

# Australia

*“A land pioneered on undaunted courage.”*

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We are fascinated with courageous people. Especially, when the odds are stacked against someone and they defy those odds through sheer courage, unyielding persistence and immense will-power.

- **Edward John Eyre (1815 – 1905)**

*Eyre was born in Whipsnade, Bedfordshire, shortly before his family moved to Hornsea, Yorkshire, where he was christened. His parents were Rev. Anthony William Eyre and Sarah (née Mapleton). After completing grammar school at Louth and Sedbergh, he moved to Sydney rather than join the army or go to university. He gained experience in the new land by boarding with and forming friendships with prominent gentlemen and became a flock owner when he bought 400 lambs a month before his 18th birthday. When South Australia was found, Eyre brought 1,000 sheep and 600 cattle overland from Monaro, New South Wales to Adelaide and sold them for a large profit. He also discovered Lake Eyre.*

*With this money, Eyre set out to explore the interior of South Australia, with two separate expeditions north to the Flinders Ranges and west to beyond Ceduna. Eyre, together with his Aboriginal companion Wylie, was the first European to traverse the coastline of the Great Australian Bight and the Nullarbor Plain by land in 1840-1841, on an almost 2000 mile trip to Albany, Western Australia. He had originally led the expedition with John Baxter and three aborigines. Two of the aborigines killed Baxter and left with most of the supplies, and Eyre and Wylie were only able to survive because they were rescued by a French whaling ship which at Rossiter Bay, under the command of Captain Rossiter, chanced to be there. Eyre named the bay after the captain. In addition to exploring inland South Australia and New South Wales, Eyre was instrumental in maintaining peace between white settlers and aborigines along the Murray River.....*

([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward\\_John\\_Eyre](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward_John_Eyre))

Courage is not the absence of fear; it is the mastery of it.

Courage is doing what you are afraid to do.

**Be strong and very courageous... Joshua 1:7a** (nlt)

...*God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.* **2 Timothy 2:7** (nlt)

- **SAS Trooper Mark Donaldson**

*"A soldier who deliberately drew enemy fire and then carried a wounded colleague to safety through a hail of bullets has been awarded the Victoria Cross. The medal, inscribed with the words "For Valour", was pinned to the chest of 29-year-old Trooper Mark Donaldson....."*

(<http://www.news.com.au/story/0,27574,24920256-421,00.html>)

Dramatic once-in-a-lifetime opportunities to be a courageous hero never seem to happen to ordinary folk like you and me.

But we are to be encouraged because;

**..... It takes courage to be ordinary.**

**Acts 4:13** (niv) *When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.*

We need courage to face life's ordinary, everyday challenges. Every single day we make choices between the right thing and the most convenient thing.

To choose the way of integrity and staying true to our convictions takes courage. Compromising our integrity and convictions for the sake of comfort is cowardly!

We can choose to trust in God to be there when we need Him most, or we can second guess Him, doubting He will come through for us when we need Him to.

**..... It takes courage to be vulnerable unto God.**

It is painful to own up to the truth about our behaviour. It takes courage.

**1 John 1:9** (niv) *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*

Confessing our wrongdoing is painful and humiliating. It makes us feel uncomfortable and exposed, but it's the right thing for us to do.

If it takes courage to 'become' a Christian, it takes even more courage to 'remain' a Christian!

## ..... So, how can we grow in courage?

- We grow in courage when we face our crippling fears head on.

**Deuteronomy 31:6** (niv) *Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you.*

Every fear that is faced head-on becomes a building block in building courage. Each success gives us a new sense of confidence causing us to grow in courage.

- We grow in courage when we surround ourselves with good role models whose life model courage.

**1 Corinthians 15:33** (niv) says, *Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character."*

We cannot sit still and expect courage to find us. We need to go after it!

## ..... Jesus was a man of courage.

Jesus exhibited enormous courage to carry out His Fathers will. His obedience, even unto death shows the degree of His sacrificial courage.

Yet no one can fully comprehend or fully understand the pain and suffering Jesus endured.

**Isaiah 53:5** (niv) *Surely He took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered Him stricken by God, smitten by Him, and afflicted.*

The blows inflicted upon Him merged with each other to form one complete wound and bruise from head to toe!

Jesus had seemingly lost all resemblance to a man.

**Isaiah 52:14** (tlb) *They shall see My Servant beaten and bloodied, so disfigured one would scarcely know it was a person standing there.*

For this purpose He was born and lived.

For this purpose He set His face courageously and steadfastly toward that ugly place just outside the walls of Jerusalem, known as "**Skull Hill**" (Golgotha).

**John 3:16** (niv) *For God so loved the world, that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

It's within these sufferings of Jesus, lies the heart of the full and great salvation God offers to us.

Jesus suffered and died for our sins, and rose again from the dead, so that we might be acquitted of all wrong-doing and set free to live abundantly under the blessing of God.

Jesus was truly '**The Man of Courage!**'