

GOD LOVES COMMUNICATION!

God loves it when we communicate with Him, and He loves it when we communicate with one another. That's why He sent one of His own followers, John McDouall Stuart, into the vast inland of Australia to map out what would become the route for the Overland Telegraph from Adelaide to Darwin, linking Australia with the world.

In 1862, after several trips to the north, Stuart was finally successful in crossing the continent from south to north. He was 47 years old when he made this trip and he suffered terribly from scurvy, near blindness and the intense heat. But he would not give up, recording in his journal: *"I was determined to succeed or die in the attempt."* At one stage, he travelled on a hammock strung between two horses because he was too ill to ride.

Throughout his journal, he acknowledges his total dependence on God - looking to Him for rain, guidance and strength, and giving thanks for God's provision - *"I sincerely thank the Almighty...that He, in His infinite goodness and mercy, gave me strength and courage."*

Stuart never lost a man in all the expeditions he led through some of the most treacherous country on earth. He was an outstanding leader, bushman, explorer and a true pioneer. According to the dictionary, 'pioneer' means a person who prepares a way for others, who goes ahead so that others may follow. Stuart persevered with incredible courage, endurance and faith so that those who came after him could live better lives in communication with the rest of the world.

Jesus was another pioneer, even more determined than Stuart, to prepare the way for communication between His Father and His people, *"or die in the attempt!!!"* It cost Jesus His life to open the way for you to live a better life in communication with the Creator of the Universe. How about giving it a try today!