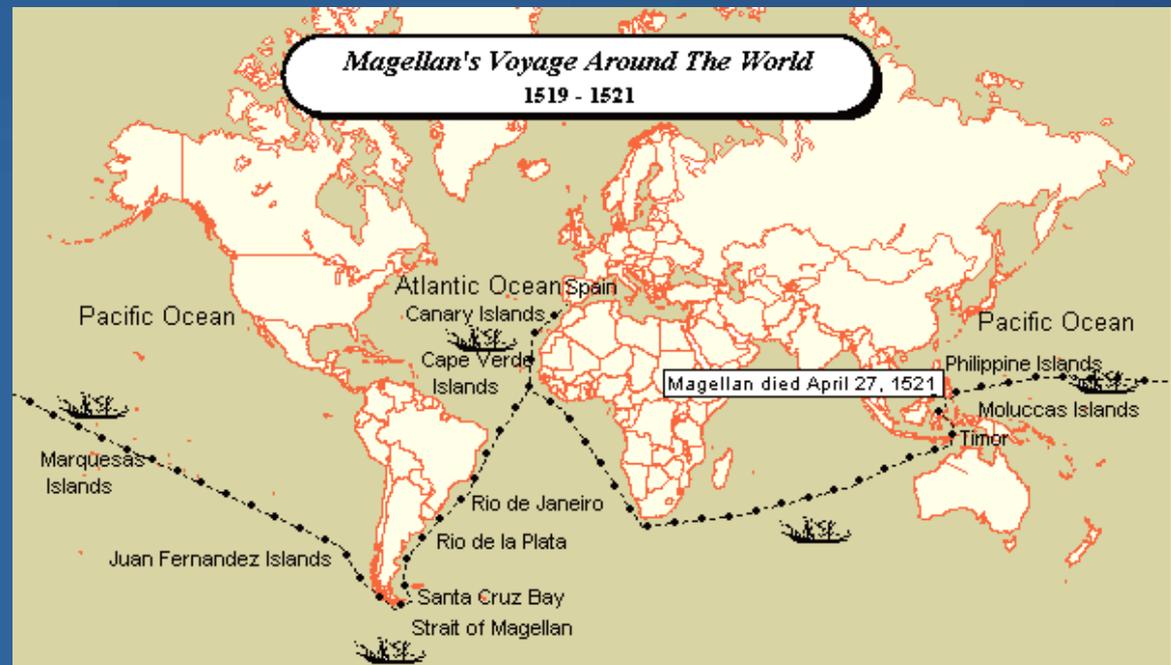
“...It was the Lord who put into my mind — I could feel His hand upon me — the fact that it would be possible to sail from here to the Indies... All who heard of my project rejected it with laughter, ridiculing me... There is no question that the inspiration was from the Holy Spirit, because he comforted me with rays of marvellous illumination from the Holy Scriptures... For the execution of the journey to the Indies I did not make use of intelligence, mathematics, or maps. It is simply the fulfilment of what Isaiah had prophesied... No one should fear to undertake any task in the name of our Saviour, if it is just and if the intention is purely for His Holy service... the fact that the Gospel must still be preached to so many lands in such a short time — this is what convinces me”. (“Book of Prophecies”, Christopher Columbus).

Columbus' voyage ultimately led to the first permanent English settlement in America, at Jamestown. They placed a cross at Cape Henry (now Virginia Beach) on April 29, 1607, claiming America for God as his vehicle for spreading the gospel to every nation.

Our Australian Christian Heritage: Individuals

Magellan

In 1519 a Portuguese Catholic, in the service of the King of Spain, sailed from Seville to find a route to the wealth of China and the Indies round the south of America, as well as to contribute to the Glory of Almighty God and His Church by converting barbarous nations to the Christian faith. CMH Clark, A History of Australia Vol 1, p 12, MUP, used with permission



Our Australian Christian Heritage: Individuals

Magellan

Magellan having noticed in the Chief's house a sick person in a very wasted condition, asked who he was and from what disease he was suffering. He was told that it was the chief's grandson, and that he had been suffering for two years from a violent fever. Magellan exhorted him to be of good courage, that if he would devote himself to Christ he would immediately recover his former strength. The Indian consented, and adored the cross, and received baptism, and the next day declared that he was well again, rose from his bed and walked about, and took his meals like the others...the Chief and over 2200 Indians were baptized and professed the name and faith of Christ.

George Collingridge, *'Discovery of Australia'*, p 148.

Duyfken 400 Year Celebrations



Duyfken 400 year Celebrations

2006 marked the 400th year of European connections with Australia. Not only the De Quiros Celebrations in Vanuatu but that of the Duyfken the "Little Dove", named after the dove sent out from Noah's Ark in search of land.

Links: <http://www.duyfken.com/> and www.chr.org.au



Under the command of Willem Janszoon, *Duyfken* and her crew ventured south-east. They sailed beyond Papua New Guinea and explored and chartered part of the coast of Nova Guinea. They did not find gold - but they did find the northern coast of a huge continent: Australia. Captain Janszoon was the first European to map and record Australia in history so *Duyfken's* voyage marks the beginning of Australia's recorded history.

Our Australian Christian Heritage: Individuals

The Spaniards

Now based in Peru made a series of voyages between 1559 and 1607 in the west and South Pacific.

“The man of God testified also that both sacred writ and philosophical reasoning pointed to there being a great surface of land uncovered in the southern hemisphere as in the northern. Their religious expectations were to enlighten and convert to Christianity all infidels, and to lead them as labourers into the vineyard of the Lord”.

CMH Clark, A History of Australia Vol 1, p 13

Our Australian Christian Heritage: Individuals

Pedro Fernandez de Quiros

“and of all this region of the south as far as the Pole, which from this time shall be called Austrialia* del Espiritu Santo...”

*There can be little doubt that Quirós originally intended to apply the name “Austrialia Espíritu Santo” to Espíritu Santo in 1606. The term “Australia” then appeared in subsequent texts, either as an alternative spelling or a spelling error. Quirós’ memorials were only intended to have limited circulation, for King Philip III and royal officials. As the result of an unknown sequence of events the 8th Memorial found its way out of Spain, and by 1625 it had been translated into Italian, Dutch, French and lastly English (Purchas 1625, 4:1422-27). By this means it entered the lexicon of several languages and was ultimately applied to our nation, with the word “Australia” appearing for the first time in English in Purchas His Pilgrimes in 1625.

[Click to learn more >>](#)



Latin derivative '*Austral*' = Spanish adj. meaning 'Southern'

Reasons for the Delayed Settlement of Australia

Chinese

Came as far south as Timor, but with internal revolt, Chinese expansion ceased after 1433, when all contact with foreigners was discouraged.

Hindu Buddhists

Hindu religion particularly prohibited sea voyages and contact with foreigners. They would not travel south of Java and Sumatra because their ships would be sucked into a southern abyss or fall prey to a huge vulture-like bird, “Geruda”. They had such a fear of certain death awaiting them that they only sailed 5kms south of Timor. CMH Clark, A History of Australia Vol 1, p 12, MUP, used with permission

Reasons for the Delayed Settlement of Australia

Muslims

Their sailors referred to the unknown south as Dedjdal, “The Kingdom of Antichrist”.

CMH Clark, A History of Australia Vol 1, p 12, MUP, used with permission

INSTRUCTIONS TO SKIPPER COMMANDER ABEL JANSZ. TASMAN, PILOT-MAJOR FRANCHOYS JACOBSZ. VISSCHER, AND THE COUNCIL OF THE SHIP "HEEMSKERCK" AND THE FLUTE "DE ZEEHAEN," DESTINED FOR THE DISCOVERY AND EXPLORATION OF THE UNKNOWN AND KNOWN SOUTH LAND, OF THE SOUTH-EAST COAST OF NOVA GUINEA, AND OF THE ISLANDS CIRCUMJACENT.

1st for discoveries.

It is well known that a hundred and fifty years ago only a third part of the globe (divided into Europe, Asia, and Africa) was known, and that the Kings of Castile and Portugal (Ferdinandus Catholicus and Don Emanuel) caused the unknown part of the world, commonly called America or the New World (and by cosmographers divided into North and South America), to be discovered by the highly renowned naval heroes Christopher Columbus and Americus Vesputius, who thereby achieved immortal praise; likewise that about the same time the unexplored coasts and islands of Africa and East India were first reached and discovered by the famous Vasco de Gama and other Portuguese captains. With what invaluable treasures, profitable trade-connections, useful trades, excellent territories, vast powers and dominions the said kings have by this discovery and its consequences enriched their kingdoms and crowns; what numberless multitudes of blind heathen have by the same been introduced to the blessed light of the Christian religion: all this is well known to the expert, has always been held highly praiseworthy by all persons of good sense, and has consequently served other European princes as an example for the discovery of many northerly regions.

Nevertheless, up to this time no Christian kings, princes, or commonwealths have seriously endeavoured to make timely discovery of the remaining unknown part of the terrestrial globe (situated in the south, and presumably almost as large as the Old or New World), although there are good reasons to suppose that it contains many excellent and fertile regions, seeing that it lies in the frigid, the temperate, and the torrid zones, so that it must needs comprise well-populated districts in favourable climates and under propitious skies. And seeing that in many countries north of the line equinoctial (in from 15 to 40 degrees latitude) there are found many rich mines of precious and other metals, and other treasures, there must be similar fertile and rich regions situated south of the equator, of which matter we have conspicuous examples and clear proofs in the gold- and silver-bearing provinces of Peru, Chili, Monomotapa, or Sofala (all of them situated south of the equator), so that it may be confidently expected that the expense and trouble that must be bestowed in the eventual discovery of so large a portion of the world will be rewarded with certain fruits of material profit and immortal fame.

The unknown country should contain gold and silver.

1642
Aug. 13.

ABEL TASMAN



Our Australian Christian Heritage: Individuals

Capt. James Cook's Wife's Prayer Book

Whitsundays

Trinity Bay

Christmas Island

Pentecost Islands

Providential Channel

Son Hugh

Banks Journal

- *Moravian* Influence

Walker Brothers

- *Quaker* Influence

Cook takes Divine Service

- 14,21 May, 1769

Our Australian Christian Heritage: Individuals

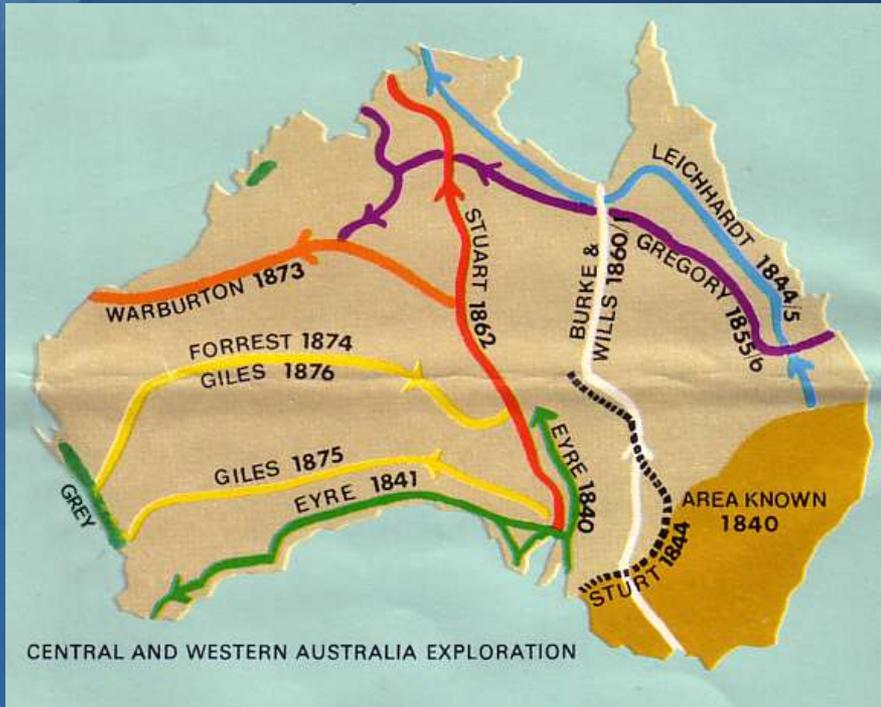
**Rev. Samuel Marsden 3rd December 1796
Correspondence of Rev. S. Marsden and
Family**

You can form no idea Madam of our state. I wish to be found faithful to act like a Christian Minister. I can say this that I do not eat the bread of idleness. It is my opinion that God will ere long visit New South Wales with his heavenly grace. Out of these stones he will raise up children unto Abraham. There has not been any shaking yet among the dry bones, But the Son of Man is commanded to prophecy and I hope by and by the Lord will command the wind to blow. Stir up thy strength o God & come amongst us.



[Dictionary of Australia Biography](#)

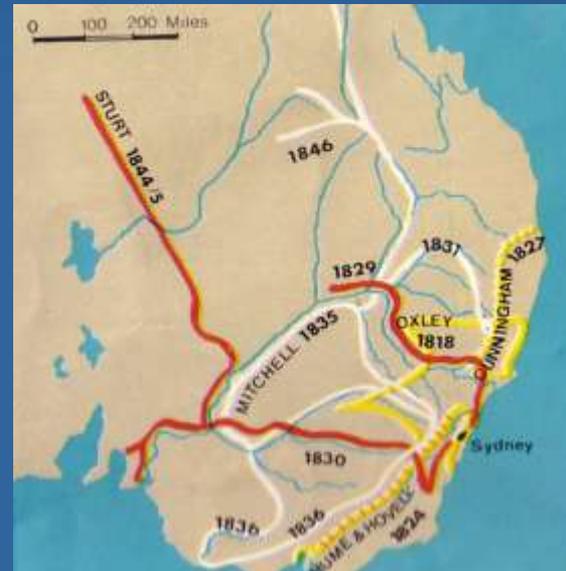
Our Australian Christian Heritage



Explorers

- Flinders (Navigator)
- Sturt
- Eyre
- Leichhardt
- Grey
- Forrester
- Warburton
- Sturt

Many of the Australian Explorer's Journals can be found online by clicking on the below image



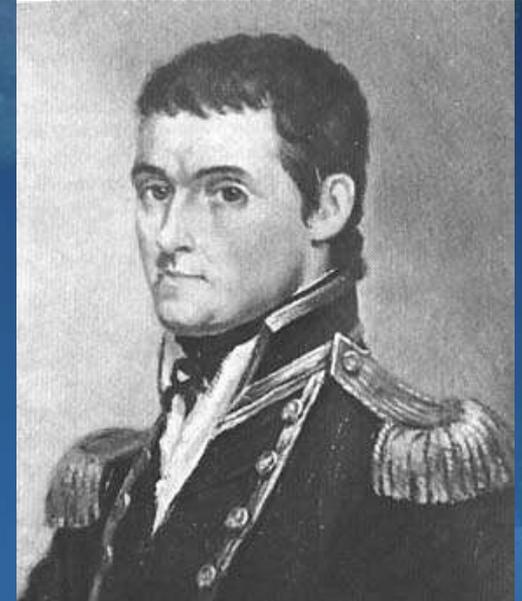
Mathew Flinders (1774 - 1814)

Navigator



In 1802-03, Flinders circled Australia, meticulously charting its coastline. Flinder's objective was "to make so accurate an investigation of the shores of Terra Australis that . . . with the blessing of God, nothing of importance would be left for future discoverers upon any part of these extensive coasts". *

Flinders was promoted to Post Captain, but the Admiralty would not backdate his pay; therefore, he spent the remaining four years of his life in poverty, living on half-pay in failing health. During this time, he worked on his book, *A Voyage to Australia*, although Sir Joseph Banks crossed out "Australia" and inserted the Latin name, *Terra Australis*. Flinders was the first man to use the name "Australia". The proofs of the two volumes, with his atlas and charts, were placed in his hands as he lay dying. He died the same day on 19 July 1814, just 40 years old.



* Quoted in Sir E. Scott, *The Life of Mathew Flinders* (1902), p. 272.



Charles Sturt

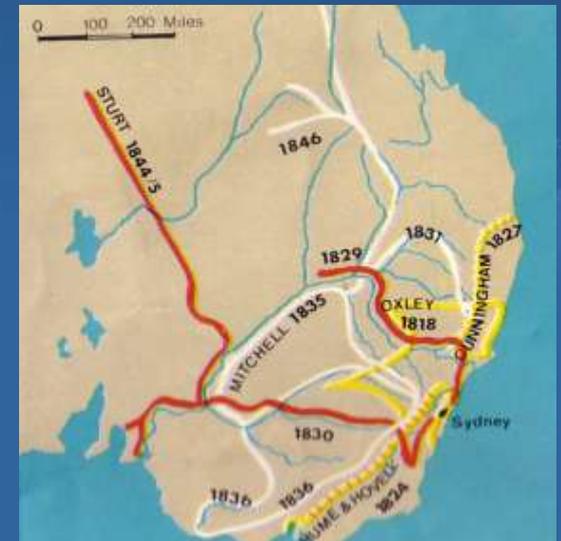


[John Michael Crossland, 1853,](#)
[National Portrait Gallery,](#)
[London](#)

The person who opened up the Southern portion of Australia for free settlement was Captain Charles Sturt, one of Australia's greatest and most heroic inland explorers. He was a man of courage and prayer, for "in many a scene of danger, of difficulty, and of sorrow he had risen from his knees calm and confident."

God spared his life on numerous occasions. He endured tremendous hardships when facing the harshness of the Australian inland, and, as Sturt completed his exploration with his men, who had complete confidence in and admiration for him, he "went down on his knees and with tears of joy offered his thanks to Almighty God."

Charles Sturt loved the majesty of the bush and often "praised his God that He had done such wondrous things." It was Sturt who in February, 1834 wrote to the Colonial Office. "He prophesied that the men of South Australia would one day people the heart of the continent and that the Australian colonies would emulate America. He urged them to convince the aborigine that the white man was coming as a brother. He urged them, too, not to give the aborigine trifling presents but to protect him against violence and aggression, until that day when as children of the same heavenly Father, they had all learned to look at each other with love and charity."



Sturt = Orange

Charles Sturt

I intend the writing of the journal to my Sundays' occupation, and in whatever circumstances I may be placed I have determined to add something to you every succeeding Sabbath. You will then know that I have ever thought of you on that day, and it may be that our united prayers will yet be heard. Prosperity, Dearest, was the blessing of the Old Testament, Adversity is the blessing of the New, and the knowledge of this should be useful lesson to us, and if it please GOD to permit my return to you, it may be that this long and fearful separation will be another proof of what both religion and reason point out to us that, "whatever is, is right".

Page 15 Journal of the Central Australian Expedition 1844 - 1845

Journal of the Central Australian Expedition 1844-1845



CHARLES STURT



Sturt Desert Pea

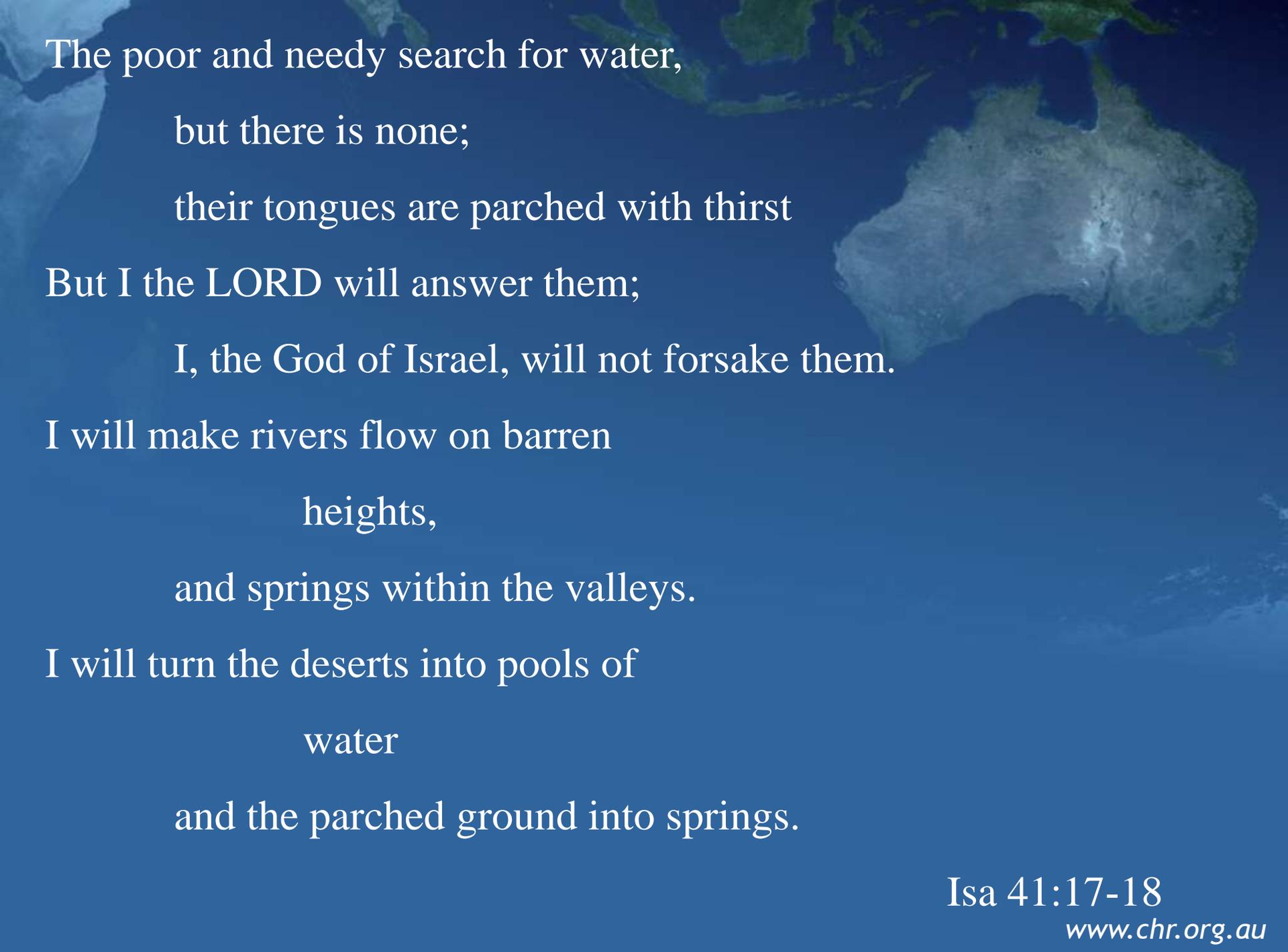


Edward Eyre (1815 - 1901)



In this last extremity we had been relieved. That gracious God, without whose assistance all hope of safety had been in vain, had heard our earnest prayers of His aid, and I trust that in our deliverance we recognised and acknowledged with sincerity and thankfulness His guiding and protecting hand. It is in circumstances only such as we had been lately placed in that the utter hopelessness of all human efforts is truly felt, and it is when relieved from such a situation that the hand of a directing and beneficent Being appears most plainly discernible, fulfilling those gracious promises which He had made, to hear them that call upon Him in the day of trouble (Isa. 41:17, 18; 43:19)

Journal entry dated 1841 28th March



The poor and needy search for water,
but there is none;
their tongues are parched with thirst
But I the LORD will answer them;
I, the God of Israel, will not forsake them.
I will make rivers flow on barren
heights,
and springs within the valleys.
I will turn the deserts into pools of
water
and the parched ground into springs.

Isa 41:17-18

www.chr.org.au



See, I am doing a new thing!

Now it springs up; do you not
perceive it?

I am making a way in the desert
and streams in the wasteland.

Isa 43:19

Edward Eyre (1815 - 1901)

Such are the mysteries and inscrutable ways of Providence and so impossible is it for man's private comprehension to estimate the result even of his own simplest actions, still less to judge of the more general ordinations of Divine Wisdom. In my progress thro' life I have frequently found trivial circumstances conduce to

important events and influential occurrences take place when least expected; an experience no doubt shared in by others, but which I think ought to teach us to distrust ourselves and our own judgment and to place full reliance in the wisdom and goodness of God, who can, and in his own good time often does, make plain and clear what once seemed dark, inexplicable or unimportant.

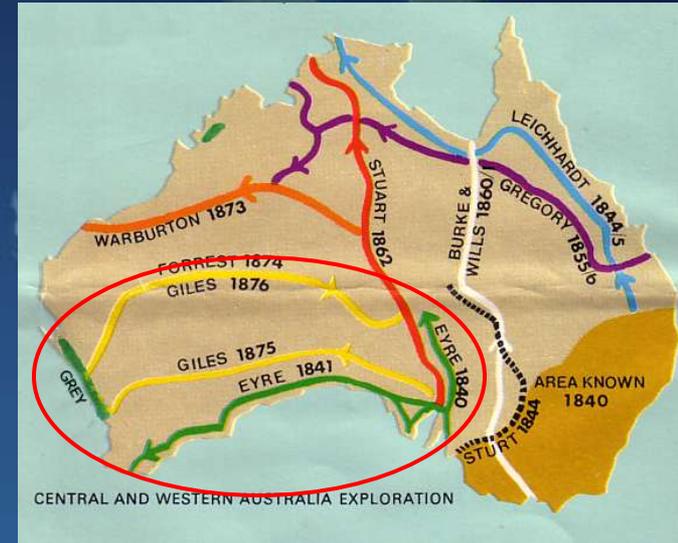
Page 214 Autobiographical Narrative 1832 - 1839



Edward Eyre

Man may indeed propose, but that it is God above who can dispose. . . . It has pleased His Almighty Wisdom to bar our progress into the interior; but I still feel that I have much reason to be most sincerely grateful to that merciful and protecting Providence which has guided me through so many difficulties and guarded me through so many dangers

A Dinner for Mr. Eyre in Adelaide, August 1841 (Sullivan's Cove, 1984), p. 10.



Eyre: green



Our Australian Christian Heritage: Individuals

George Grey 1812-1898

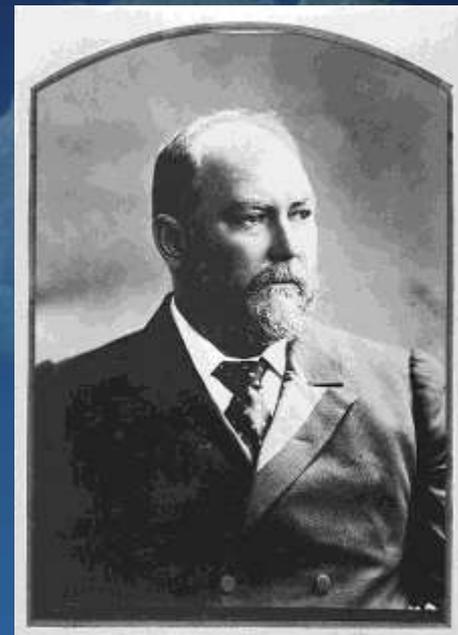
It may be asked, if, during such a trying period, I did not seek from religion that consolation which it is sure to afford? My answer is, Yes; and I farther feel assured that but for the support I derived from prayer and frequent perusal and meditation of the Scriptures, I should never have been able to have borne of myself in such a manner as to have maintained discipline and confidence amongst the rest of the party: nor in all my sufferings did I ever lose the consolation derived from a firm reliance upon the goodness of Providence. It is only those who go forth into perils and dangers, amidst which human foresight and strength can but little avail, and who find themselves, day by day, protected by an unseen influence, and ever and again snatched from the very jaws of destruction, by a power which is not of this world, who can at all estimate the knowledge of ones own weakness and littleness, and the firm reliance and trust upon the goodness of the Creator which the human breast is capable of feeling. Like all other lessons which are of great and lasting benefit to man, this one must be learnt amid much sorrowing and woe; but having learnt it, it is but the sweeter from the pain and toil which are undergone in the acquisition



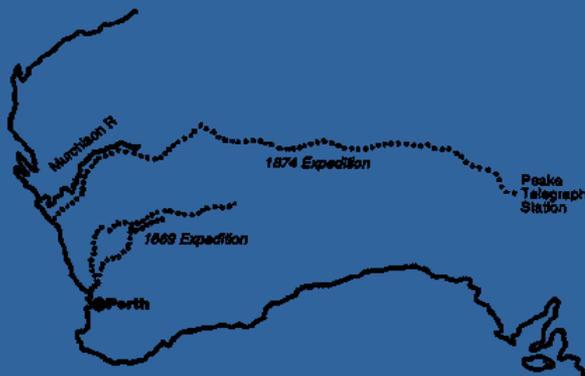
Our Australian Christian Heritage: Individuals

John Forrest

The 19th was Sunday, and, according to practice, we rested. Every Sunday throughout the journey I read Divine Service, and, except making the daily observations, only work absolutely necessary was done. Whenever possible, we rested on Sunday, taking, if we could, a pigeon, a parrot, or such other game as might come in our way as special fare. Sunday's dinner was an institution for which even in those inhospitable winds, we had a great respect. [Explorations in Australia by John Forrest FRGS 1875 Page 161 Click Here](#)



[Australasian Federal Convention, Melbourne, 1898](#),
National Library of Australia



It is in circumstances such as I am at present placed that we are sure to implore help and assistance from the hand of the Creator; but when we have received all we desire, how often we forget to give Him praise!

[Page 192 Click Here](#)

Ludwig Leichhardt

To Leichhardt it was serious business--a divine call. In a letter to his sister, he wrote:

If nature stirs you to such pleasure, just think how she must stir me, in my chosen task of penetrating her secrets and discovering the laws that govern the everlasting might and splendour of her workings! Would it not be sin in me to give you any other answer but that of our Redeemer to his anxious Mother when she found him in the temple? 'Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?' Raised in a Lutheran home, he was known to be a man of simple Christian faith and moral character. He remembered with affection the church of his childhood, but hated religious controversy. He found "sufficient" the statement of faith: "I believe in Jesus Christ our Saviour"

. In a letter dated 6 September 1842 he confided to his mother:

I feel as innocent as I was when you last took me in your arms. And I have you to thank for it. [Why? Because] when I think of the source of my moral principles what comes to mind is the room with the tiny little window in our old house, where you taught us to say our prayers morning and evening, and made us aware of our Father which art in Heaven

M. Arousseau, ed., The Letters of F. W. Ludwig Leichhardt (Cambridge: Hakluyt Society, 1968), 2: p.520 , 765.



Leichhardt = Blue



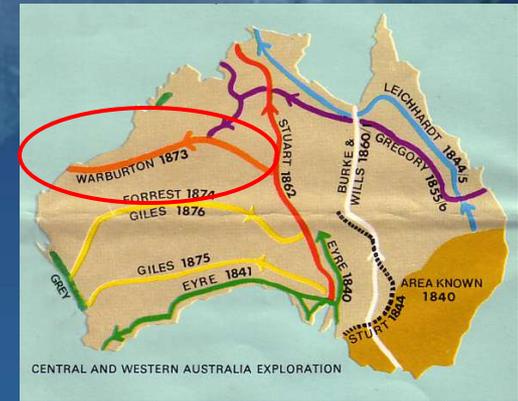
Peter Egerton Warburton



I was so utterly exhausted when we camped, at 3 a.m., that it was evident I never could have gone on after that night without more food n water/ I would have therefore thankfully acknowledge the goodness and mercy of God in saving my life by guiding us to a place where we got both.

My party at least are now in the state that unless it please God to save us, we cannot live more than twenty-four hours We are at our last drop of water, and the smallest bit of dried meat chokes me. I fear my son must share my fate, as he will not leave me. God have mercy upon us we shall not regret exchanging our present misery for that state in which the weary are at rest.

We have tried to do our duty, and I have been disappointed in all our expectations. I have been in excellent health during the whole journey, and am so still, being merely worn out from want of food and water.



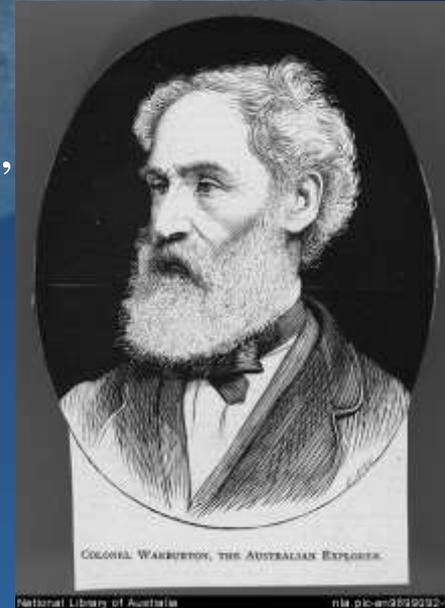
Warburton = Orange

Peter Egerton Warburton

Let me self-reproaches afflict any one respecting me. I undertook the journey for the benefit of my family, and I was quite equal to it under all the circumstances that could be reasonably anticipated, but difficulties and losses have come upon us so thickly for the last few months that we have not been able to move; thus our provisions are gone, but this would not have stopped us could we have found water without such a harsh laborious search. The country is terrible. I do not believe men ever traversed so vast an extent of continuous desert.

Our lives have been preserved through many and great dangers, so my trust is in God's mercy towards us; it never fails, though it does not take always the course we look for.

Warburton, PE, Diary of Colonel Warburton's Expedition to Western Australia 1872-74 (South Australian Parliamentary paper, Adelaide, 1875)



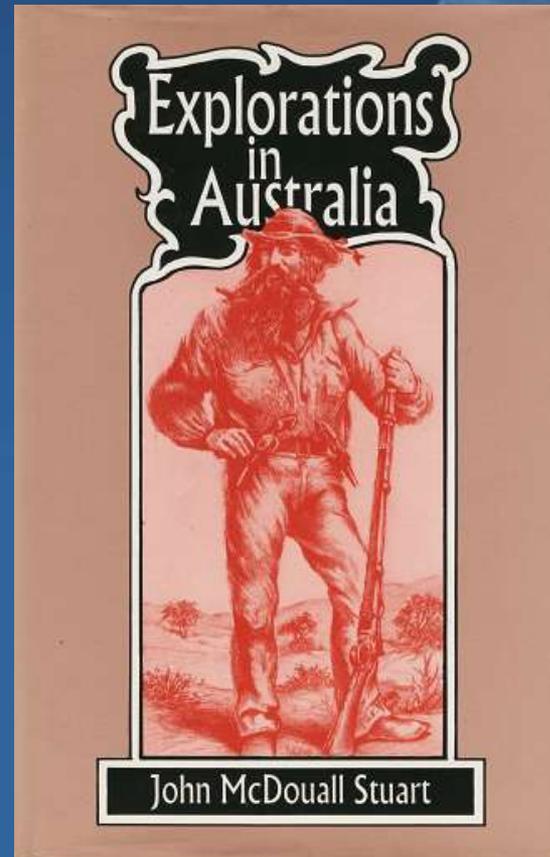
National Library of Australia

John McDouall Stuart

We then gave three hearty cheers for the flag, the emblem of civil and religious liberty, and may it be a sign to the natives that the dawn of liberty, civilisation, and Christianity is about to break upon them...



National Library of Australia



Our Australian Christian Heritage

Statesmen and Governors

- Brisbane
- Hunter
- Macquarie
- Latrobe
- Arthur
- Franklin
- Deakin



Arthur



Latrobe



Macquarie



Deakin National Archives of Australia



State Library of Queensland

Barton and Reid



State Library of NSW

Australia's first Prime Minister, Edmund Barton, another Prime Minister, George Reid, were trained in public speaking and inspired to enter public life through the vision of a Christian minister, Dr Steel, St Stephen's Presbyterian Church, Macquarie St, Sydney.



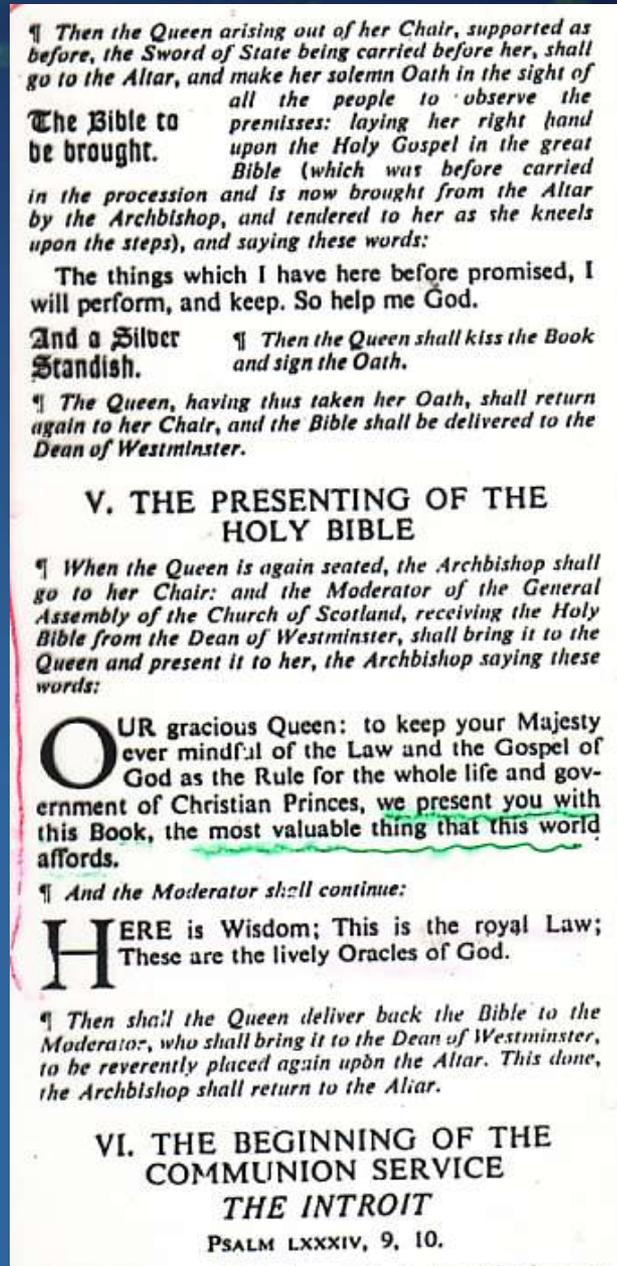
Our Australian Christian Heritage Institutions

Our Australian Heritage: Institutions

Parliament

- [Coronation Service](#)
- Christian Constitutional Monarchy
- [Our English Heritage](#)
- [The Australian Constitution](#)
 - Greg Booth
- [Our Heritage of Freedom](#)
 - Richard Eason

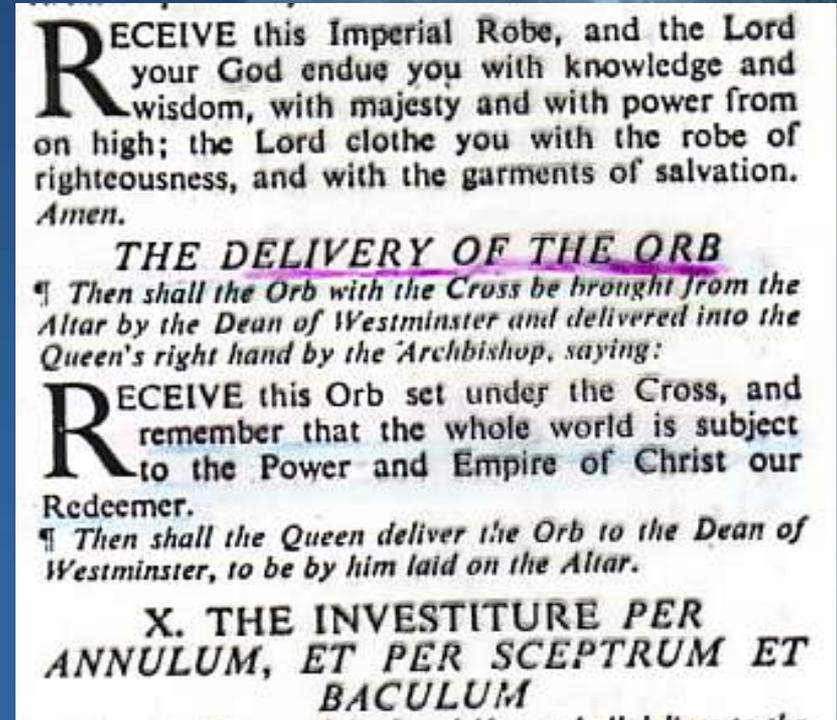
See [Understanding our Christian Heritage Vol 1](#)



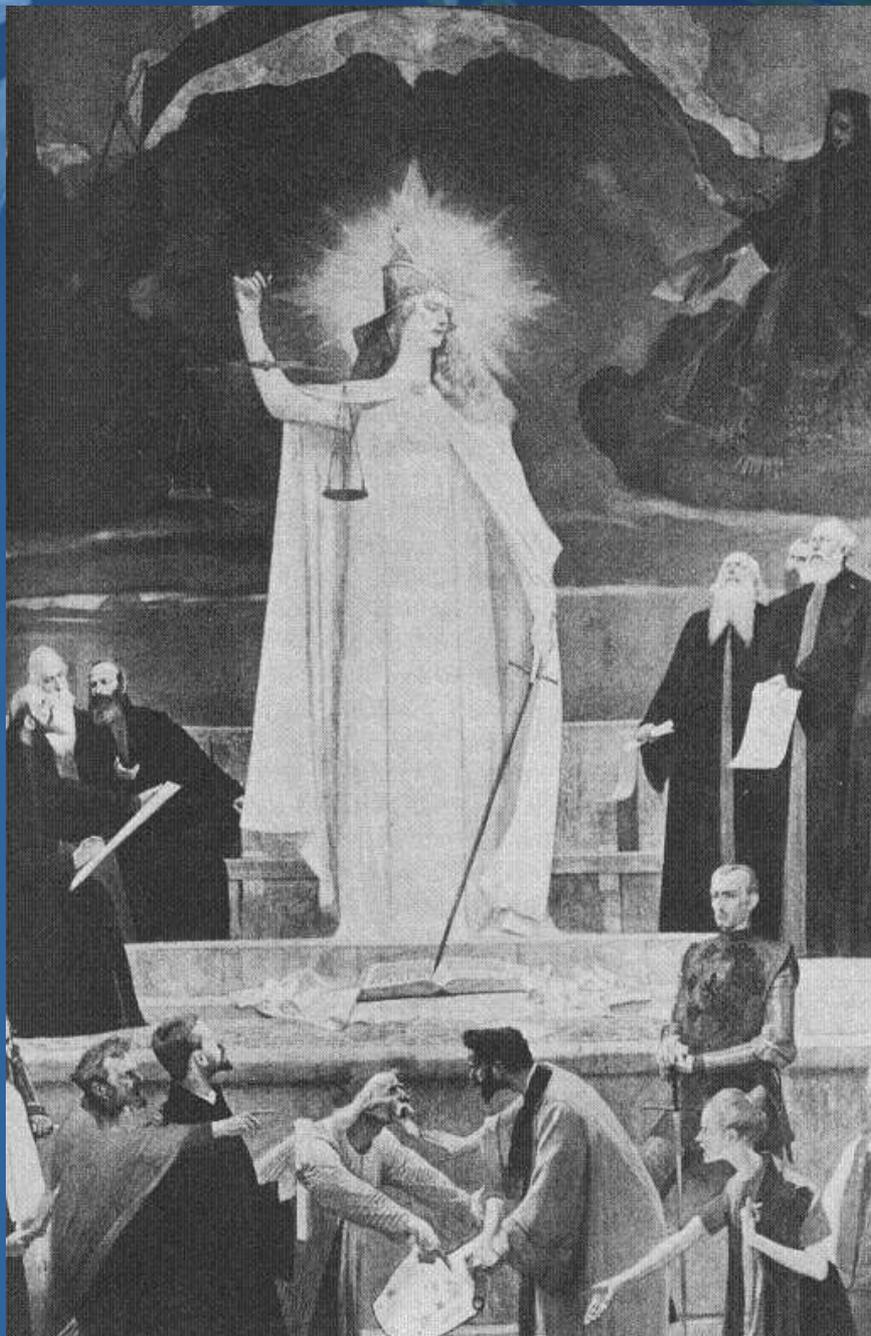
Our Australian Heritage: Institutions

Parliament

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See [Understanding our Christian Heritage Vol 1](#)
and [2](#)



Justice Lifts the Nations by
Paul Robert in the old
Supreme Court Building,
Lausanne Switzerland

Alexander Vinet (1797 - 1847)

“Christianity is the immortal seed of
freedom of the world.”

Our Australian Heritage: Institutions

The rationale was stated by one Chief Justice in these words:

“Christianity is parcel of the common law of England, and therefore to be protected by it; now whatever strikes at the very root of Christianity, tends manifestly to the dissolution of civil government...”

See [Our English Heritage](#)

Judeo-Christianity and the Mid-Nineteenth Century Colonial Civil Order by George Shaw

Re-Visioning Colonial Christianity

The University of Queensland Press recently published a pocket-book paperback edition of Russell Ward's quarter old Australia Since the Coming of Man, and retitled it as Concise History of Australia. Clearly the editorial panel believed there was still mileage in the 1990s for a history of Australia reflecting Ward's creed that 'reason has done more for mankind than religion', and that this can be seen in Australia's history.

With such a secular scenario, Christianity has no destiny but to vanish, or else to shrink and find its place within a cultural pluralism essentially indifferent to religion as a constituent of the civil order. This assumption (often in a form less dismissive or hostile than Ward's) has shaped most general histories of Australia. In them, neither religion in general nor Christianity in Particular, is assigned any positive, formative role in the

Judeo-Christianity and the Mid-Nineteenth Century Colonial Civil Order by George Shaw

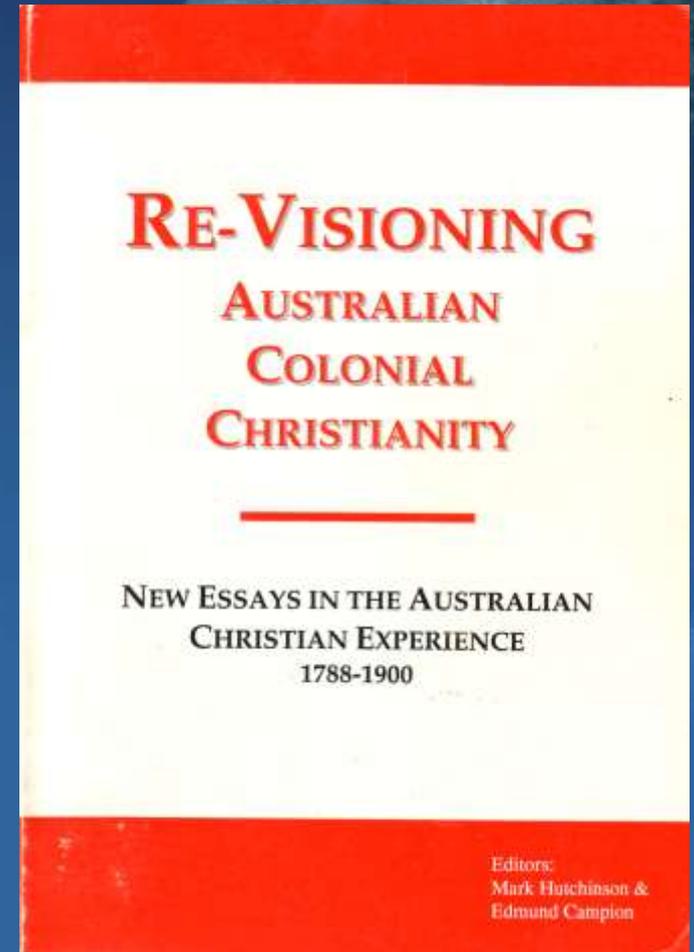
creation of an Australian civil order. Admittedly, little is said about alternative intellectual influences, there being a general shyness about ideas in Australian history. The clear preference is for an empirical study of policies and practices. A belief nevertheless persists about the Australian civil order being shaped by Benthamites or either Utilitarian disciples. This belief rests upon a good deal on faith. No general history has been written to expound it. Moreover, I believe that the period up to 1860 affords no evidence of an early formative Benthamite influence. It supports even less the associated assertion that Australia was founded in the shadows of late eighteenth century scepticism and was shaped by it.

Instead, I would argue that Judeo-Christian culture, and the Judeo-Christian institutions of the homelands from which the settlers migrated, shaped the colonial civil order until the 1860s, and did so with the consent and co-operation of the migrants themselves. From the 1860s onwards, rivals of this Judeo-Christian tradition contested this achievement, and

Judeo-Christianity and the Mid-Nineteenth Century Colonial Civil Order by George Shaw

tussled to reform the civil order to reflect novel ideas and contemporary intellectual progress, but their achievement has never constituted the sort of victory over Judeo-Christian culture which Russel Ward (or Michael Roe) assert, and which is implied in the reluctance of general histories to incorporate any significant discussion about religion.

Re-Visioning Colonial Christianity



Our Australian Heritage: Institutions

You have been found guilty of the murder of men, women and children, and the law of the land says, whoever is guilty of murder shall suffer death.... This is not a law of mere human convenience which may be adopted or rejected at pleasure according to the conventional usages of society, but it is founded on the law of God, given at the earliest period of scripture history when there were only a few people on the face of the earth... I cannot except that any words of mine can reach your hearts, but I hope that the grace of God may reach them, for nothing else can reach those hardened hearts which could surround that fatal pile, and slay the fathers, the mothers and the infants... You burnt the bodies for the purpose of concealment, but it pleased God to send a witness to the spot before they were entirely consumed... I feel deeply for the situation in which you are placed, whatever may have been the motives by which you were stimulated... that you had not the fear of God before your eyes but were moved and reduced by the instigations of the devil... I cannot but look at you with commiseration; you were all transported to this Colony, although some of you have since become free; you were removed from a Christian country and placed in a dangerous tempting situation; you were entirely removed from the benefit of the ordinances of religion; you were one hundred and fifty miles from the nearest Police station on which you could rely for protection... [and] by which you could have been controlled. I cannot but deplore that you should have been placed in such a situation... that such circumstances should have existed; and above all... that you should have committed such a crime. But this commiseration must not interfere with the stern duty, which, as a Judge, the law enforces on me; which is to order that you, and each of you, be removed to the place whence you came, and thence to a place of public execution, and that at such a time as His Excellency the Governor shall appoint you be hanged by the neck until your bodies be dead, and may the Lord have mercy on your souls.

Law

- Common Law
 - Prof. Mark Cooray [\(1\)](#)[\(2\)](#)
 - [Greg Booth](#)
 - [Dr. David Mitchell](#)

CMH Clark, A
History of
Australia Vol 3
p.148

Current Issues

Religious Vilification, Charter of Rights, Islamic Council of Victoria v Scott, Australia's Religious Freedom, Freedom of Speech, Parental Rights, Democracy and Freedom

Campaigns

Statute Law, Common Law

Resources

Nicene Creed, Magna Carta, Vatican Encyclicals, Charles I on Religious Freedom, Constitution & Religious Freedom, Challenges to Religious Freedom, Commonwealth Policy Forums

THE MAGNA CARTA Preamble:

John, by the grace of God, king of England, lord of Ireland, duke of Normandy and Aquitaine, and count of Anjou, to the archbishop, bishops, abbots, earls, barons, justiciaries, foresters, sheriffs, stewards, servants, and to all his bailiffs and liege subjects, greetings. Know that, having regard to God and for the salvation of our soul, and those of all our ancestors and heirs, and unto the honor of God and the advancement of his holy Church and for the rectifying of our realm, we have granted as underwritten by advice of our venerable fathers...

Our Australian Heritage: Institutions

Education

- Australia's First Hundred Years

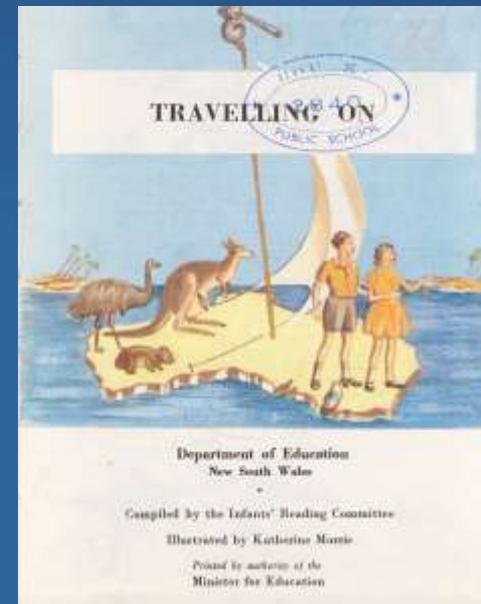
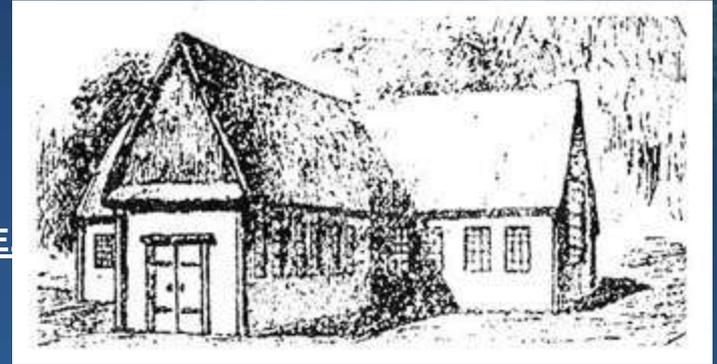
THE ERA OF CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

[UNDERSTANDING OUR CHRISTIAN HERITAGE VOLUME II](#)

[Chapter 4](#) Allen S. Roberts B.A., Litt. B., M. Ed., D.C.E., M.A.C.E.

- Catholic Education in Australia (1806-1950)

- Brother Ronald Fogarty



Jesus and the Children

And they brought young children to Jesus that He should touch them. And His disciples rebuked those that brought them.

But when Jesus saw it, He was much displeased, and said unto them:

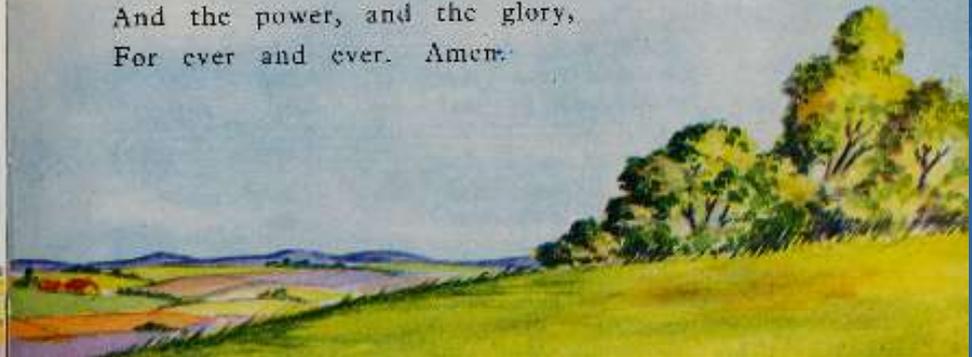
“Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of God.”

He took them up in His arms, put His hands upon them, and blessed them.



The Lord's Prayer

Our Father Which art in heaven,
 Hallowed be Thy name.
 Thy kingdom come.
 Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread.
 And forgive us our trespasses,
 As we forgive them who trespass against us.
 And lead us not into temptation,
 But deliver us from evil:
 For Thine is the kingdom,
 And the power, and the glory,
 For ever and ever. Amen.



Principles of Warfare: Know Your Enemy

Humanism is a progressive philosophy of life that, without supernaturalism, affirms our ability and responsibility to lead ethical lives of personal fulfilment that aspire to the greater good of humanity.

The Humanist Institute:

A leadership training program for Humanists. Humanism and Its Aspirations: Humanist Manifesto III is the latest articulation of what it means to be a Humanist.

Explanations of Humanism:

Exploration of what it means to be a Humanist.

Humanist Essays and Reports:

Humanist perspectives on life and societal issues. Famous Humanists: Quotes from renowned Humanists.

Key Works

The Philosophy of Humanism Humanist Manifesto I Humanist Manifesto II Humanist Manifesto III Humanism as the Next Step The Genesis of a Humanist Manifesto

More Publications <http://www.americanhumanist.org/humanism/>

Our Australian Heritage: Institutions

Welfare and Health

- Benevolent Society
- Sisters of Charity
- St. Johns Ambulance
- St. Vincent De Paul
- Salvation Army
- A.I.M
- Hospitals
- Handicapped
- Destitute
- Deaf and Dumb
- Blind
- Aged
- Leprosy
- Aboriginal Missions



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Our Australian Heritage: Institutions

Media

- Sydney Morning Herald
 - Both Kemp & Fairfax were Congregationalists.
 - It was said of Fairfax that he was a 'man full of faith and the Holy Spirit' CMH Clark A History of Australia Vol 3 p.404
- Gordon & Gotch
- Gotch also was a Congregationalist who supported the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. Australian Dictionary of Biography Vol 4 p.277



Our Australian Christian Heritage Documents

Our Australian Christian Heritage: Documents

- Governor Phillip's Instructions
- [Founding of South Australia](#)
- Federal Constitution
 - ["Humbly relying on the blessing of Almighty God"](#)
- [Deakin's Prayers](#)
- Opening of Federal Parliament
 - 9th May 1901
- Constitution links
 - [The Historical Roots of the Constitution](#)
 - [The Australian Constitution](#) by Greg Booth
 - [Our English Heritage](#) by Greg Booth
 - [Christian Self-Government and Federation](#) by Elizabeth Kotlowski

Our Australian Christian Heritage: Documents

Captain Arthur Phillip's Instructions

Dated 25th April 1787 (C.O. 201/1), From Original Draft

“He was to enforce a due observance of religion and good order among the inhabitants, and take such steps for the due celebration of public worship as circumstances would permit. In the first draft of these instructions he was to grant full liberty of conscience, and the free exercise of all modes of religious worship not prohibited by law, provided his charges were content with a quiet and peaceable enjoyment of the same, not giving offence or scandal to government; he was to cause the laws against blasphemy, profaneness, adultery, fornication, polygamy, incest, profanation of the Lord's Day, swearing and drunkenness to be rigorously executed. He was not to admit to the office of justice of the peace any person whose ill-fame or conversation might occasion scandal; he was to take care that the Book of Common Prayer as by law established be read each Sunday and Holy Day, and that the Blessed Sacrament be administered according to the rites of the Church of England.”

CMH Clark, *'A History of Australia, Vol 1'*, p 80

Our Australian Christian Heritage

Founding of South Australia

- Then there were men who believed God had a special purpose in the Christian settlement of Australia. Men such as the Permanent Under Secretary of the Colonial Office, James Stephen, who "believed that the government of men should conform to the government of God"(5), and encouraged Christian families to settle here, as well as being influential in the choice of Christian leaders in the colonising of the country.
- Stephen's desire was to establish our nation as "a Christian virtuous enlightened state in the centre of the eastern hemisphere and within reach of the Chinese, Hindu and Mohammedan nations."(6) Certainly we are seeing the continuing fulfillment of this great prophetic statement given to the Lieutenant-Governor of Van Dieman's land more than 160 years ago, as we see China opening up to the printing of the word of God, and as we see missionaries continuing to be sent out from this nation.

Our Australian Christian Heritage

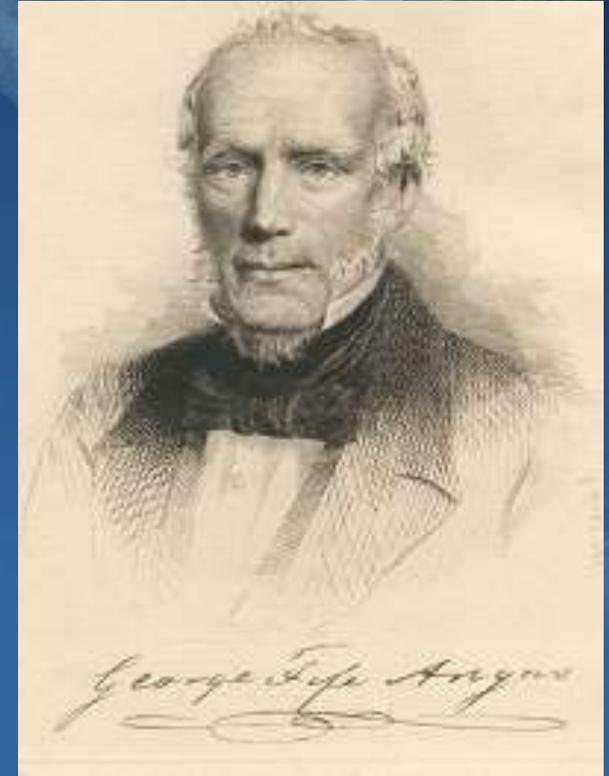
Founding of South Australia

- Many Christians were instrumental in the formation of South Australia, amongst them was a man named Robert Torrens who stated in a speech in the House of Commons in 1827 that "we are co-operating in the scheme of Providence and are the favoured instruments in causing Christian civilization to 'cover the earth as the waters cover the sea!'"
- As chairman of the Colonization Commissioners when they first met in May 1835, he expressed the hope that they would be performing "an act of mercy for the natives of southern Australia by bringing them the gift of their great civilization and their Holy faith."
- Almost all of the directors of the South Australian Company were lay preachers. Robert Gouger, who was appointed Colonial Secretary was a devout Evangelical and even Wakefield acknowledged that without Gouger South Australia would not have been settled.(9) It was Gouger who wrote a "Sketch of a Proposal for Colonizing Australia". He also organized the first public meeting for the free settlement of the South Australian Coast attended by 2,500 people in a Christian Centre, "Exeter Hall" in London.

Our Australian Christian Heritage

Founding of South Australia

- George Fife Angas, who resigned as a Colonization Commissioner to take up a position on the board of directors of the South Australian Company, was also a committed Christian and the real father of South Australia's religious liberties. "My great object was, in the first instance, to provide a place of refuge for pious Dissenters of Great Britain, who could in their new home discharge their consciences before God in Civil and religious duties without any disabilities." It was Angas' hope "that South Australia will become the headquarters for the diffusion of Christianity in the Southern Hemisphere".



Our Australian Christian Heritage

Founding of South Australia

- "It was claimed that in fifty years he circulated over one million copies of scripture, many millions of tracts and two million copies of devotional books such as Spurgeon's *Morning by Morning* and *Evening by Evening*. (12)
- Angas provided a voluntary nondenominational elementary education for sixpence a week. The schools' sole textbook was the Bible!
- Charles Mann, who believed it was his purpose to assist in the settlement "with the Bible in one hand and the axe (to clear the wilderness) in the other"(13) was appointed the first Advocate General.
- The Colonial Manager was Samuel Stephens, appointed by George Angas because he had been converted at a Wesleyan revival and "fallen to the floor in agony and cried for mercy so piteously that the Holy Ghost had showered the blessing of salvation on him."(14)

Our Australian Christian Heritage

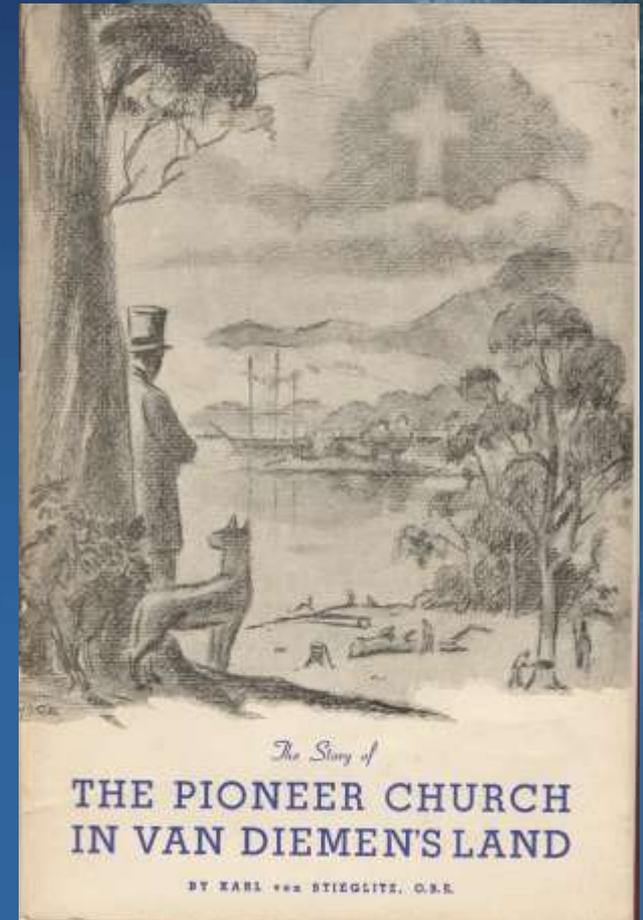
Founding of South Australia

- The Colonial Office appointed Captain John Hindmarsh as Governor and on the 28th December 1836, he proclaimed South Australia a province, calling upon those present "to prove themselves worthy to be the founders of a great and free colony by their industry and sobriety, by the strict observance of the ordinances of their religion," and to help the natives "by promoting their advancement in civilization and, always under the blessing of divine providence, their conversion to the Christian faith."(15)
- Two days later on the 30th December, Hindmarsh moved from Holdfast Bay inland and named Adelaide where, within eight years there were more preachers and places of worship, than the number in the first decade in New England, U.S.A. (16) and within ten years, over half the population of 9,000 were attending two of the denominational churches, Episcopal and Congregational, and further church buildings were necessary. From its settlement in 1836 to 1915 Sunday School enrolments far exceeded those of day schools!(17)

Our Australian Christian Heritage

Founding of South Australia

- Lt. Colonel George Gawler arrived in the infant colony in 1838 to become the new Governor. A hero of Waterloo, was converted reading a book, Evidences of Christianity, and was determined to establish a Christian colony.
- Many Christians settled in the colony, the first in the British Empire not to be officially aligned to the Church of England. A group of German Christians, who had been persecuted in Prussia for refusing to allow a secular sovereign to dictate to them about their faith, settled at Klemzig on the Torrens and at Hahndorf. These are the words of Pastor Kavel, their leader, when they swore allegiance in May, 1839:



Each state has its Christian heritage

Our Australian Christian Heritage

Founding of South Australia

- "On our arrival here, we hailed this hospitable shore as a place of refuge to worship God without disturbance of our consciences, and entertained, and do still entertain, the hope to live and die here. We have found what we have been seeking for many years - religious liberty: we hailed and hail that sovereign under whose direction we are now placed: we consider her and her Government as ordained of God, and with all our hearts we are desirous of being faithful subjects and useful citizens. We have been very glad to profess this our heartfelt desire and deep conviction on Her Majesty's birthday:
we consider this also as a profession of Christ our Lord and Saviour, who, through the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, has created all thrones, dominions, principalities, and powers, and who commands his followers to obey them."

Highly Recommended Reading "Paradise of Dissent" South Australia 1829-1857 by Douglas Pike Melbourne University Press

Our Australian Christian Heritage

Founding of South Australia

- People such as Edward John Eyre, Captain Barker, a staunch evangelical, T.Q. Stow, who commenced the first Congregational Church in Adelaide in 1837, Lord Glenelg of the Home Office who permitted the colonising of South Australia, or of Sir George Grey who believed it was such "a dreadful waste of God's bountiful gifts in Australia"(18) and who shared with James Stephen the view that "prayer and meditation on God's Holy Word... were the inexhaustible, unfathomable source of all pure consolation and spiritual strength."
- In conclusion, may we wish South Australians God's richest blessings for the future, and, to quote the words of Pastor Kavel: "May South Australia prosper; and all its inhabitants, its immigrants, and all the natives grow together as one blessed nation labouring unanimously for the advancement of those great objects," and of Captain Charles Sturt: "May the inhabitants of South Australia continue to deserve and to receive the protection of that Almighty power, on whose will the existence of nations as well as that of individuals depends!"

South Australia's Christian Heritage

Exhibition

State Library

North Terrace
Mortlock Wing

*'It is hoped that South Australia
will become the headquarters for
the diffusion of Christianity in the
Southern Hemisphere.'*

George Fife Angas, 1844

Free Admission

Monday to Sunday 10am - 5pm
State Library is closed on Christmas Day,
Boxing Day, New Year's Day and
Good Friday



**Promotional DVD and
Further Information is
Available From**

**House of Prayer For all
Nations (Adelaide) Inc.**

Phone: (08) 8370 1256

Our Australian Christian Heritage

Humbly Relying on the Blessing of Almighty God...

- *Sir JOHN DOWNER* (South Australia). - I desire to say just a few words, because I think there is a more serious question involved than the mere insertion of the words of this amendment. I am sure that we all listened with great pleasure to the speech of Mr. Higgins on the subject. He reminded us of the decision in America that the Christian religion is a portion of the American Constitution, and of the enactments that were passed in consequence. I do not know whether it has occurred to honorable members that the Christian religion is a portion of the English Constitution without any decision of the subject at all. It is part of the law of England which I should think we undoubtedly brought with us when we settled in these colonies. Therefore, I think we begin at the stage at which the Americans were doubtful, without the insertion of the words at all, and I would suggest to Mr. Higgins to seriously consider whether it will not be necessary to insert words distinctly limiting the Commonwealth's powers.

Our Australian Christian Heritage

Humbly Relying on the Blessing of Almighty God...

- *Sir JOHN DOWNER.* - I feel more strongly than ever that that ought to be done, because I can very well understand the way in which the very persons who are presenting petitions and asking for this recognition would resent the consequences if they found that the religious control was taken away from the state and put into the Commonwealth. For my own part, I think it is of little moment whether the words are inserted or not. The piety in us must be in our hearts rather than on our lips. Whether the words are inserted or not, I think they will have no meaning, and will have no effect in extending the power of the Commonwealth; because the Commonwealth will be from its first stage a Christian Commonwealth, and, unless its powers are expressly limited, may legislate on religious questions in a way that we now little dream of.

Our Australian Christian Heritage

Prayers of ALFRED DEAKIN, 1856-1919

Alfred Deakin was the man mainly responsible for the passage of the Australian Constitution through the English House of Commons. He became Australia's second Prime Minister, after Edmund Barton who himself was inspired to enter politics by his Presbyterian Minister, Dr. Robert Steele. The fourth Prime Minister, Sir George Reid, was also inspired to enter politics through Dr. Steele's influence. Deakin, a native born Australian was nurtured in his faith by his mother. It was Deakin who seconded the motion of Sir Henry Parkes for the proposed Federation of the Australian States.

Deakin kept a Spiritual Diary and from 1884 to 1913 wrote a "Boke of Praer and Praes" containing nearly four hundred prayers, many relating directly to major decisions in his public life, revealing his utter dependence on God. (For a brief time he joined the Theosophy Society but resigned in 1896).

Deakin prayed over the proposed Australian Constitution continually and was delighted when the Constitutional Convention unanimously carried the preamble inclusion "humbly relying on the blessing of Almighty God".

In the concluding words of his book *The Federal Story* Deakin remarks that Federation and the Australian Constitution were 'providential' and were secured only 'by a series of miracles'.

Our Australian Christian Heritage

Prayers of ALFRED DEAKIN, 1856-1919

In his notes in 1905 Deakin remarks "sufficient to say that the religion of Jesus Christ is the life of the present, the light of the future and the hope of the world."

Many years later he stated: "A life, the life of Christ, that is the one thing needful - the only revelation required is there... we have but to live it."

A Christian statesman, he was the first Attorney General of the Commonwealth, and as such, founder of the High Court of Australia. He served three times as Prime Minister when a considerable amount of the Commonwealth's initial legislation was commenced. As Prime Minister he founded the Arbitration Court, the Australian Navy, as well as choosing Canberra as the nation's capital.

The following prayers illustrate his burden for the nation of Australia, as well as for holiness and obedience in his own personal life.



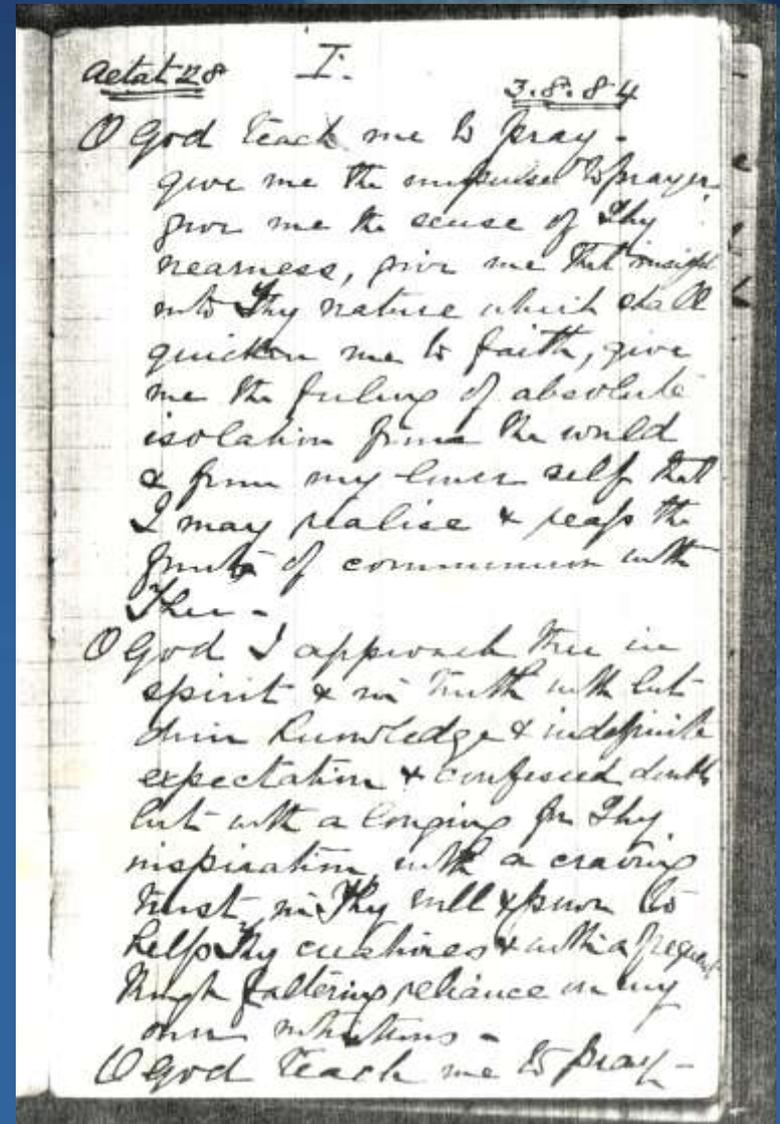
Our Australian Christian Heritage

Deakin's Prayers

"O God teach me to pray - give me the impulse to prayer, give me the sense of Thy nearness, give me that insight into Thy nature which shall quicken me to faith, give me the feeling of absolute isolation from the world and from my lower self that I may realise and reap the fruits of communion with Thee."

"O God I approach Thee in spirit and in truth with but dim knowledge and indefinite expectation and confessed doubt but with a longing for Thy inspiration, with a craving trust in Thy will & power to help Thy creatures and with a frequent though faltering reliance on my own intuitions."

"O God teach me to pray."



Our Australian Christian Heritage

Deakin's Prayers

"Father of Nations, receive our psalm of thanksgiving. Enable us to pursue the cause of unity in spite of the obstacles which at present appear to beset our path elsewhere. Guide us to appeal to that which is best and purest so as to make its development and mastery sure under our forms of government. Aid us to purify ourselves by our labours for the general weal and to invoke spiritual and moral principles so as to link us with our brethren on the highest plane to which we can at present attain. God preserve this people and grant its leaders unselfish fidelity and courage to face all trials for the sake of brotherhood. Thy blessing has rested upon us here yesterday and we pray that it may be the means of creating and fostering throughout all Australia a Christlike citizenship."

After thirty years of amateur theological musing he attempted to state 'as near a formal credo, and a sufficient one as I can hope to attain'. What is the core of Christianity, he ask himself. and answered, 'A life, the life of Christ, that is the one thing needful--the only revelation required is there...We have but to live it.'

Alfred Deakin. J. A. La Nauze, Angus & Robertson, 1979 p.79

Our Australian Christian Heritage

PRAYER AND PRAISE.

The Hundredth Psalm was then sung with accompaniment by the orchestra.

His Excellency the Governor-General read prayers as follows:—

O LORD, our heavenly Father, high and mighty, King of kings, Lord of lords, the only Ruler of princes, who dost from Thy throne behold all the dwellers upon earth, most heartily we beseech Thee with Thy favour to behold our most gracious Sovereign Lord King Edward, and so replenish him with the grace of Thy Holy Spirit that he may always incline to Thy will and walk in Thy way. Endue him plenteously with heavenly gifts, grant him in health and wealth long to live, strengthen him that he may vanquish and overcome all his enemies; and finally, after this life he may attain everlasting joy and felicity, through Jesus Christ our Lord.—Amen.

ALMIGHTY God, the fountain of all goodness, we humbly beseech Thee to bless our gracious Queen Alexandra, George Duke of Cornwall and York, the Duchess of Cornwall and York, and all the Royal Family; endue them with Thy Holy Spirit; enrich them with Thy heavenly grace; prosper them with all happiness; and bring them to Thine everlasting Kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord.—Amen.

ALMIGHTY God, we humbly beseech Thee to regard with Thy merciful favour the people of this land, now united in one Commonwealth. We pray for Thy servants the Governor-General, the Governors of the States, and all who are or who shall be associated with them in the administration of their several offices.

We pray Thee at this time to vouchsafe Thy special blessing upon the Federal Parliament now assembling for their first session, and that Thou wouldst be pleased to direct and prosper all their consultations to the advancement of Thy glory and to the true welfare of the people of Australia, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who has taught us when we pray to say—

OUR Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.—Amen.

THE grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all, evermore.—Amen.



Our Australian Christian Heritage Events

Our Australian Christian Heritage: Events

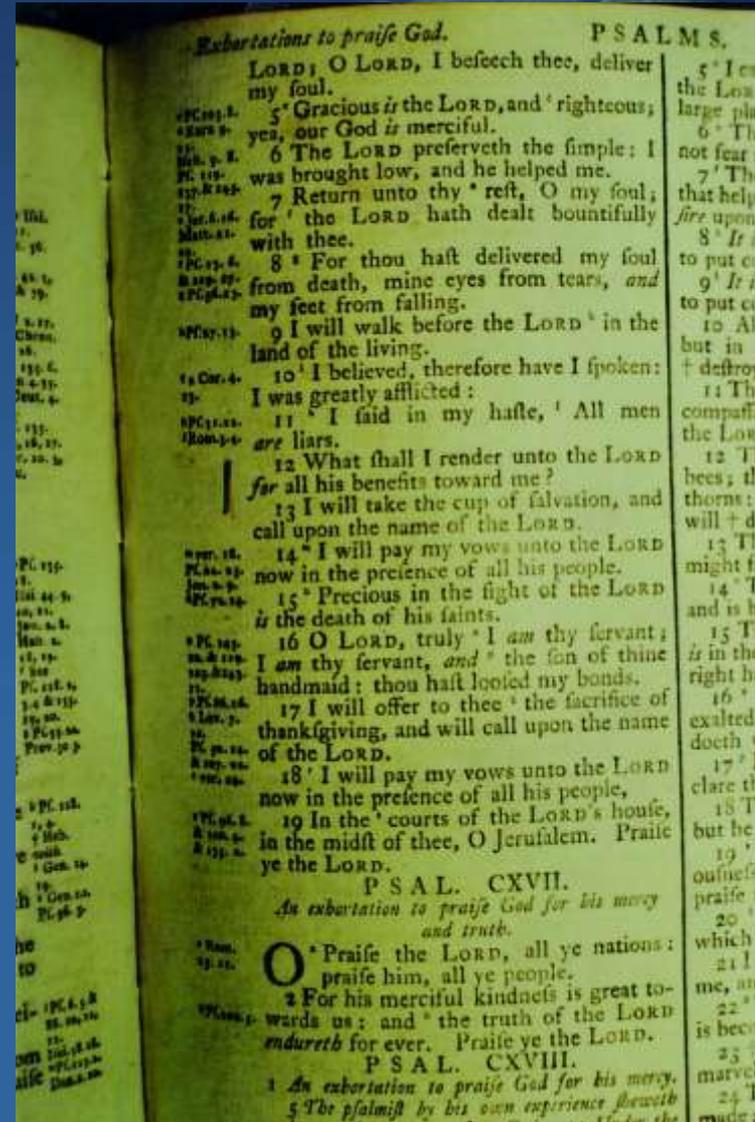
- First Christian Service
- First Church
- First Christian School
- Days of Prayer
 - Australia's Jubilee
- National Gathering
 - 7th and 8th May 1988
- National Day of Thanksgiving
- De Quiros 2006
 - 400 Year Celebration

Our Australian Christian Heritage

First Christian Service



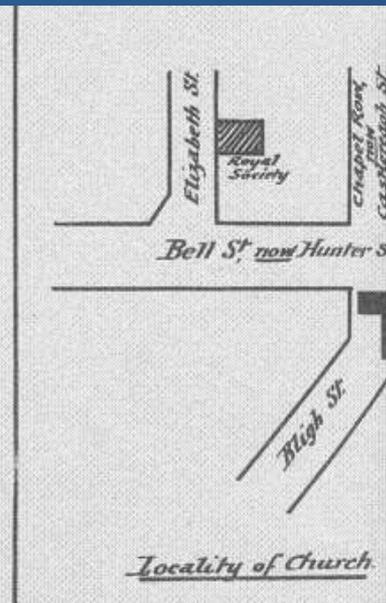
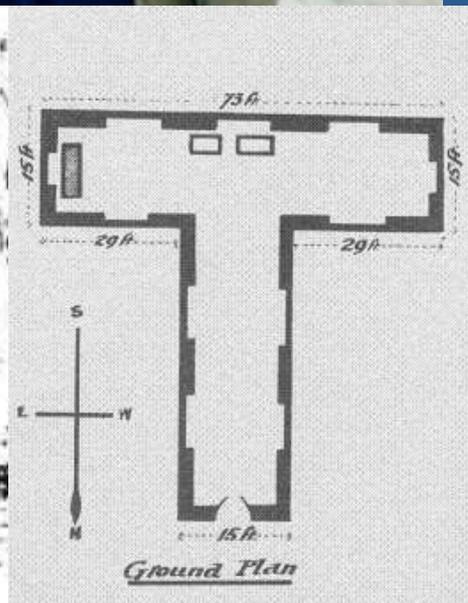
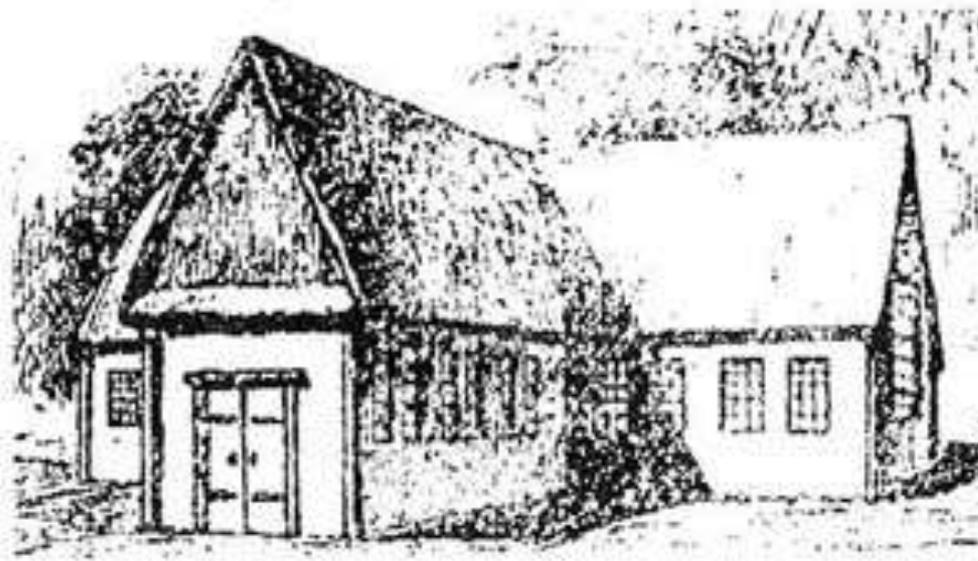
Johnson



Our Australian Christian Heritage



Graham and Pam McLennan at site of first church in Australia, Sydney



RICHARD JOHNSON

4th October 1791

I am persuaded that I am where God aims and intends me to be, and till I see my way home more clearly than I do at present, I think it my duty to abide where I am.

I have still cause to lament and complain with Isaiah 59, 1.3 But I hope and trust I have not laboured wholly in vain, and I trust in time, in spite of all opposition and obstacles, God will make bare his holy arm in the Conversation and salvation of the Souls of men.

Our Colony begins to increase greatly. Last Sunday I preached I suppose to not less than six or eight hundred, and I have since heard that one at least went away sorrowful and heavy-hearted, and some others rejoicing in the Son of God manifested towards them. I endeavour always to adapt my discourses to the state and capacities of my people generally. My sermons are upon the awful strain, as was the Case last Sunday. Texts Pro's 19:21, first part; 1 Pet. 4:18. But I know that this is not the only way of working conviction upon the conscience and see it necessary and find it precious work at times I trust, to speak of the great and inestimable Love of Jesus in dying for sinners, and in inviting them to come to him, to believe in and to rest upon him for life and salvation.

[An Address to the Inhabitants of the Colonies Established in New South Wales and Norfolk Island, Richard Johnson, 1792](#)

[Letters I and II, Richard Johnson](#)

Our Australian Christian Heritage Bicentennial of Christian Education, 1993



G McLennan

Our Australian Christian Heritage

On the 11th June 1738, John Wesley blew the first trumpet call of the great evangelical revival which was to have a deep and lasting effect on Britain and on those in succeeding generations.

Fifty years later a Christian minister gave the first service on Australian soil. The Rev. Richard Johnson was recommended as Chaplain to the first fleet, because of his religious fervour, by men such as William Wilberforce and John Newton. At this service Johnson spoke from Psalm 116, Verse 12 "What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits towards me".

Almost 200 years earlier Pedro Fernandez de Quiros had named Australia "Australia del Espirito Santo" - the Great South Land of the Holy Spirit and earn't the Holy Jubilee which the Pope had conceded to the expedition.

Fifty years after the arrival of the first fleet, the Governor of N.S.W., George Gipps, a Christian, proclaimed Sunday, November 2, 1838 a national day of fasting and humiliation because of the severe drought. Within two days heavy rains began to fall causing many to come down with the flu! (At one stage N.S.W. governed most of Australia and many of the South Pacific islands including New Zealand.)

Our Australian Christian Heritage

Fifty seven years later on the 11th September, 1895 a day of prayer was again called in similar circumstances. Three weeks later a day of thanksgiving was proclaimed to thank God for the breaking of the drought.

During this time Christians were coming together to discuss the Federation Movement and many were desiring to see God acknowledged as the ruler of the nations and so it was acknowledged in the preamble to our Constitution "...humbly relying on the blessing of Almighty God..."

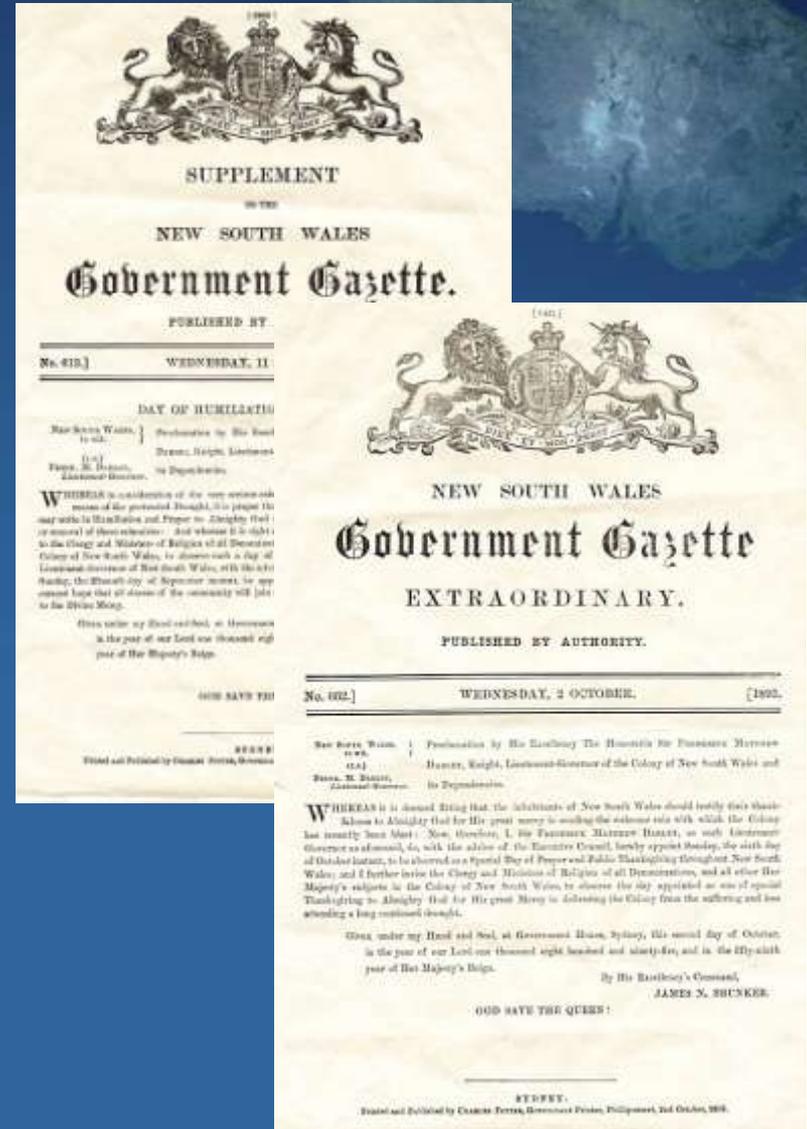
(Even the Sydney Morning Herald's Editorial dated 14th April, 1897 stated "no Christian could in conscience vote for a Federation Bill that did not recognise God"!)

Churches also campaigned: "that there also be embodied in the said Constitution, or in the Standing Orders of the Federal Parliament, a provision that each daily session of the Upper and Lower Houses of the Federal Parliament be opened with a prayer by the President and Speaker or by a Chaplain" . They also asked for the Governor-General to be empowered to proclaim National Days of Thanksgiving & Repentance. Over a hundred years later in 2004, the Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, His Excellency Major General Michael Jeffery, has fulfilled the desire of many Christians in Australia in the 1890's, and indeed this new millennium, and launched a National Day of Thanksgiving which was held last year, for the first time on the 29 May 2004.

Our Australian Christian Heritage

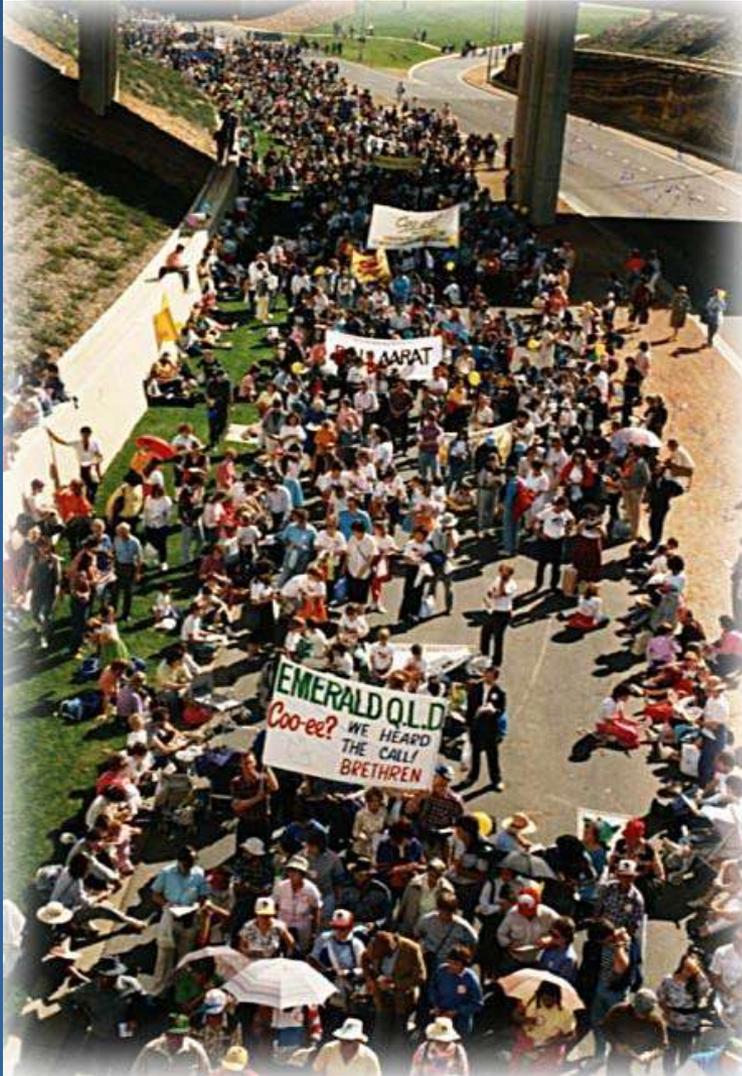
The first Sunday in the 20th Century was proclaimed Commonwealth Sunday and Christians were called to pray for the Nation.

During the 1940's as the second World War began to take its horrific toll and Australia was being threatened, particularly after the bombing of Darwin, several days of prayer were held. One of these was called by King George VI throughout the Commonwealth.



Our Australian Christian Heritage

National Gathering, 1988



De Quiros Celebrations 2006



M McLennan



G McLennan



What eleven Crusades throughout history had been unable to achieve, the military genius of Napoleon and the might of the British Army had been unable to do, was accomplished by 800 fresh-faced Australian Light Horsemen at Beersheba.

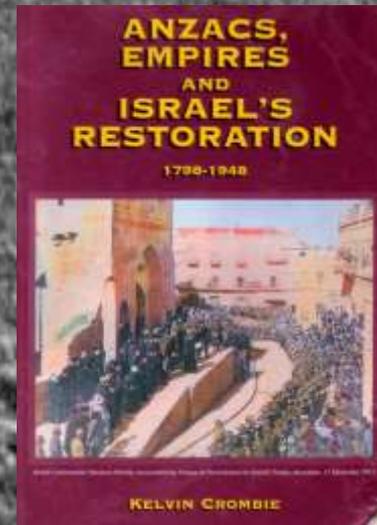
On October 31st, 1917 the war hung in the balance. 50,000 British Infantry had fought bravely but were driven back. As the sun began to set and defeat the likely result, the Australians attacked Beersheba with 800 men on horseback. It was Brigadier William Grant of the Australian 4th Light Horse who volunteered these words to Sir General Harry Chauvel, "I believe we can take this town!" What a statement of faith and what a victory! God used one of the smallest and youngest nations in the world (in 1917 Australia was only 15 years old) to open the gateway to Jerusalem. On 31st October 1917, the day of the Beersheba charge, the British Government drafted the Balfour Declaration, which was the foundation for the recognition of the State of Israel.



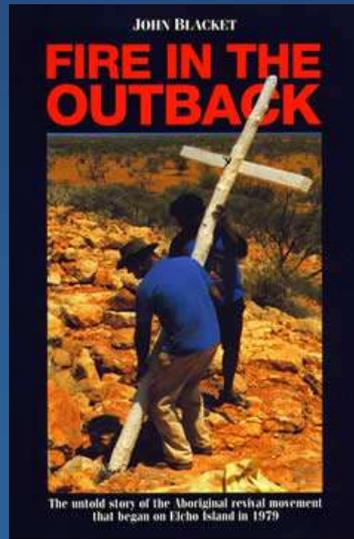
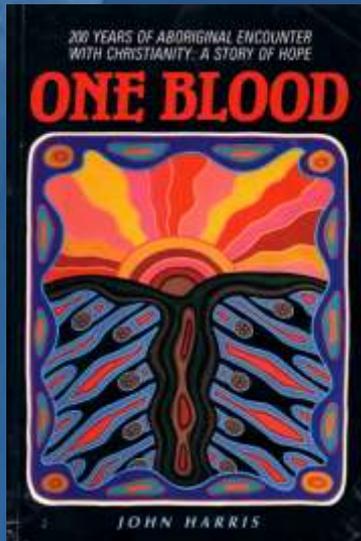
Was this God's plan? Did he have his hand on the Australian Light Horsemen at Beersheba? The answer appears clear when you look at the unlikely possibilities for success –

- 50,000 British troops, with tanks and artillery, had previously fought for 12 hours that day, and couldn't break the defensive of Beersheba.
- Beersheba was protected by 4,800 Turks and German Officers.
- There were only 800 Australian Light Horsemen.
- They charged against Turkish artillery, machine guns and armed trenches.
- The Light Horseman's main weapon was only his bayonet and horse.
- They charged a full distance of 3 miles (5km) against heavy Turkish artillery.
- Incredibly, the Turks did not lower their machine gun sites.
- Of the 800 Light Horsemen, only 32 men died and 36 were wounded.
- The wells were prepared with explosives, but the German Officer responsible was on leave.

Next day the British Commanding General remarked as he walked over the ground where the charge had taken place, "Words fail me, I cannot see how these horsemen were able to achieve what they did. Every rule of war says they should have been annihilated!" This is their story...



Resources & Further Reading



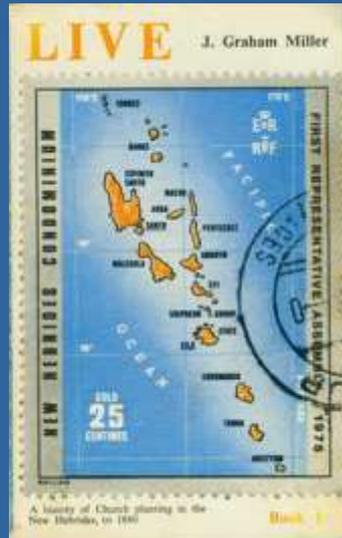
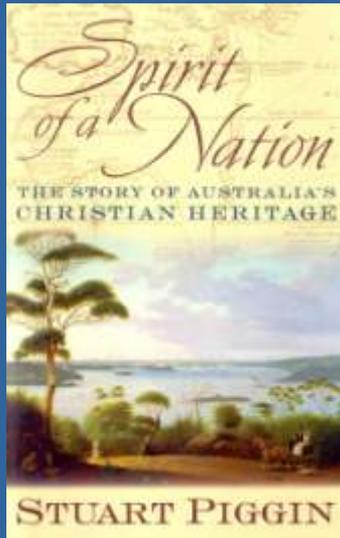
Aboriginals encounter with Christianity
“[ONE BLOOD](#)”, John Harris (191MB PDF)

Fire in the Outback, John Blacket. [Khesed Ministries](#)

Stuart Piggin “*Spirit of a Nation*“ etc.

Centre for the Study of
Australian

Christianity. Three volumes
of “[Studies in Australian
Christianity](#)”



[Live](#)

[A History of Church Planting in the
New Hebrides to 1880](#) by Graham Miller, 2001

[Don't go to Gilgandra or you will get
converted: a story of the Aboriginal
Naden Family](#)

Resources & Further Reading

Website: www.chr.org.au

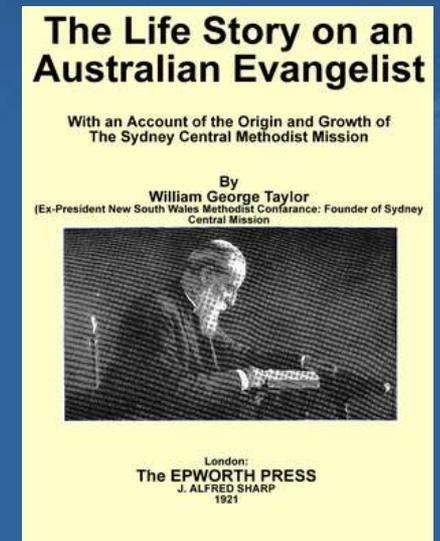
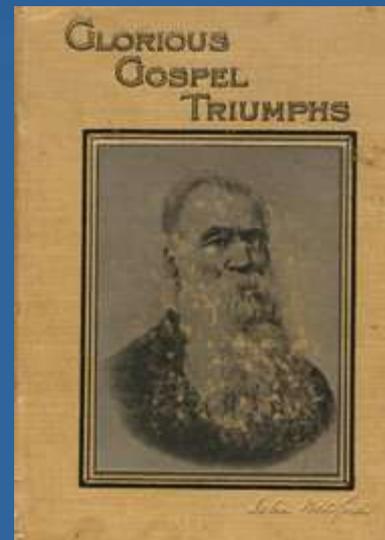
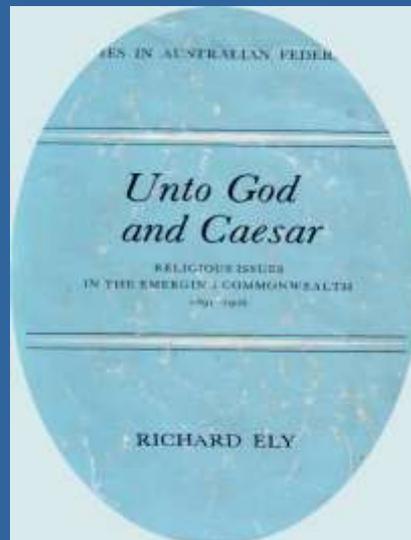
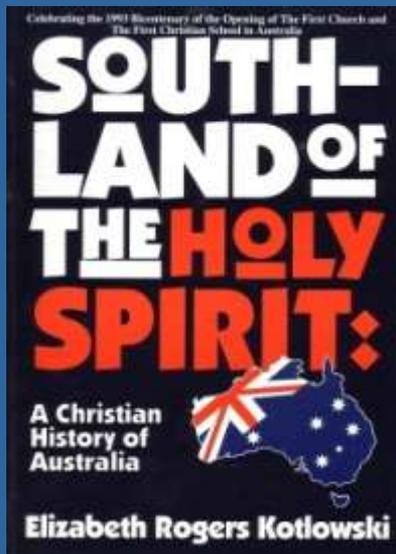
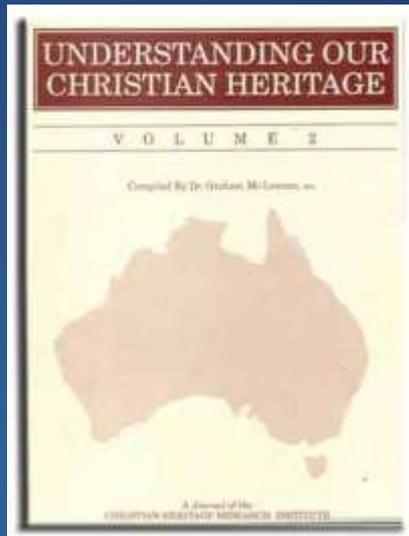
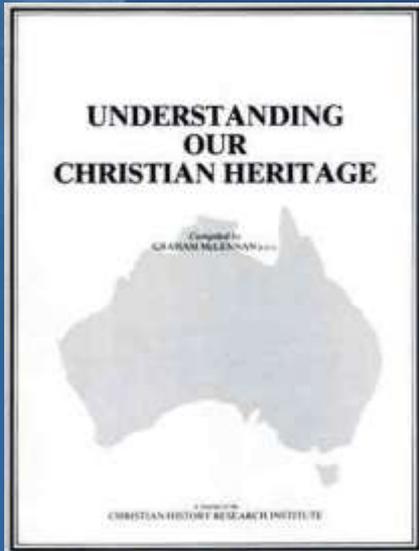
"Understanding our Christian Heritage", Vol 1 & 11

"South Land of the Holy Spirit"

"Unto God and Caesar. Religious Issues in the Emerging Commonwealth 1891-1906" R Ely.

"Glorious Gospel Triumphs" John Watsford

"The Life Story of an Australian Evangelist", William G Taylor



Resources & Further Reading

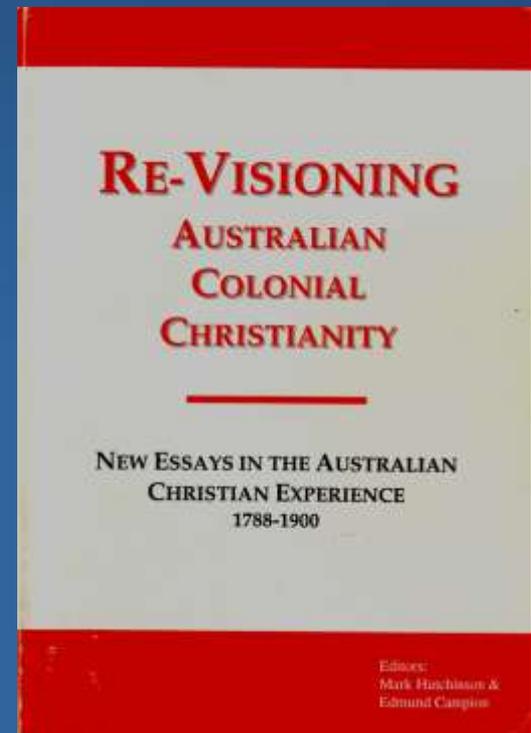
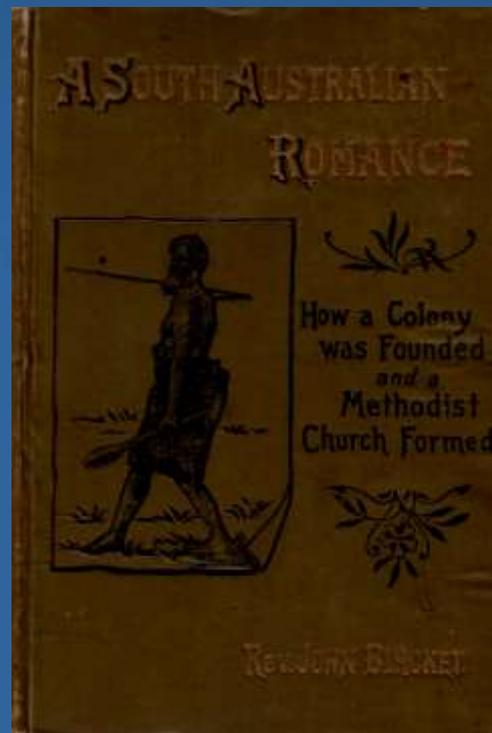
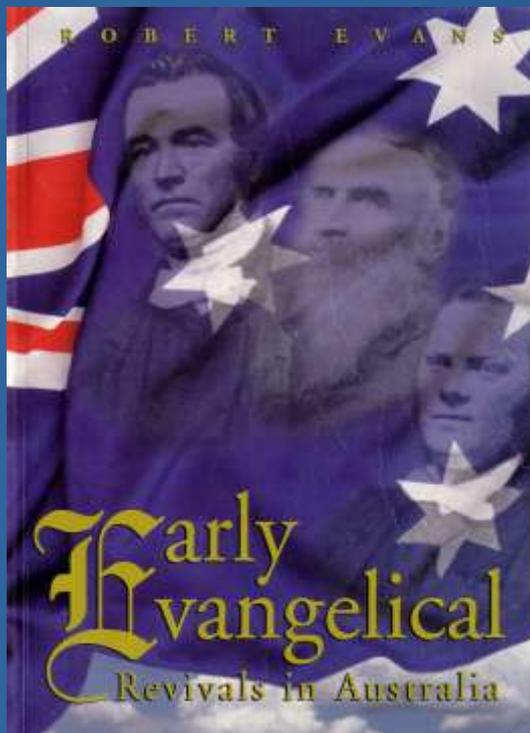
Website: www.chr.org.au

[“A South Australian Romance”](#), Rev. John Blacket

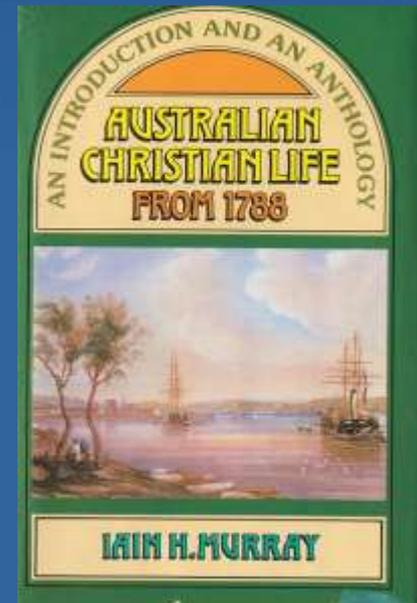
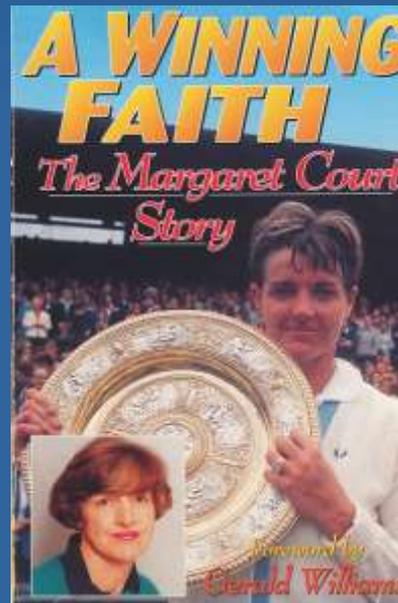
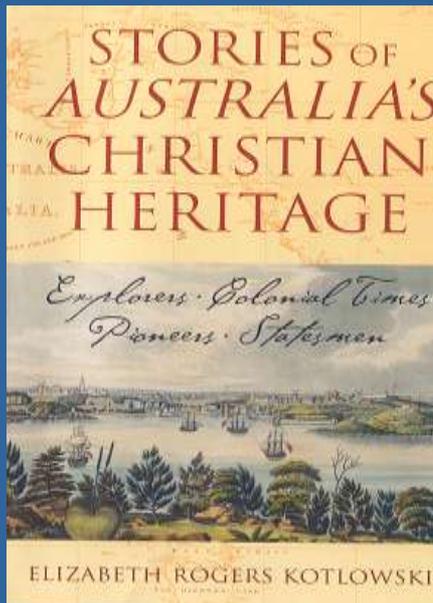
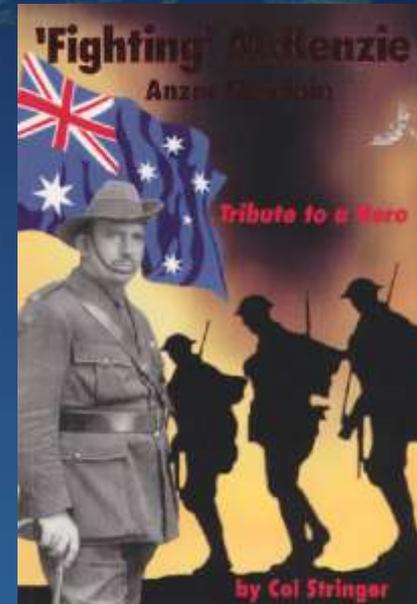
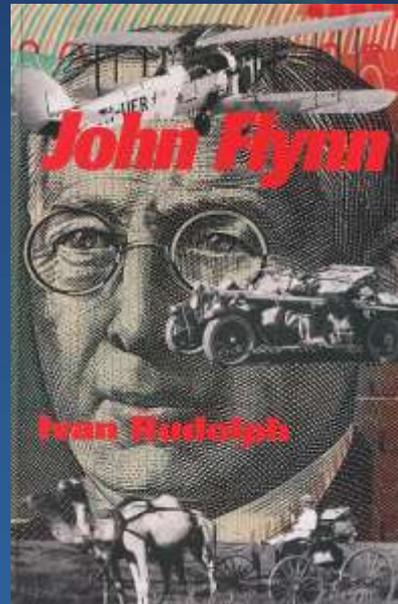
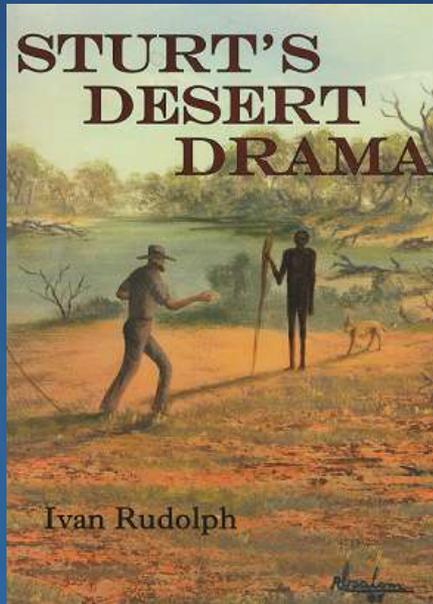
[“Early Evangelical Revivals in Australia”](#), Robert Evans

Re-Visioning Australian Colonial Christianity Chap. 8 Stuart Piggin

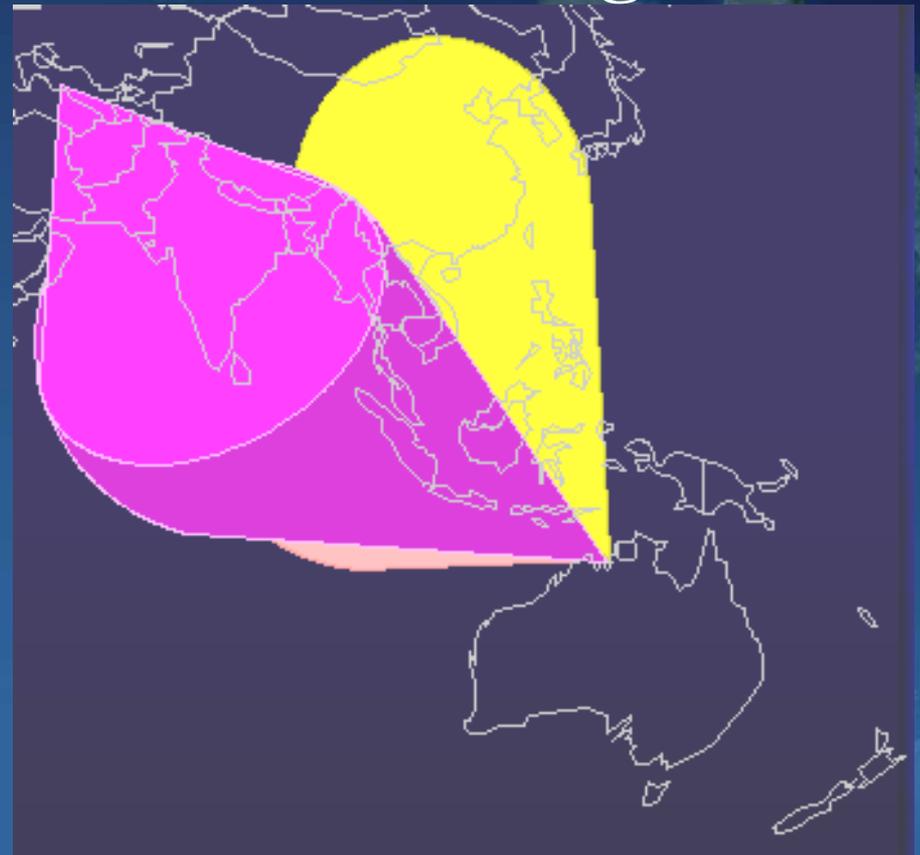
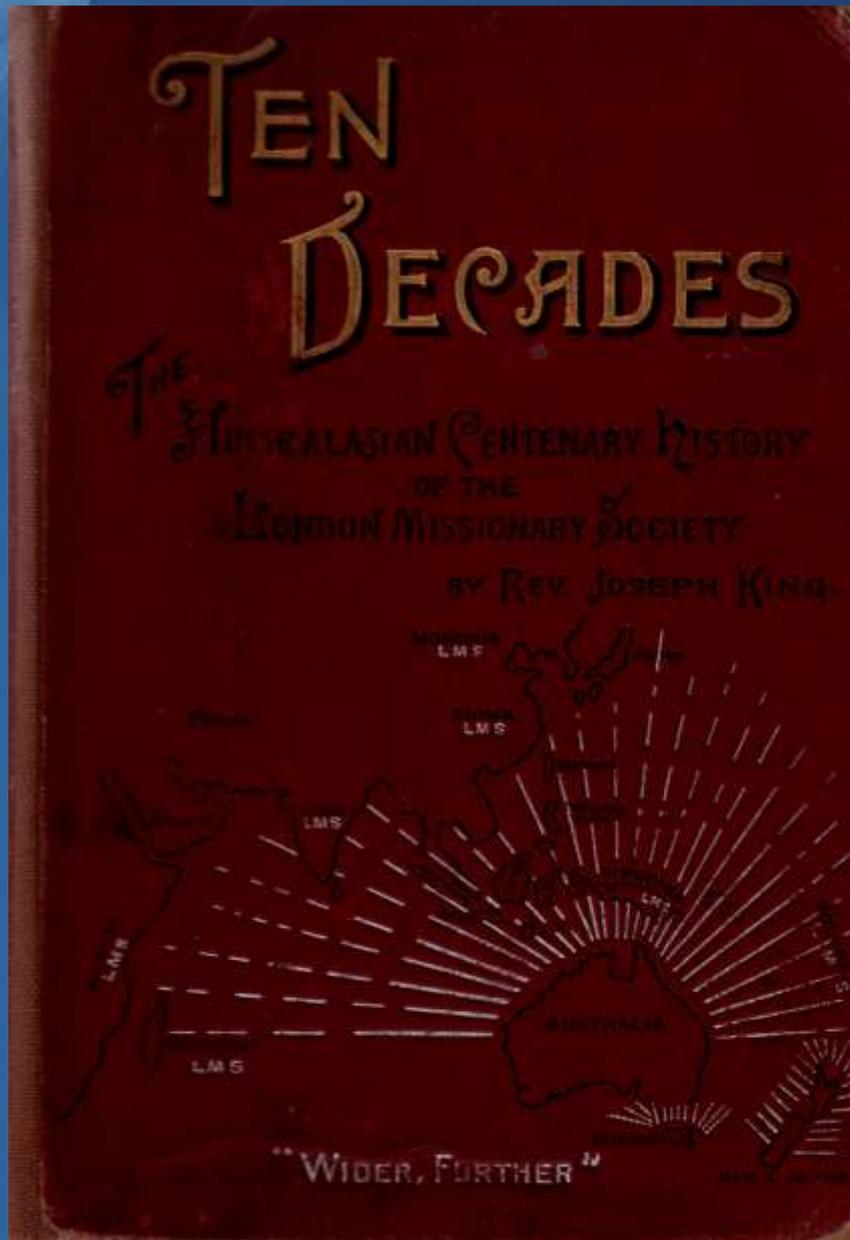
The History of Revival in Australia (an article)



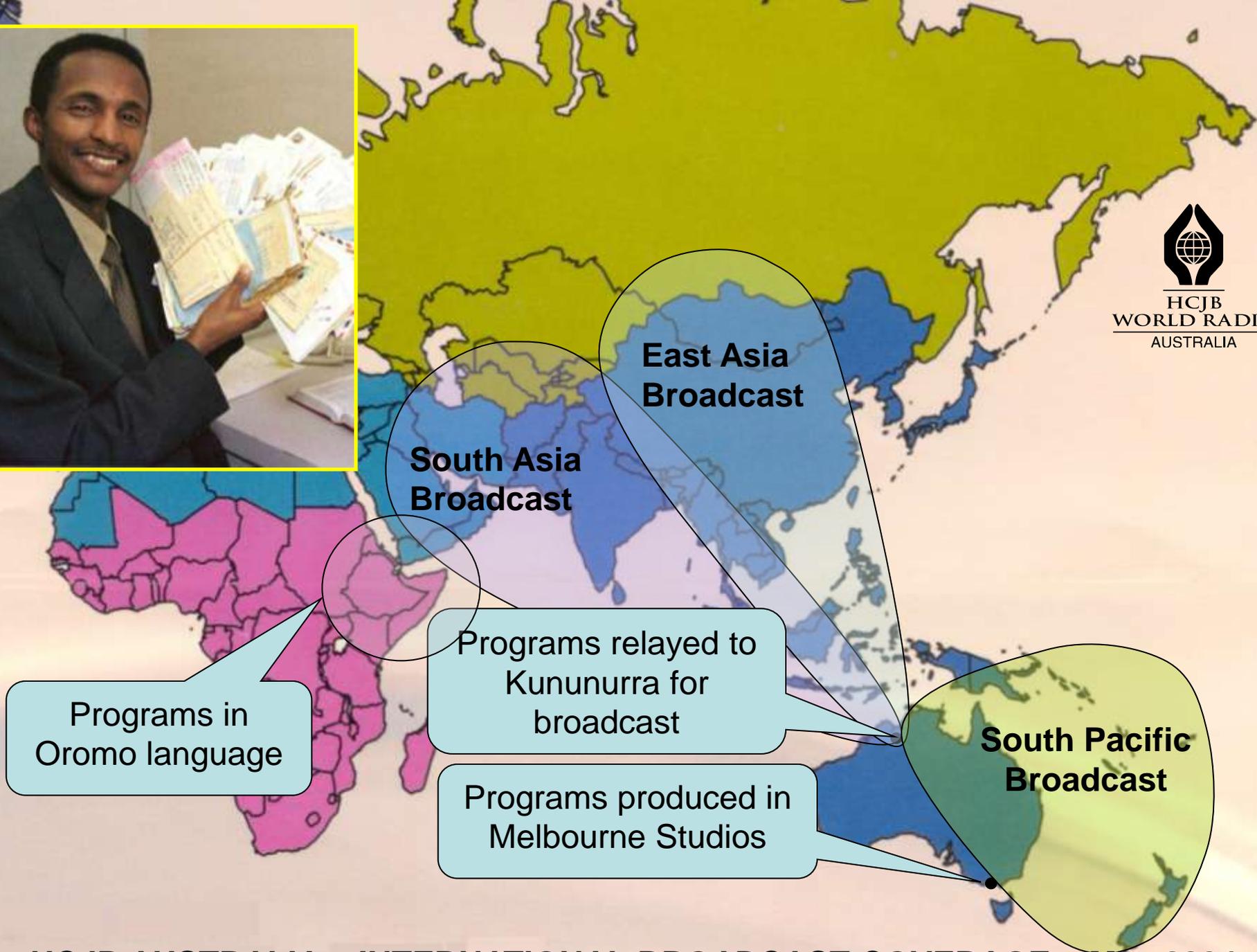
Resources & Further Reading



Our Australian Christian Heritage



Left: [Ten Decades: the Australasian Centenary History of the London Missionary Society](#) by Rev Joseph King, 1895, Motto Wider, Further. Vision: use Australia to reach Pacific, Asia & Africa
Right: CVC broadcasting footprint into Asia from Darwin
www.chr.org.au



Christian History Research

Website links for further reading

<http://www.chr.org.au/links/links.html>

Constitutional Education Fund Australia

<http://www.cefa.org.au>

Australian National Flag Association

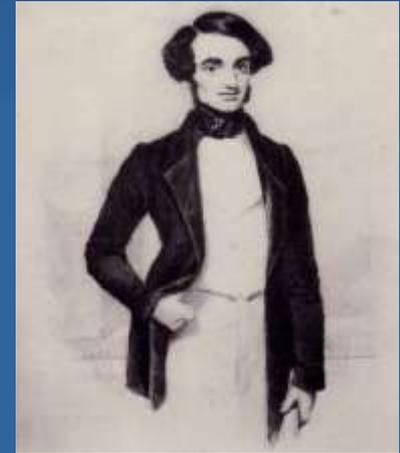
<http://www.flagaustnat.asn.au>

Gutenberg Project – Australian history online

<http://www.gutenberg.net.au>

Conclusion

"And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephtha, David, Samuel and the prophets, who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice and gained what was promised....."



[John Michael Crossland, 1853, National Portrait Gallery, London](#)