

CAPTAIN CHARLES STURT

Captain Charles Sturt is one of Australia's most famous inland explorers, but did you know that he was also a great man of prayer, a man with a strong faith in God? We learn from his journals that Sturt took all his plans and problems to God in prayer and that the Word of God was his constant companion. He even slept with a Bible under his pillow! In one of his desert treks, when many possessions had to be abandoned, his Bible stayed with him. It was Sturt's reliance on prayer and regular Bible reading that gave him the strength and wisdom to survive great hardships.

In 1829, Sturt discovered the Murray River and proceeded to follow its course to its mouth, our own Lake Alexandrina. The story of the Sturt's return up the Murray makes very exciting reading. Because of a shortage of rations, Sturt worked out that the return trip against the river's strong current would have to be made in 26 days, the same time it had taken the group to row down river. This would be a huge task, particularly on restricted rations.

You'll read in most history books that it took them only 23 days, rowing upstream! What you won't read in most history books is that when Sturt arrived, he fell on his knees with tears in his eyes and thanked God, with great joy, for His help.

Sturt's journey was very important to the young colony, opening up a lot of good farming land, and paving the way for the settlement of South Australia.

Sturt is more than just a hero from history. He is an example for us to follow as we face our own 'impossible' situations. From him we can learn to cling to God's Word, and pray constantly, with thanksgiving, as we face our own hardships.