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Issue 133

The Next Step

Canberra Christian Fellowship
(in the Methodist Tradition)

Canberra
Aboriginal Church



CCF & CAC services suspended
until (at least) 6-9-2020

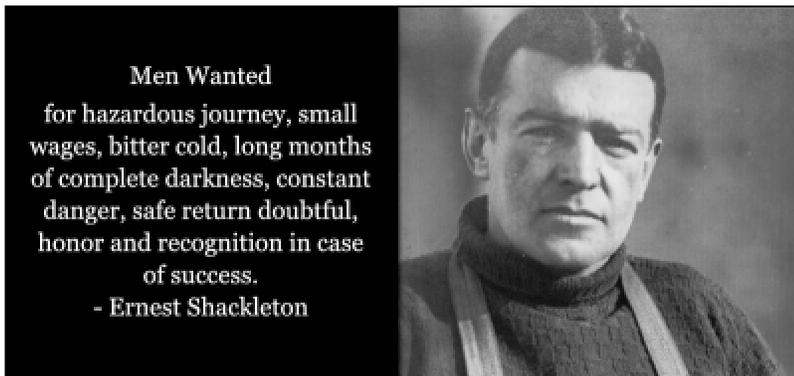
Sir Ernest Henry Shackleton (1874 – 1922)

Born in Ireland to a family with English roots and a strong Quaker heritage, Ernest was restless at school, leaving at age 16 to go to sea.

In 1901 he was appointed 3rd Officer on Robert Falcon Scott's British National Antarctic Expedition (1901-1903) ship 'Discovery'. While in Antarctica Scott, Wilson and Shackleton achieved a record Farthest South latitude of 82° 17'. While making the return journey to their ship Shackleton broke down and once back at the ship was sent home due to ill-health.

Shackleton's next trip to Antarctica was the 'Nimrod' Expedition (1907 - 1909) which he led. This time he and three companions reached a new Farthest South latitude of 88° 23'. They also discovered the Beardmore Glacier. Their return journey to base was a race against starvation, ... At one point, Shackleton gave his one biscuit allotted for the day to an ailing colleague.

The Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition (1914 – 1917) was his next Antarctic trip and the one for which he is most remembered.



Men Wanted
for hazardous journey, small wages, bitter cold, long months of complete darkness, constant danger, safe return doubtful, honor and recognition in case of success.
- Ernest Shackleton

"His interviewing and selection methods [for his crew] sometimes seemed eccentric; believing that character and temperament were as important as technical ability, he asked unconventional questions. Thus physicist Reginald James was asked if he could sing; ... Shackleton also loosened some traditional hierarchies to promote camaraderie, such as distributing the ship's chores equally among officers, scientists, and seamen. He also socialized with his crew members every evening after dinner, leading sing-alongs, jokes, and games. He

ultimately selected a crew of 56, twenty-eight on each [of the 2] ship[s]."

The ship 'Endurance' was to take Shackleton's party to Vahsel Bay in the Wendell Sea from where Shackleton would attempt a crossing of the Antarctic continent via the South Pole. The 'Aurora' would go to McMurdo Sound on the other side of the continent and lay supply depots to enable Shackleton to complete his journey.

Unfortunately Endurance became trapped in ice. After a month it became obvious the ship was trapped until spring so shipboard routine was changed to winter station life. The ship drifted with the ice for 8 months before being abandoned as the ice pressure made it inevitable it would soon sink. For 6 months Shackleton and his men camped on the still drifting ice floes. When their floe broke in two, Shackleton ordered the men into the 3 lifeboats from the sunken Endurance and for 5 days they battled towards the nearest land - Elephant Island, 557 km from where Endurance had sunk.

- Voyage of the *Endurance*
- Drift of the *Endurance* in pack ice
- Sea ice drift after the *Endurance* sinks
- Voyage of the *James Caird*
- Planned trans-Antarctic route
- Voyage of the *Aurora* to Antarctica
- Retreat of the *Aurora*
- Supply depot route



Rescue from Elephant Island was unlikely so Shackleton embarked on an open-boat journey to the 720-nautical-mile-distant South Georgia Island with 5 companions. For 15 days they endured stormy conditions and hurricane force winds but eventually succeeded in reaching South Georgia.

Safety and assistance were still distant. Shackleton with 2 others traversed "extremely dangerous mountainous terrain for 36 hours to reach the whaling station at Stromness".

"Shackleton immediately sent a boat to pick up the three men from the other side of South Georgia while he set to work to organise the rescue of the Elephant Island men. ... [Help reached them] on 30 August 1916, at which point the men had been isolated there for four and a half months, and Shackleton quickly evacuated all 22 men."

The "men of the Ross Sea Party, who were stranded at Cape Evans in McMurdo Sound, after Aurora had been blown from its anchorage and driven out to sea, unable to return" were also rescued.

Shackleton set out on yet another Antarctic expedition in 1921 but died while at South Georgia en route.

The first 3 generations of Shackletons in Ireland were enthusiastic Quakers. Ernest's grandfather (4th generation) converted to the Church of Ireland and the Bible was often read aloud in Henry's, (Ernest's father) house.

"Although Sir Ernest used and referred to Christian scriptural texts, he may have had what could be called a spiritual sense of the world as opposed to a religious view of any of the Christian churches. ... This great sense that Shackleton held of an energy, power, or occasionally referred to as 'God' comes through in the description of the experiences of himself, Crean and Worsley as they crossed South Georgia in May 1916."

"When I look back at those days, I have no doubt that Providence guided us, not only across those snowfields, but across the storm-strewn sea that separated Elephant Island from our landing place on South Georgia. I know that during that long and racking march of 36 hours over the unnamed mountains and glaciers of South Georgia, it seemed to me often that we were four, not three. I said nothing to my companions on the point, but afterwards Worsley said to me, "Boss, I had a curious feeling on the march that there was another person with us." Crean confessed to the same idea. One feels the dearth of human words, the roughness of mortal speech, in trying to describe things intangible, but a record of our journeys would be incomplete without a reference to a subject very near to our hearts." ID

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ernest_Shackleton
https://opc.org/new_horizons/NH02/06d.html
<https://shackletonexhibition.com/shackletons-bible-given-to-him-by-queen-alexandra/>
<https://www.artofmanliness.com/articles/what-they-left-and-what-they-kept-what-an-antarctic-expedition-can-teach-you-about-whats-truly-valuable/>
<https://shackletonexhibition.com/easter-the-endurance-christian-heritage/>

"Fish, as the saying goes, are the last to ask what water is. Aside from the fact that fish were not created to ask questions, water is the medium of their existence. We, on the other hand, don't live in that element, so we find water noteworthy.

Yet we can be like fish in failing to marvel at something just as basic as water, but far more wonderful. All of us inhabit an element that is as constant a part of our lives as water is for fish. The element that we all "swim" in is God's holy, wise, and powerful governing and preserving of all of us and all our actions. It's "providence," the medium of our existence. There never has been and never will be as much as a single nanosecond of any person's life that is not submerged in the infinite holiness, wisdom, and power of the Creator who preserves and governs us."

Michael A. Obel while writing about Shackleton. see https://opc.org/new_horizons/NH02/06d.html

Prayer Points

Please pray

- for Aboriginal communities all over Australia.
- for leaders, doctors and ministers.
- for revival - that people will seek the Lord.
- for the elderly, those in lockdown in their homes (particularly in Melbourne) and for each other.

and give thanks for the Canberra Aboriginal Church virtual gatherings using ZOOM for around 40 minutes each Sunday from 5pm. - A time of fellowship, worship and delving into God's Word.

The Canberra Aboriginal Church currently intends resuming normal physical gatherings for worship services at Lyons on the 1st Sunday of September.



Chaplains

Please pray that as coronavirus restrictions are gradually lifted, the chaplains we particularly support will be able to follow the new paths You have set before them. - Mr. Owen Chadwick - Universities chaplaincy, Rev. Bob Prior - Racecourse chaplaincy, Rev. Paul Tabulutu - N.S.W. / A.C.T. Fijian churches



Devotional material



Contacts

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Bible Reading



Prayer

Fellowship by Phone