

RE-BUILDING, PIONEER STYLE

Australia regularly faces the challenge of rebuilding. Whole communities often need to be rebuilt after facing devastating bushfires, widespread flooding and crippling droughts. And, in the wake of the Global Economic Crisis, the Australian economy needs to be rebuilt.

So where do we start? I suggest that we start by looking at the building methods of those who built this nation in the first place - our pioneers. Explorers like Captain Charles Sturt, who slept on the trail with his Bible under his head, and refused to leave the Word of God behind when the treacherous trail demanded many other supplies be abandoned.

Or Edward John Eyre, who found himself with only one companion and no supplies, 1000 km from civilization, but wrote of his utter dependence on God to preserve his life.

Or John Forrest, who honoured the Lord's day, even when supplies were short in the outback of W.A., stopping the expedition to rest, read God's word and pray.

Or Elizabeth Macarthur, a hard-working woman of godly character, who drew her strength from her relationship with God. She greatly contributed to the foundation of Australia's wool industry.

Or Eugene Veith, who built a very successful transport business, established on the godly principle of generosity and outreach to the needy.

Or our own Ridgway Newland, who settled his wife and 8 children in the Yilki area, living in a tent, but built a bough shed to use as a church. He felt that a house raised to the Name of the Lord was more important than a house to shelter the body.

From these, and so many more of our pioneers, we can learn the secret of good building. We must rebuild on the solid foundation of Biblical principles that they did - The Word of God, prayer, relationship with God and generosity towards the needy.