

# EVERYDAY HEADLINES

By Bill Pugh

In this devastating fire season headlines underline the trauma of people and communities in the bush. Loss of life, stock, native flora and fauna. Homes and shops burnt. People cry out for help. One town of 80 residents has been cut off from supplies as all the roads in are closed. One resident describes their status as 'prisoners'.

The Psalms describe centuries of the experiences of God's people. Famine, slavery and statelessness, are the experiences of the wandering Israelites seeking home and land. Psalm 42 has a strong word to sum up the feelings of devastated and lost people. It is the word DISQUIET. Hungry people thirst for the living God. Their tears have been food, day and night. "Where is your God?" they plead with the Psalmist. The word of reply

from the Psalmist and his very own experience is, "Hope in God for I shall again praise him, my help and my God."

In this fire season people have been moved to give and help. Everywhere there are God people. Good Samaritans, putting their lives on the line, giving and raising funds. God has not deserted his people. Disquiet is a natural reaction. But there is hope. We are people of hope. Love is patient and kind writes Paul to the Corinthians. He will not let his people down.

Reflection: Read Psalm 42 in the light of this season's experience. Maybe there is something more we can do to witness to practical faith wherever there is disquiet, and maybe, sooner than later, help will arrive via the Highway of Hope to that little town.

[www.victas.uca.org.au/resources](http://www.victas.uca.org.au/resources)

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[www.victas.uca.org.au](http://www.victas.uca.org.au)