



MINUTE FOR MISSION

April 1, 2006

Outback Links—Making Connections with God’s People in Remote Areas



In the isolated areas of Australia, the Uniting Church helps keep people and communities together.

Frontier Services, a national ministry of the Uniting Church in Australia, provides pastoral ministry, children’s and aged care services, and medical services to people who live in the 85 percent of Australia that can be described as remote. It is a ministry that keeps people and communities together.

One ministry of Frontier Services that makes connections with people living in remote areas is called “Outback Links.” If you think it is difficult in the suburbs to get a plumber to fix the tricky bit of pipe behind your toilet, try attracting one to a station 900 kilometres (about 560 miles) west of Brisbane. “Tradespeople are incredibly busy in regional and remote areas,” says Outback Links coordinator Noela Schloss from her office in southeast Queensland. “It is almost impossible to



MINUTE FOR MISSION

April 1, 2006

Outback Links—Making Connections with God’s People in Remote Areas



In the isolated areas of Australia, the Uniting Church helps keep people and communities together.

Frontier Services, a national ministry of the Uniting Church in Australia, provides pastoral ministry, children’s and aged care services, and medical services to people who live in the 85 percent of Australia that can be described as remote. It is a ministry that keeps people and communities together.

One ministry of Frontier Services that makes connections with people living in remote areas is called “Outback Links.” If you think it is difficult in the suburbs to get a plumber to fix the tricky bit of pipe behind your toilet, try attracting one to a station 900 kilometres (about 560 miles) west of Brisbane. “Tradespeople are incredibly busy in regional and remote areas,” says Outback Links coordinator Noela Schloss from her office in southeast Queensland. “It is almost impossible to

attract someone 150 kilometres out of town to take care of the inevitable maintenance issues that crop up from time to time. Those services and many others like them, such as specialist services for children, someone to install new technology, even someone willing to pitch in and help out a bit around the house, are virtually nonexistent for people living in the Outback.”

Outback Links connects volunteers with a wide range of skills—from childcare and speech pathology to plumbing and hairdressing—with people in remote areas who need their assistance. It is a great example of the people of Christ working together to provide practical assistance: retirees on a trip around Australia, young families adventuring across the wide brown land, and individuals taking a break from study or work commitments are volunteering their gifts and skills for a short period on a station in Outback Australia.

“On a property hundreds of kilometres from anywhere, the homestead is something of an oasis,” Noela relates. “Recently, during a time when my husband was providing patrol ministry, we visited an isolated property where the family lamented the state of their rose garden—a heritage garden that had previously provided them with a sense of great joy and pride. With all the other demands of life on the property, something simple like the garden has to be sacrificed—but this has an impact on morale. My husband and I are both gardeners, and we were itching to get involved and help restore it! How easy, yet how significant it would be for someone travelling through to spend some time in a garden and help restore the oasis! Not an arduous task, but one that makes a genuine difference.”

The Church mobilised in mission, serving those who are marginalised and disadvantaged by distance and isolation—that’s Outback Links in action!

Terence Corkin
General Secretary
Uniting Church of Australia

attract someone 150 kilometres out of town to take care of the inevitable maintenance issues that crop up from time to time. Those services and many others like them, such as specialist services for children, someone to install new technology, even someone willing to pitch in and help out a bit around the house, are virtually nonexistent for people living in the Outback.”

Outback Links connects volunteers with a wide range of skills—from childcare and speech pathology to plumbing and hairdressing—with people in remote areas who need their assistance. It is a great example of the people of Christ working together to provide practical assistance: retirees on a trip around Australia, young families adventuring across the wide brown land, and individuals taking a break from study or work commitments are volunteering their gifts and skills for a short period on a station in Outback Australia.

“On a property hundreds of kilometres from anywhere, the homestead is something of an oasis,” Noela relates. “Recently, during a time when my husband was providing patrol ministry, we visited an isolated property where the family lamented the state of their rose garden—a heritage garden that had previously provided them with a sense of great joy and pride. With all the other demands of life on the property, something simple like the garden has to be sacrificed—but this has an impact on morale. My husband and I are both gardeners, and we were itching to get involved and help restore it! How easy, yet how significant it would be for someone travelling through to spend some time in a garden and help restore the oasis! Not an arduous task, but one that makes a genuine difference.”

The Church mobilised in mission, serving those who are marginalised and disadvantaged by distance and isolation—that’s Outback Links in action!

Terence Corkin
General Secretary
Uniting Church of Australia

Do you have a mission story to tell? Would you like to read inspiring stories of Presbyterians in mission? Visit the Witness Season Web site: www.pcusa.org/witness. New minutes for mission are posted on the 1st and 15th of each month.

For more information on the Witness Season mission education emphasis contact Billie Healy, Associate for Mission Education Resources (888) 728-7228, ext. 5689, or Bhealy@ctr.pcusa.org.

Do you have a mission story to tell? Would you like to read inspiring stories of Presbyterians in mission? Visit the Witness Season Web site: www.pcusa.org/witness. New minutes for mission are posted on the 1st and 15th of each month.

For more information on the Witness Season mission education emphasis contact Billie Healy, Associate for Mission Education Resources (888) 728-7228, ext. 5689, or Bhealy@ctr.pcusa.org.