

BUSH BOYS

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PRAYER

Q 49. *What is Prayer?*

Prayer is raising our minds and hearts to God, in a Morning Offering and bedtime thanks and sorrow.

- ♦ We pray always by saying a Morning Offering, to offer in advance the day's thoughts, words and deeds.
- ♦ The only things we cannot offer to God are our sins; for them we offer sorrow, especially in Evening Prayers.
- ♦ Praise and petition are particularly appropriate for morning, and thanksgiving and contrition for the evening. A most important time for prayer is after Holy Communion (remember: A-L-T-A-R: Adore, Love, Thank, Ask, Repent); also before during and after Mass, and visits to the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle.

From *Catholic Family Catechism Disciples' Edition with 50 Questions and Answers*, pp 118-119



Father James Tierney
-
before he needed
spectacles

Read more about prayer on these pages.

At Greg's shout, "Rise and shine!" Kev and the others sat up and lurched forward on their knees. It was the easiest way to shuffle off the blankets. It matched their bush boys' prayer drill, which only Sam found strange – but as always, he fitted in so well.

Again they offered one prayer each, though at Sam's "Now I lay me down to sleep..." the others choked their chuckles.

From *Bush Boys on the Move*, Chapter 12: Salvage, page 146

A Morning Offering

Father in Heaven I give You today,
All I do and think and say,
And I unite it with all that was done
By Jesus Christ, Your only Son.

An Evening Prayer

Now I lay me down to sleep
I pray the Lord my soul to keep;
And if I die before I wake
I pray the Lord my soul to take.



Father James Tierney - Retired Parish Priest,
Catechetics Consultant and Author

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Books by Father James Tierney

Bush Boys (\$5)
Cuthbert Joins the Bush Boys (\$2)
Bush Boys and Bush Rangers (\$10)
Bush Boys on the Move (\$15)

Catholic Family Catechism Disciples'
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A VERY QUICK HISTORY OF TOAST AND TOASTERS

Bread has been around for about 6000 years and the credit for its invention goes to the Egyptians. The practice of toasting bread was used as a means of preserving bread which otherwise becomes hard and unpleasant to eat after a few days exposed to the air.

The name 'toast' comes from the Latin word *tostum* which means to burn or to scorch.

At first, bread was toasted by holding it over a fire or by lying it on a hot rock. Then wire frames that could sit over a fire were developed. Eventually, in 1909 the first commercially produced toaster was made. The first automatic or pop up toaster appeared in 1926. This toaster was adjustable so that the bread could be automatically toasted for a particular period of time. The invention of sliced bread at about the same time helped automatic toasters become very popular.

WHY TOAST IS BROWN

The first person to study the chemistry of toast was Louis-Camille Maillard. Initially, it wasn't toast that Maillard was interested in. His real ambition was to unravel the secret of life. In 1912 he did a series of experiments hoping to discover how amino acids combine to form protein, in the body.

After trying unsuccessfully to combine amino acids by using heat, Maillard decided to mix in other chemicals found in cells, such as fats and sugars. He hoped these extra 'ingredients' would enhance the reaction. As soon as glucose, the most common sugar found in the body, was added, the solution turned brown. This high temperature reaction between sugars and amino acids has been given the name 'the Maillard reaction'.

The Maillard reaction not only results in a browning effect, it also produces odour and flavour molecules. The type of amino acid and sugar used in the reaction determines the resulting flavour. Because foods contain a diverse range of amino acids and sugars, a large variety of flavours can be produced. By the middle of the twentieth century, chemists had investigated the Maillard reaction in such detail that they were able to produce specific flavours by selecting particular sugars and amino acids. The artificial flavour industry was born. Artificial maple syrup flavour is produced by adding the amino acid serine to hot glucose. Lyseine, added to gently boiling corn syrup, results in a brew which not only tastes like toast but also has the aroma of freshly toasted bread.

The Maillard reaction is responsible for many colours and flavours in different foods:

- ♦ The browning of bread into toast
- ♦ The colour of beer, chocolate, coffee, gingerbread and maple syrup
- ♦ The colour produced from the use of self-tanning products
- ♦ The flavour of roast beef
- ♦ Caramel made from milk and sugar



VEGEMITE

Everyone in Australia knows about Vegemite. It is so popular it is known as a national food. Vegemite is the brand name of a dark brown paste which is usually spread on toast and bread. It is made from leftover brewer's yeast extract (a by-product of the manufacture of beer) with various vegetable and spice additives. The taste of Vegemite is either loved or hated. Its extremely salty, and slightly bitter taste is found to be unpalatable by some Australians and most non-Australians. The attempt to market Vegemite outside Australia has never been successful.

Vegemite was invented in 1923 by food technologist, Dr Cyril P. Callister. He was given the task, by the Australian Fred Walker Company, of developing a brewer's yeast spread, after war disrupted the supply of imported yeast spreads.

Potential names for Callister's new product were placed on slips of paper and placed in a hat. Fred Walker's daughter had the honour of picking out the successful name which was 'Vegemite'. For a few years the yeast spread was known by this name. Then facing competition from a similar British product called Marmite, it was decided to change Vegemite's name to Parwill. From 1928 to 1935 the advertising slogan, "Marmite but Parwill", was used to promote the product. The slogan meant: Ma may not like the taste but I'm sure Pa will. The slogan did nothing to increase the Australian company's share of the yeast extract market. A decision was made to change the name Parwill back to Vegemite. Today, Vegemite far outsells all other yeast extract products including Marmite.

After the muesli, when the leaping flames of the fire had sunk to coals, they made toast on the ends of sticks, two pieces each. These were buttered and spread, using all the vegemite and half of the remaining jam.

After pouring the tea, Greg had rinsed the billy, filled it and put it back on. Now he made the fire blaze up again with some little sticks. "That's for washing," he said.

From *Bush Boys*, Chapter 16: Goanna Fighting

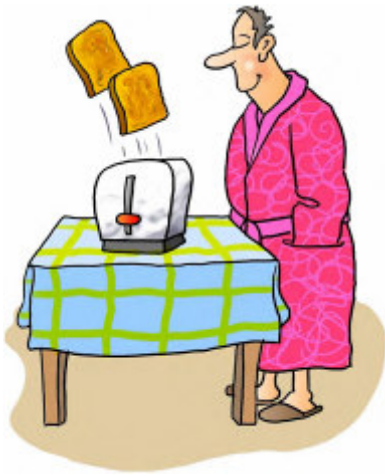
VEGEMITE RECIPES

Tiger Toast

Spread a layer of Vegemite onto a slice of toast. Place strips of cheese over the Vegemite to create 'stripes'. Melt cheese under the griller.

Worm Biscuits

Spread two Vita-Wheat crackers with butter and Vegemite. Press the two crackers together, forcing black and yellow worms out of the cracker holes. Lick off the worms and enjoy the biscuits.



The glade in which The Hut stood was beautiful in the morning light – the garden of the living earth.

Peter started gathering candle bark.

"No! It's too damp this early," corrected Greg.

"We'll get some stringy bark." He selected his tree and, with the help of his knife, prized off a strip of fibrous bark. "You have to rub it into *bull's wool*," he explained. "And even if it's raining, the underneath bark is dry –

*"Stringy bark will light your fire
And rawhide never fail yer,
String bark and rawhide,
The mainstays of Orstralia!*

and he added, "turpentine bark's nearly as good, but not blackbutt or mahogany."

He chanted softly, then more loudly...

"Describe dry kindling.

**Dry kindling is
tiny sticks which point upwards,
or stringy bark or turpentine bark
rubbed into bull's wool.**

"Want to write it in your notebook?"

Peter laughed, and said he would, later. He took the loose woolly ball of bark from Greg, put it under the bars, and lit it with one match. The others supplied little sticks and branches from the dead acacia wattles. Bernie put on the billy.

From *Bush Boys*, Chapter 16: Goanna Fighting

A TREE'S "SKIN"

Trees and shrubs have a woody layer covering their trunks. This layer is known as bark and it protects the delicate living tissues under it in much the same way as skin protects our delicate flesh. Bark is water-tight and prevents trees from drying out. Although water cannot pass across a layer of bark, gases can. As a tree grows, it forms new bark giving it a thicker covering. As the tree gets older, its trunk will grow thicker. The outer bark is composed of dead cells and cannot grow, so as the trunk expands, the bark will split, crack or peel in a variety of textures which can be used in identification. Bark is an especially useful feature in identification as it can be used at any time of the year.

Some bark types:

- ♦ Smooth bark is a feature of many young trees. As the trees age it may crack or peel.
- ♦ Vertically peeling bark often hangs and falls from trees in long strips and ribbons.
- ♦ Horizontally peeling bark looks like it is un-winding from trees in paper thin strips and wide sheets.
- ♦ Ridges and fissures (raised and prominent or deep) may develop as thick bark cracks.
- ♦ Plates are irregular areas of bark often flaking with cracks in between.
- ♦ Irregularly flaking bark will give the tree a shaggy appearance as different age layers are exposed.

When a branch of a tree is damaged, new bark will seal up the wound preventing the entry of disease and fungi.

If a tree is stripped of its bark, it nearly always will die. Trees are often deliberately killed in this way especially when there are a large number of trees to be cleared from an area of land. The trees have rings of bark stripped from them and so are said to be 'ring barked'. Eventually, the trees will die and then they can be burned down. Animals such as horses and rabbits can damage and kill fruit trees by eating their bark.

Bark has many uses. The bark of the cork oak provides cork for matting and bottle corks. Cinnamon is the powdered bark of a tree grown in India and Malaysia. Some barks can be used to make paper. The powdered bark of the oak has been used for tanning leather as well as for dyeing sails and ropes. Quinine, a medicine, comes from the bark of the cinchona tree. The bark from some trees can be used as kindling for lighting a fire. The early Australian settlers used sheets of stringy bark for roofs.

Look at the characteristic bark patterns of different trees. Collect pieces of fallen bark or make bark rubbings using paper and wax crayons. Particularly look out for stringy bark, candle bark and turpentine bark.

BARK PAINTINGS

Bark paintings are one of the oldest forms of Aboriginal art and are traditionally found in the north of Australia, particularly in Arnhem land. The bark most commonly used is stringy bark from the tree, *Eucalyptus Tetrodonta*. The bark can only be taken from the tree from the beginning of the wet season in November until the middle of the dry season in March. When the stringy bark tree is moist, its bark is easier to peel away in large sections.

After the bark has been cut from the tree, it is heated over a fire for a few minutes so it becomes flexible enough to flatten out. The bark is then scraped with a sharp stone in order to make it flat enough to paint on. Rocks are used to weigh down the bark which is left on the ground in the sun for a few weeks. The bark is then ready for painting. Typical paintings are very detailed. They depict scenes from everyday life or tell stories, especially the timeless ancestral stories of the Dreaming. Red, white, black and yellow ochres are used as paint. Brushes can be made from human hair, or a twig or blade of grass can be used.

View some bark paintings online at websites such as www.silverbushmusic.com/barkpain2.htm or www.aboriginalartonline.com

READING A MAP

A map is like a photo taken from an aeroplane. In fact, that is how maps are usually made nowadays.

A map pretends that the earth is flat! This is quite accurate enough for small distances like 50km.

Look for three vital pieces of information on a map:

1. The **name** of the map.
2. The **scale** of the map.
3. The direction of **north**.

The scale of the map is shown by a special map-ruler. From it you can work out the real distances from the distances on the map.

Often there is a fourth item, the **legend**, which gives the code for creeks, tracks, roads, railways etc.

A fifth item on camping maps shows the **shape of the land** either by contour lines or by hatching for ridges.

From *Bush Boys on the Move*, p 165

Read *Using the Map from Bush Boys on the Move*, p 165

Pete held up a hand for silence and hissed, "Can you smell smoke?" Then in a hoarse whisper to Greg, "This morning, I whizzed up the Crow's Nest. And there was a new trickle of smoke, south west by west. It was exactly where *you* said south west yesterday..."

Greg grinned and said, "Oooh! I didn't correct for magnetic variation. But this morning I took a bearing from Mount Mighty. More smoke almost due west. Those bearings'd cross on Zodiac Gap all right."

Bernie told the new boys, "Zodiac Gap's just ahead. There must be someone there."

From *Bush Boys on the Move*, Chapter 9: Battle With the Bikies, page 113

A COMPASS

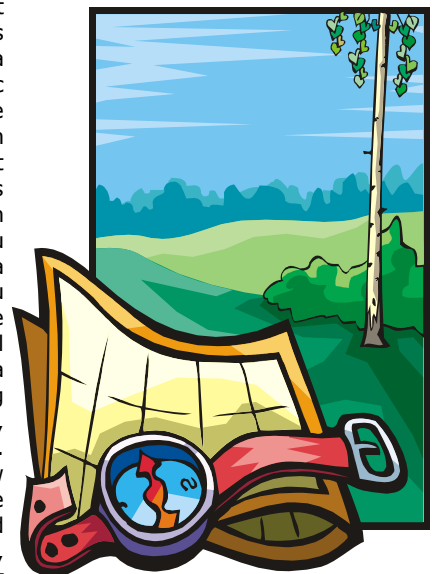
The compass is an instrument used to find direction. It can be used by travellers on land, sea and air. It is a vital navigational aid in situations where there are no landmarks or when navigation using the sun or stars is not possible.

The simplest compass is made up of a magnetic needle supported on a sharp point so that it is able to turn freely. If you look at a compass, you will notice the needle will rotate over a disc bearing the letters N, S, E, and W. You will know that these letters stand for North, South, East and West, the four main directions. However, did you know that these points are known as the **cardinal points** of the compass?

Between N and E is NE or north-east.
Between E and S is SE or south-east.
Between S and W is SW or south-west.
Between W and N is NW or north-west.

NE, SE, SW, and NW are known as the main **intercardinal points** of the compass.

Do you know from which direction the sun rises and in which direction it sets? Check your answer with your compass.



HOW A COMPASS WORKS

The planet Earth is a magnet. Like all magnets, it has two magnetic poles: north and south. The compass arrow is also a magnet with poles. The Earth's north magnetic pole acts on the compass arrow pulling it until it points north. The poles of the two magnets are said to be attracted to one another. Now, for all magnets, opposite poles attract each other while like poles repel each other. So the north pole of the Earth should attract the south pole of the compass magnet. So why does the north arrow of the compass point towards the north pole of the Earth? Long ago, when magnetism was discovered but not understood, someone gave the same name to both the Earth's north magnetic pole and the north pole of the compass. It would be more accurate to call the pole of the compass which points north, the north-seeking pole, but we don't. We call it a north pole and live with the contradiction.

GEOGRAPHIC AND MAGNETIC POLES

The imaginary line which joins the north and south poles of the Earth's magnet is not the same line which joins the geographical North and South Poles. The compass needle is attracted to the magnetic north and therefore does not point to the true geographic north. There is a distance of many kilometres between the two north poles. A map should have a compass bearing in one corner showing the direction of the magnetic north and that of the true or geographical north. This angle will vary from place to place and from year to year. It is roughly 12° E in Sydney. So a compass needle which is pointing to magnetic north is 12° to the east of the geographic or true north.

ORIENTEERING

If you'd like to practice your map reading skills, get some exercise and have lots of fun perhaps you'd like to try orienteering. A special orienteering map will have a number of locations marked on it. The aim is to visit these locations (with the aid of a compass and your knowledge of map reading) in the correct order and arrive at the finish point.



The majority of orienteering courses are set in bushland. Different grade courses are available. You can either stroll around the course or aim to move as quickly as possible, in order to finish the course in a shorter time than all the other competitors.

There are a number of websites concerned with orienteering. Go online to find information on clubs in your state.

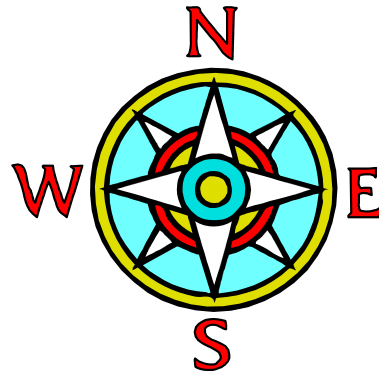
See *Cuthbert Joins the Bush Boys*, Chapter 9 for a diagram of the 32 points of the compass.

FROM THE ABC OF CAMPING

THE SEVEN DEADLY DANGERS

Q 41. What are the Seven Deadly Dangers which lead to death in the bush?

The Seven Deadly Dangers which lead to death in the bush are getting lost, getting drowned, violent collisions, snakebite, burns, dehydration/heat exhaustion and hypothermia.



Q 42. How do we avoid getting lost?

We avoid getting lost by following a good leader, not splitting up the party, navigating by creeks and ridges, map and compass, sun and stars. Also hand-held GPS, Ground Position Satellites.

From *The Australian Bush Catechism*, *Bush Boys on the Move*, page 463

Read 'Navigational Skills', 'Up Ridges' and 'Down Creeks', *Bush Boys on the Move*, page 492

OBSERVE THE CODE AND PROTECT THE BUSH

The bush offers many opportunities for outdoor activities. Like the Bush Boys, we may enjoy walking or camping in the bush. It is important to remember while we are enjoying ourselves, that we are responsible for the protection and preservation of this natural environment. When we leave the bush, we should leave nothing behind to show where we have been. The beauty of the bush should be preserved for other visitors both today and in the years to come. By following a few guidelines, it is possible to enjoy the bush without leaving a mark. The Bushwalkers Association has put together such a set of guidelines which is known as The Bushwalkers Code. The National Parks Association of NSW fully supports this code and urges users of the Parks to observe it.

The code can be summarised as:

- ◆ Be self-reliant
- ◆ Tread softly
- ◆ Watch your safety
- ◆ Pack it in, pack it out
- ◆ Be hygienic
- ◆ Keep water pure
- ◆ Be very careful with fire
- ◆ Choose campsites carefully
- ◆ Protect plants and animals
- ◆ Respect Aboriginal heritage

Download the complete Code from the website of the National Parks Association of NSW at www.npansw.org.au/web/activities/bushwalking%20code.htm

BE VERY CAREFUL WITH FIRE

It is very important to choose a site for your fire carefully. Fire can be dangerous.

- ◆ If you are camping in a popular campsite, light your fire on a bare patch left by previous fires.
- ◆ Otherwise, choose a site where the ground is bare or covered by sand.
- ◆ Make sure there are no stumps, logs, living plants or river stones near by.
- ◆ During the bushfire season, it is necessary to use a permanently constructed fireplace.
- ◆ Clear away all leaves, grass and other flammable material for at least two metres around the fireplace.
- ◆ After use, douse the fire with water to put it out. Don't use sand or soil. Coals can continue to smoulder for days even if it appears to be smothered.
- ◆ If the ground under the coals is too hot to touch, the fire is not out and more water is needed.
- ◆ Scatter the cold ashes and cold coals well clear of the fire site. Remove any stones used to make a fireplace and then rake soil and leaves around the spot where the fire was. The aim is to remove all traces of the fire site.

Then came the explosion. The rock at the back of the fire blew up. And the fire blew up too.

It had been a very hot fire. There were lots of red hot coals. The whole lot came hurtling outwards and upwards, like an incendiary bomb.

A whistle of high velocity rock fragments, a fierce hiss of steam, a rattle of impacting shrapnel – and then the screams of pain from the three youths: the sounds were impressed indelibly on the memories of the four young adventurers.

The yahoos were peppered from head to foot with red hot pieces of charcoal and with jagged pellets of very hot rock. In their board shorts, they had no protection. Their bare flesh was scourged.

From *Bush Boys*, Chapter 21: The Yahoo Invasion.

Water exists in three states of matter: solid, liquid, gas. Read more about the three states of matter and view simulations of each state at: www.visionlearning.com/library/modu6_viewer.php?mid=120

"Why did their fire explode like that?" asked Peter, "And why didn't our fires?"

"Because," said Greg, who seemed to be in as good humour as ever, despite the discomfort of his dripping wet clothes, "our fires were made in sand, and theirs was against rocks. Any sandstone near the creek has soaked up water in the floods. A fire turns the water into steam, which builds up pressure, until the rock explodes like a bomb."

"It blows up the fire, too," said Bernie. "That's why they were screaming. It's not just the cuts from the hot rock, but the red hot coals as well."

"What about the rocks in our fireplace near the tent?" asked John.

"They're probably okay," replied Greg. "Remember? You and I made it, and we got the rocks from up the hill, not down near the water."

From *Bush Boys*, Chapter 22: Tactical Withdrawal



THOSE BLOOD SUCKING PARASITES

You, like Bernie, may have been the victim of a leech attack. Perhaps you were walking through the bush and were as horrified as Peter and John to find a little worm-like creature hungrily sucking the blood from your leg. Your natural impulse was probably to get rid of the leech as quickly as possible. So maybe you have never taken the opportunity to have a really good look at this animal.

Did you know the leech is a segmented worm closely related to the earthworm, although more highly specialised, anatomically and behaviourally? At each end of the segmented body, there is a powerful clinging sucker (which you will know is very hard to dislodge).

There are different types of leeches which can be grouped according to the different ways they feed. The jawless leeches insert a needle-like protrusion called a proboscis into their host's body. They secrete an enzyme called hemetin which dissolves any forming clots. Leeches which live on the body fluids of worms and small freshwater snails belong to this group.

A second group of leeches, known as the worm leeches, are also jawless, (have no jaws or teeth) and swallow their prey whole. They will feast on small invertebrates.

The third group of leeches are the jawed leeches which bite their hosts with jaws armed with teeth. Once the leech is attached, it prevents its host's blood clotting by secreting a substance called hirudin. Even several hours after a leech bite, a wound can continue to bleed because of this anti-coagulant. The land leech is a jawed leech and is the type of leech most commonly encountered by bushwalkers.

When a leech attaches to us, it is our blood it is after. It is said to be sanguivorous i.e. a blood sucking parasite. But not all leeches like human blood. Some prefer fish, frogs, turtles or birds. However, if a preferred host is unavailable, a leech may not be fussy about its host and will even feed off another bloodsucking leech!

Have you ever wondered how a leech finds a host? Perhaps if you have been a victim, you may feel you were just unlucky. You are probably correct. Most land leeches attach themselves to a host by accident. Aquatic leeches, however, are known to respond to the disturbances caused by an approaching host and will display 'pursuit' behaviour by commencing 'inchworm crawling'.

The only thing most people want to know is: how can I prevent a leech attaching itself to me? Is there some sure way of repelling a leech? There are lots of leech-protection ideas which may or may not help. Some of these include using a lather of bath soap smeared on exposed parts and left to dry. Applications of eucalyptus oil, tropical strength insect repellent and lemon juice have also been tried. Perhaps you could just cover your legs with an impenetrable barrier of sock or pantyhose. It could be much simpler just to carry a small container of salt, and if you find a leech hungrily sucking away, sprinkle a few grains upon it to dislodge it. Next time you see a leech, don't be squeamish: take a good look before disposing of it.

But Bernie distracted them. "I've got a leech on my leg," he said. Peter and John had heard of leeches, but never seen one. They looked with horror on the ugly smudge of black, especially when it revealed the life in it by moving. It moved by flexing itself, sucking on first at one end while moving the other, then suckling on at that end.

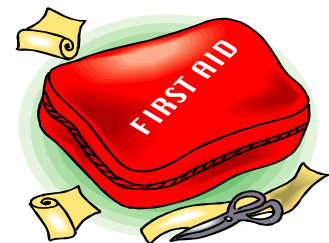
Greg rummaged in the side-pocket of his knapsack and produced the tiny plastic bag of salt. Bernie tried to pull the leech off, but it clung on. Greg sprinkled on a few grains of salt which sent the leech into convulsions, and it was easily flicked off. Peter and John were quite relieved to find how easy it was.

From *Bush Boys*, Chapter 10: Down Koala Creek

OTHER ITEMS FOR FIRST AID KITS

Methylated spirits, carried in a small phial, is quick acting for scorpion bites, and for relieving the itch from leeches which have sucked full and let go when gorged.

From *Bush Boys on the Move*, page 478



Leeches, like maggots, are used in modern medicine. They are part of the medical field known as biotherapy. Read about the history of leeches in medicine in articles online.

YOUR LIMB OR A LEECH

For over 2000 years, leeches have been used in medicine. They were first employed by the Egyptians but the peak of their use was reached in Europe between the years of 1830 and 1850. It was thought that through bloodletting, leeches could drain 'impure blood' from the body and so cure illness. Leeches were tried as a remedy for all kinds of ailments from headaches to gout. Nowadays, it might be thought that using leeches in medicine is a rather old-fashioned idea. Surely these days, medicine has advanced so far and produced so many drugs and new medical techniques, that the humble leech would no longer be considered by the medical profession? Surprisingly, surgeons have found the leech to be extremely useful in the areas of plastic and reconstructive surgery.

There have been many successful operations in which body parts such as fingers, hands, toes, legs, ears and noses have been reattached to the body. During these procedures, the surgeon has to reconnect the blood vessels allowing blood to flow from the body to the reattached body part. Arteries are relatively easy to reconnect as they are thick walled and easy to suture. However, the thin-walled veins are a different story. It can be very difficult for the surgeon to get the blood flowing in the reattached veins and there is a danger of the finger or toe or other part becoming stagnant: the reattached part can turn blue and lifeless and is at risk of being lost. When this happens, leeches come to the rescue.

A leech will help re-establish a flow of blood through the veins. Its natural secretion of an anti-coagulant will dissolve any forming blood clots and will also dilate the blood vessels to increase blood flow. Treating damaged tissue with leeches for 3-5 days allows time for blood drainage through the veins to open up and improve.

There are just a couple of drawbacks to using leeches. Some patients are very squeamish about having little slimy parasites attached to their wounds. Sometimes a leech will detach itself from the wound and reattach on a perfectly healthy part of the body.

If you were in need of reconstructive surgery, would you overlook the leech's poor bloodsucking parasite image and allow its use on your wound? It could be a question of your limb or the leech!



PARABLES

While Jesus was on earth, He wanted to teach people many things about God. He knew the people would find spiritual things very difficult to understand so He used parables to explain His teachings.

Parables are interesting and entertaining stories which have a spiritual message. Jesus' parables always contained experiences his listeners could identify with, those that were common to the ordinary person. Most people worked on the land so many parables were about farmers such as the parable about the labourers in the vineyard. Other parables had home-life as their setting like the one about the friend who called after everyone had gone to bed.

The word 'parable' comes from a Greek word meaning 'comparison'. Jesus explained something about God by comparing it to an experience a listener was familiar with.

You probably know the parable of the Good Samaritan very well. In this story, a Samaritan stops and helps a wounded Jew who has been injured by robbers. In those days, the Jews often showed dislike towards Samaritans. The wounded man was probably very surprised when the Good Samaritan stopped to help him. Would you forgive someone who wasn't very kind to you and help them? It could not have been easy for the Good Samaritan. Not even the wounded man's fellow Jews stopped to help. They passed by, ignoring him. This parable teaches us how we should treat each other as neighbours, how we should show mercy and unselfishness even to those we find difficult to forgive.

In *Bush Boys*, Greg practises the lesson of the Good Samaritan. He stops to give aid to the yahoo who has been bitten by the snake. Even though Jason had persecuted the Bush Boys, Greg does not hesitate to offer his help to the snake-bite victim.

But Mr Cumberland had more to say. "Mary," he said, "suppose the original Good Samaritan had arrived while the robbers were bashing up the man on the road to Jericho. I'm sure he would have jabbed his staff in their faces, too. *Love your neighbour* starts at home—with your brothers and sisters and cousins, even if it means giving hostile strangers a jab or two!"

From *Bush Boys*, Chapter 34: Farewell to Yahoos

Read the story of the Good Samaritan in your Bible: Luke 10: 30-37
Make your own weapons to use "in self-defence and in the defence of the innocent".
See *Cuthbert Joins the Bush Boys*, Chapter 17: Slippery Jack, Slimy Sid and Mad Mel