



A GEM OF OUR CHURCH BODY



In March, as a part of our Moderatorial trip, Coral and I visited a Children's home run by the Hope for Children Society, located near Dehra Dun, India. It comes under the oversight of the Presbyterian Church in India.

I was impressed with the passion and compassion demonstrated by both John and Deepa Varghese, the founders, directors, workers of the organisation and pseudo Mum and Dad to 35 children - soon to double to about 70 children and youth. I could write pages on the work and vision of this group but for now I want to focus on a group of young adults from the PCV of whom I am very proud.

For almost 4 weeks after my

return I have been using that word; some may consider my use of it as sinful as the dominant use of it is centred on self. One dictionary says it this way: 'An excessively high opinion of oneself; conceit.' I searched for a subordinate but valid definition (Collins) and found this, 'to boast of a gem, jewel, joy, prize or treasure'. This is the context in which I will use the word 'proud'; let me unpack it for you!

As a member of the Presbyterian Church, a minister and through my association with the Ministry Development Committee, I have never been so proud of any agency of the Church as I am of the fourteen members of the PYV (Presbyterian Youth Victoria) that spent time with the young ones of

this Children's home in February. We went for what I thought was to be a short visit to see just one other outreach of the Presbyterian Church. After the introductions and a cuppa, we met some of the children, and others of all ages joined in. We talked about life at the home, and we talked about their hopes and plans for the future, but the recurrent theme was the visit of the young men and women whom the Presbyterian Church of Victoria sponsored and sent.

I will avoid highlighting the names of individual team members here because I do not want to elevate the contribution of one over the other. I believe that all fourteen of the Short Term Missionaries that you sent contributed 'heaps'

In the photo above: these children loved spending time with the fourteen young people who went on the short term mission trip organised by PYV early this year

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for next
edition:
1 August**

The Moderator General, an Ordination, and termites?

The Bendigo and Eaglehawk congregations were greatly encouraged by the visit of the Moderator General, Rt Rev David Jones over the weekend of March 23-25. David led 3 seminars over the weekend on 'the history of revivals in Wales', 'Preaching' and 'Church Planting'. Each of the seminars was challenging, informative and very helpful. David also preached an excellent sermon on Mark 8:27-38 at a very well attended combined service with the two congregations held at St John's on the Sunday morning. During that service Drew Kerr was ordained and inducted as an elder for St John's.

On a less happy note, termites have been discovered in the floor of the meeting room at the St John's Church

Hall, enforcing a delay on a much needed and anticipated new kitchen and indoor toilets. Work cannot begin until the termites have been dealt with. We would appreciate prayer from the wider

church that this will happen sooner rather than later!

*Rev Philip Burns
Bendigo Presbyterian Church*



Left to right: Rev Philip Burns, Elder Drew Kerr and Rt Rev David Jones

Thanksgiving Service for Mrs Lynette Faye Woodward in January

Lyn Woodward slipped quickly and quietly into the presence of her Saviour on the evening of 11 Jan 2012. Her Thanksgiving Service was a public testimony of the transforming grace of God evident in the lives of His people. The attendance included many denominational and community leaders.

Lyn had served with her husband John for the whole of their married life together in the Parishes of Hawkesbury Districts, Young and St. Ives (NSW) and Malvern and Ballarat South (Victoria). Some have testified that they did everything together.

It was after moving to Victoria in 1990 that Lyn and John began Hospital Chaplaincy as well as joining the Assembly's Health and Community Chaplaincy Committee, where they served for several years.

Ian Hutton & Hui Lim conducted Lyn's Thanksgiving Service at Ebenezer St. Johns, Ballarat. John wishes to thank the Presbyterian Church of Victoria's members for their loving care. Her deeds followed her. To God be the Glory.

*Rev. Dr. John Woodward
Presbytery Clerk*



Mrs Lynette Faye Woodward

ATTENTION MINISTRY WIVES - COMING SOON -

Half day conference on 'Balancing Ministry and Marriage'

Keep Saturday 1st September free. Details soon to be circulated.

Also open to PTC Candidate Wives.

For more information, please contact Elspeth Slater (PSW Ministry Wives- PCV).



FELLOW WORKERS

Young Adults Retreat a success

Where do you go for God's word, swing dancing and songs around a camp fire?



Enjoying God's creation from The Pinnacle.

Over ninety young adults from across the state descended on the idyllic Hall's Gap for PYV's first EighteenThirty Retreat over the Labour Day Weekend.

The camp was convened by Joe Dunning and from the start had a laid back atmosphere. Saturday night saw us enjoying some ice-breaker games followed by a surprise visit from some members of the Melbourne Swing dance group who came and taught us some 1920s-style Charleston. While not all of us managed to look as suave and skillful as Ashleigh Willis and Isaac Rowntree, no one was injured and everyone had a good

laugh.

Sunday was a relaxed day of rest with worship sessions, Bible study group and an entire afternoon devoted to nothing. Many headed out to conquer The Pinnacle while others explored the Hall's Gap township and close surrounds. The evening talk was spent around the glowing campfire and was followed by hours of singing along to Zack Grace's guitar and chatting.

Monday came around all too quickly and after a final talk and lunch we headed home.

The talks were by Ben Nelson from South Yarra and centred on Christ in the Old Testament. Ben opened God's word to us and led us through various passages showing us the importance of the Old Testament. Throughout the Old Testament the offices of prophet, priest and king have been central not only to the nation of Israel but also to God's unfolding plan for salvation.

The talks revealed how Christ is foreshadowed in various passages and how He ultimately fulfills these essential roles of Prophet, Priest and King. We were challenged to reconsider our opinions of the Old Testament and to view our Holy God with a greater reverence.

The entire weekend was a highly enjoyable mix of laughter, friendship (old and new) and quality, God-filled messages. It was really encouraging to spend time with so many fantastic people who are like-minded and just plain-old amazing. When's the next one?

*Leanne Kumnick
PYV Volunteer*



Ballarat Presbytery Seminar

Friday 2nd to Saturday 3 March 2012

Ballarat Presbytery was pleased to have the Rev. Andrew Stewart from the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Australia in Geelong speaking to us during the first weekend of March at Grace Presbyterian Church in Ballarat. It was an encouraging time of biblical exposition on the life of the Apostle Paul by Andrew. Andrew taught with clarity and passion, and made many practical applications to our lives. He spoke on the 'Key Places in the Life of Paul', namely, Tarsus, Syrian Antioch, Pisidian Antioch and Ephesus.

On the opening night, the Rev. Mark Crabb also spoke on the Evil One from Ephesians 6. He

encouraged us not to let down our guards against the accusations of Satan, but to always turn to Christ for help.

Several other ministers spoke on what they learnt from their study leave in 2011. The Rev. Willem Vandenberg spoke on 'Pastoral Counselling', based on the Ed Welsh Seminar at the PTC he attended last year. The Rev. Ian Hutton spoke on 'Peace-Making Principles', based on the Conflict Resolution Seminar in Blackburn he attended last year. I spoke on 'The Sermon on the Mount', based on Don Carson's book *Sermon on the Mount: An Exposition of Matthew 5-7*. The Rev. Dr. Samuel

Chao from the Reformation Translation Fellowship gave us a vivid insight into the ministry in China today.

Ann, Ian, Jean, Jean, and Margaret from Grace Presbyterian Church need to be congratulated for their good food and warm hospitality. I am sure all of us gained not just good spiritual food but also a bit more around our waists from their delicious cooking!

Thanks also to Willem for his hard work organising and coordinating an uplifting seminar.

*Hui Lim
Promotion Officer
Ballarat Presbytery*

Ladies Weekender

Belle, Lorna, Jan and myself from Skipton, attended the Ladies Weekender at Nelson in March. It was our second time to Nelson so we knew where to stop for good coffee in our three and a half hour trip. We had a good time hearing God's word preached from the book of Ruth by Heather Touzel (wife of Ian Touzel). Heather spoke about the life and faith of Ruth.

Our Mission Talk was presented by Ruth Perkins and she spoke about her ministry in Niger, Africa. Ruth is a missionary with SIM and is home on leave from Niger.

On Saturday, we had around forty ladies. Our Sunday worship service was conducted by Ian Touzel, Presbyterian Pastor from Mt. Gambler Presbytery Church.

It was a nice and refreshing time, and the home cooked food was great.

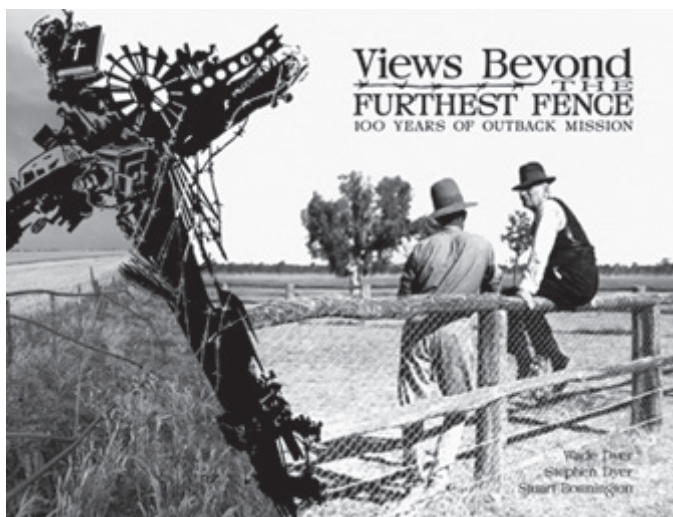
We all enjoyed meeting a nice bunch of Christian Ladies from South Australia.

*Soyoung Lim
Skipton/Lismore Presbyterian Church*

PIM Centenary Book Launch

In 1912 the Australian Inland Mission was established by John Flynn, and it has continued in our denomination as the Presbyterian Inland Mission (PIM). At the launch of the AIM from Scots Presbyterian Church in Melbourne, only Flynn himself possibly dared to dream of all that could be accomplished for the nation of Australia, and for Christ and his Church.

In this centenary year of the founding of AIM, Stephen Dyer has brought together a unique collection of historical and contemporary photographs. Stephen was keen for people to appreciate key aspects of Flynn's life, work and legacy.



The cover of the book combines photographs from the past and present.

Stephen Dyer is an elder of the Kerang Presbyterian Church. He worked closely with Rev. Rudi Schwartz when Rudi worked as a PIM Padre from that congregation. Over the past number of years he has been visiting current Patrols as well as many historical sites of significance to the PIM.

As well as the extensive collection of photos, the book contains an historical account of the work of the AIM written by Rev Stuart Bonnington. Stuart is the Superintendent of the Presbyterian Inland Mission and Pastor of the Fremantle Presbyterian Church in Western Australia.

The book will be launched at the PIM Centenary Thanksgiving Service to be held at Scots Presbyterian Church on September 22nd this year. The service will also feature presentations from current PIM Padres and outline new areas of work that are being developed. This is a public service and everyone is welcome to attend.

All profits from the sale of the book will go to support the work of the Presbyterian Inland Mission.

*Sabine Bruce
PIM Centenary Committee*

Presbyterian Inland Mission

Continuing the work of John Flynn & the Australian Inland Mission

Celebrating 100 years of Work in the Outback

Join us for our Thanksgiving Service

7pm, Sat 22nd September 2012

**The Scots Presbyterian Church
Cnr Collins and Russell Streets Melbourne
Ph (03) 9005 8256**

www.pim.org.au



FELLOW WORKERS

A gem of our Church body

Continued from page 1

toward the ministry of encouragement. The residents of the home, some as young as four and some pushing the limits of eighteen, repeatedly told us of the precious time spent with them over the two week stay.

I could tell you about the guitar lessons that were offered to the children – the muso left his guitar with the students so they could continue to hone their skills. I could tell you about the personal laptop that was left because one of your missionaries saw that the one existing computer was inadequate for the 35 resident students. I could tell you about the chain-link fencing that was purchased by your missionaries to fence the area around the Children's home to minimise the number of wild animals that invade the property. I could report on the playground equipment that your missionaries purchased and installed for the children.

And I am sure that Deepa would convey her sincere thanks for the washing machine that was provided – can you imagine hand washing clothes for over 35 people? There isn't enough room to discuss all this here. But I do want to convey two of the most important outcomes of this mission trip.

1. I am sure that the parents and home churches of these precious young people could testify to the excitement and changes in the lives of their young missionar-

ies. Over a decade ago the church where I served sent a young woman on a 3 month short term mission trip. Upon return she wanted to share with the congregation what happened. She said, 'I went thinking that God may be calling me to mission. I return knowing that he is calling me to missions.' Be aware that these fourteen missionaries need prayer; the Lord may in fact be calling some to missions and they will need your encouragement, prayer support and material support.



Coral Carner teaching children at the Hope for Children Society.

2. Short term missions can have a deep impact! I have heard it said numerous times, 'Why go on a short term mission, wouldn't it be better to just send the money to people to use as required?' Please don't see short term mission as sending someone for a holiday. It is work and emotionally draining! It would be impossible to measure the spiritual and emotional impact among the children and adults that your missionaries reached. You

cannot 'buy' the encouragement and impact that your missionaries made. A group of precious young girls came up to us and asked, 'Do you know [PYV member X]? Tell her we love her!' This was repeated over and over again, naming many of our missionaries. The children performed some of the songs they were taught, and told us of the activities they enjoyed. They proudly showed us the board of handprints left by the team. Then came their repeated appeal, not for any material object but for our team of young missionaries to return.

Pride: 'to boast of a gem, jewel, joy, prize or treasure.' I stand before you with great pride in these young people. I give great thanks to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ for creating in them the commitment, compassion, gifting and call. As Moderator, as a brother in Christ, I take great pride in what God has and will be doing through them.

Your job is to pray for them and the future direction of our church. **DON'T EVER UNDERESTIMATE THE VALUE OF SHORT TERM MISSIONS!**

Rev Dr Robert L Carner, Moderator

The team for the PYV mission trip which ran from 1-21st February was led by Joy Venning, Joseph Dunning, Adel Mousa and Mona Mousa, and included Joshua Roberts, Lauren Venning, Josiah Moody, David Roediger, Lydia Jensen, Jayde Campbell, Lydia Crabb, Stephanie Hood, Hannah Vasiliades, and Lara Millstead.

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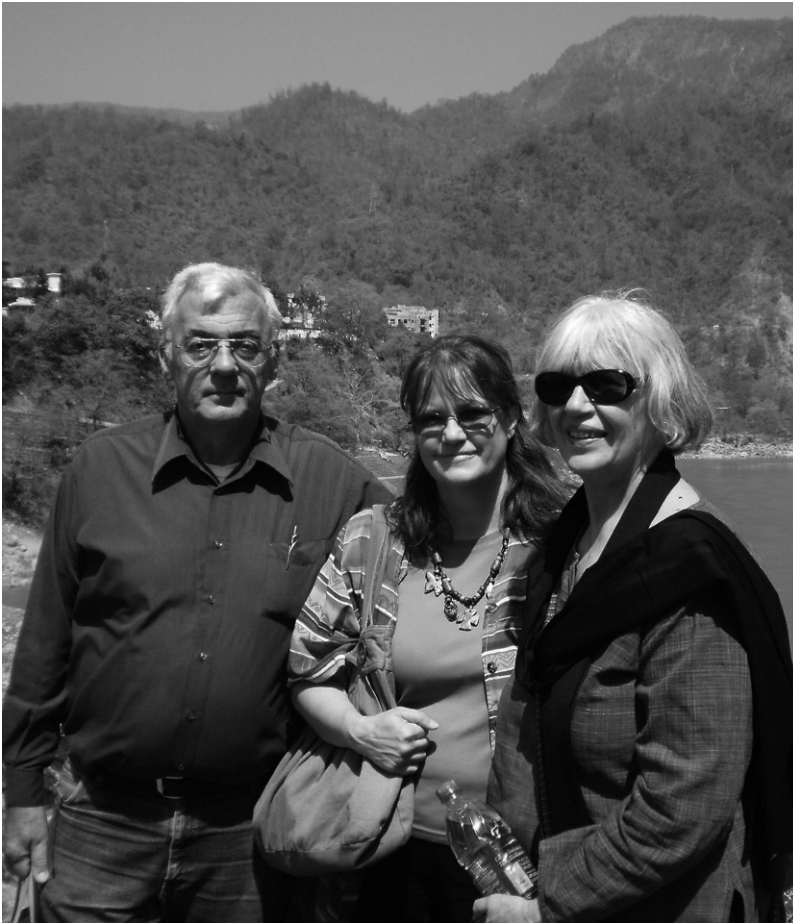
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News from PTC Media

MODERATOR'S MISSION TRIP



Rev Dr Robert Carner with his wife Coral and missionary Lynette Ellis in India.

I have said many times that the most profound benefits of short term mission are not actually what we bring to those whom we visit, but more the awareness and change within our own lives. Coral and I certainly found this to be true during our overseas mission trip in March and April, through which we were overwhelmingly blessed.

We spent the majority of our time in Hungary, Pakistan and India. The culture and needs in each country were very different but a common thread was woven throughout. The universal common denominator is the need for the majority to come to know Christ as their personal Lord and Saviour. In this respect it is no different in our own country; many have just written Christ out of the equation and replaced Him with other philosophies and anti-Christian thought.

Hungary

In Hungary we were hosted by Laszlo and Eva Mihalyi from our Donvale congregation. More than three decades of Communist oppression contributed greatly toward removing the visible evangelical witness from the spiritual landscape; the great challenge is to rebuild. Laszlo and Eva have

done an admirable job working with a great team to replant the church in this challenging mission field. They need your prayers for their mission work and for wisdom as they seek to care for their aged parents located in Hungary and Romania.

Many in Hungary proudly attribute their heritage to Nimrod. The proponents of this myth are

instrumental in building a Ziggurat on the banks of the Danube as shown in the adjoining photo. This is a culture that desperately needs to be seasoned with the salt and light of the scriptures (Matthew 5:13-16).

We were blessed to spend quality time also with your missionary, Joy Hill (also from

Donvale). She had just shifted from her former appointment in Sarajevo to now working in the offices of Pioneers in Budapest. She was fortunate to find a very nice apartment in what appears to me to be a safe community and close to her place of work.

Your prayers for your Hungary team, Laszlo, Eva and Joy are greatly appreciated; they have great challenges ahead of them.

Pakistan

Spending ten days in Pakistan gave me a real appreciation, love and need to pray for our friends like [names removed for security purposes]. Much of our time was spent with armed guards around us. When we departed one church after leading the worship service we were told to hide behind the gates until the other passengers were loaded into the van, then quickly move in. For the Carners,



The indomitable man of vision

One century ago, the Rev John Flynn was appointed Superintendent of the newly formed Australian Inland Mission. This is the first of five articles telling the story of the life and ministry of one of our own whose faith and service we must not forget.

'Where's mummy?' John was only about three when Rosetta Flynn died, leaving husband Tom, and three children Eugene, Rosetta and John. What agony for the little fellow—agony that only increased as family members took over his care. Indeed, he was separated from father and siblings, coming as far as Sydney for some time.

Sydney was a long way from Moliagul, one hour west of Bendigo, Victoria where John was born in 1880!

Eventually the family got back

together when schoolmaster Tom Flynn was transferred to Braybrook (later to be known as Sunshine), a western suburb of Melbourne. What a delight to be back home!

John loved his bike, his photography, his pen, his rifle, and helping the ill fascinated him so much that he did a course on first aid.

Early one morning, he was out shooting rabbits for meat, when he heard, 'Good morning young man.'

'Good morning, sir. I'm John Flynn.'

'Ah, you're the son of the schoolmaster and preacher. I hear he's good. I'm Hugh McKay. I'm glad you're getting rid of the rabbits, they're making a nuisance of themselves.' And so began a very special friendship. (Hugh McKay was later of Sunshine Harvester Company.)

John graduated from Parkville High School with this commendation, 'John's success is due to his commendable industry and

Continued overleaf



Laslo Mihalyi, Carol Carner, Joy Hill and Robert Carner, sharing dinner in Budapest

the potential threat was a very unusual experience. For people like [names removed], it is a reality of everyday life.

We worked with the Presbyterian Church of Pakistan, and not one day went by that there was not an opportunity to preach, teach, lead a pastor's seminar or open a village Sunday School.

This was another reminder to me that Christians in the West have a very easy life with little cost to be a Christian. I have a much greater appreciation for what our Brothers and Sisters pay for their faith.

India

We spent ten days in India, with much of that time spent with your Missionaries, John and Lynette

Ellis. John is a seminary lecturer and Lynette is a committed helpmate, campus nurse and listening ear for all who need someone to listen to their woes. You will soon hear more about how you can partner with them in ministry. We

also met two students, lovely young ladies who are fully sponsored by a retired couple from Victoria; they are blessed through their efforts to partner in seeing lives changed and equip servants of the Gospel.

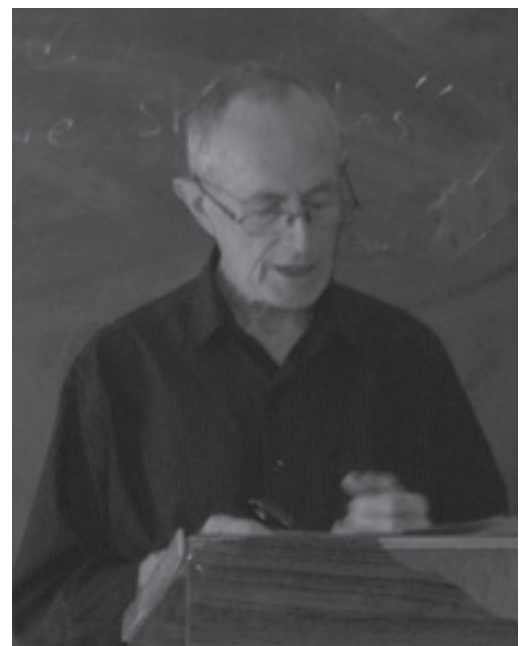
We were greatly blessed through meeting with the seminary faculty and leaders of various types of ministry. We were particularly moved by the ministry of the Children's Home. This was the vision of one man and over the past decade and a half has grown and cared for many children from the 'Rag Pickers', the Dalits, also known as 'the untouchables', Hinduism's lowest class. I have news for

anyone who uses the common title of untouchables; God loves them and has touched many of them with His saving grace. It is up to us to reach out to our extended family in Christian love.

Please pray for these (and other) precious brothers and sisters in Kingdom ministry.

*Rev Dr Robert L Carner
Moderator*

Presbyterian Church of Victoria



Rev John Ellis, teaching at the seminary in India.

The indomitable man of vision

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perseverance as well as to his intellectual ability. He is one of the most trustworthy, painstaking and upright pupils this school has had for some time!

Following his studies at Melbourne University, John went off teaching in the country as a 'pupil teacher'. He also had time to dream... and write.

In 1901, the year of Federation, John wrote a letter.

'Dear Dad,' he wrote, 'I'll be 21 in a fortnight, and have been thinking that I should give you my thoughts concerning the future... the more I think and the more I see

the grandeur and beauty of Christianity and the hollowness of human life considered as complete in itself... if Jesus of Nazareth is

indeed the Son of Almighty God; if He was in reality "God with us", showing us the Father; if it is a fact that we only sojourn on this earth for awhile, and then appear before the Creator of the universe... what more honourable calling can a man follow than getting his fellows to realise this fact, and act upon it?'

When a soul stirs in those terms one is forced to ask, 'Where is this young man going to finish up?'

But we've only just begun!

Older Christians and leaders in the Victorian Presbyterian Church could see the heartfelt passions and qualities of this young man. He soon found himself serving God

through the Home Mission Department, firstly in Beech Forest in the Otway Ranges, and then in Buchan in the Snowy Mountains National Park. This was pioneer work. John had to develop skills at communicating the gospel of God's grace in the Lord Jesus to hard working, hard living, hard swearing men.

How to win their confidence? He's only 23! It was here that John's developed 'hobby' skills came into play. From time to time the woodcutters were accidentally hurt. John knew first aid, so when the accidents happened, he was called upon. His help was professional and he was commended

by the men. But with his eye on the gospel, he was able to tell them: 'It's not only our bodies which need healing. Our

souls need healing too.' And so he gained a hearing in respect to issues whose nature was eternal. On Sunday mornings for many, the axe was laid aside and minds and hearts were engaged and stirred as John led them in worship.

Buchan was a different story. He gathered folk in homes, public halls and in the bush, there to lead services of public worship, but striving always to follow his Saviour in relating gospel teaching to events common to the hearers. At Buchan his interest grew in photography, for after all he had a wonderful subject - the Buchan Caves. From

that interest also grew in tourism and connecting towns with cities via railways. And though a young man, he communicated with the Premier of Victoria in respect to these possibilities.

Meanwhile, John's heart was stirring in concern for country folk, and the issues they faced. Loneliness created by distance. Literature. Photography. Railways. Communicating with men. A passion to follow an 'honourable calling'. Healing for the sick. And while all this was percolating in his mind, he was studying for entrance into the theological study programme at Ormond College, Melbourne.

Could this be the man to be appointed first Superintendent of the Australian Inland Mission, and the founder of the Australian Aerial Medical Service? But we jump ahead of ourselves!

Robert Benn

The second installment of John Flynn's story will appear in the next edition of fellow workers.

During Centenary Year Robert Benn is visiting many centres around Australia to tell the story of John Flynn. Apart from church groups (PWA, Heritage, Presbytery, Congregational, etc), Robert is being invited to address RFDS sections, Rotary, City Councils, and other interest groups.

Did you know...

In 1912 Flynn was commissioned to undertake a survey of the needs of both the Aboriginal people and white settlers of the Northern Territory. His detailed reports resulted in the creation by the Presbyterian Church of its Australian Inland Mission (AIM). The Mission, which commenced operation with just one nursing hostel, a nursing sister and a padre, had by 1926, under Flynn's leadership, become a network of ten strategically placed nursing hostels operating closely with patrol padres.

I bet you didn't know you're a journalist.

A freelance, volunteer one, that is. fellow workers relies on people like you to write & send in stories.

So encourage & inspire your fellow believers by sending your articles & pics to FW!

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