

Donations may be made by cheque payable to the **'Rural Support Service, Rural Chaplain's Fund'** and sent to: **BOM Rural  
PO Box 70, Orange, NSW 2800**

*Please note that donations to the Rural Support Service's Rural Chaplain's Fund are more flexible if they are not tax-deductible. Tax deductible gifts can be accepted because the RSS is under Uniting Care, but such donations by their government regulation are more restricted in their purpose use.*

Please give this need prayerful consideration. For more information please contact (02) 6361 4224

**Donation to the Rural support Service Rural Chaplain's Fund**

To the Rural Support Service, Rural Chaplain's Fund

Please find enclosed my/our donation of \$.....  
to the rural Chaplain's Fund.

Name:.....

Address:.....

Tel. .... Email. ....

signed..... Date.....

*I would like to receive an annual report on how the funds are being used. Yes / no*

**These donations are strategic because they will be used to provide:**

- **Immediate acts of grace**
- **Building community resilience**
- **Equity in the life that matters**

**How your funds can be used based on our experience so far:**

*People have borrowed to their limit then they have the following bills surface:*

- *\$50 to buy school shoes or a school excursion*
- *\$100 food or fuel vouchers*
- *\$150 phone bills*
- *\$300 electricity*
- *\$600 medical bills*

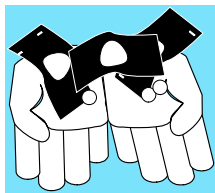
**Building community resilience and people's experience of community support.**

*\$500 Community gatherings  
\$1,500 sponsor regional and local events in conjunction with others (Women in Ag gatherings, Hay)  
\$2,000 District or regional gathering 'Elixir of Resilience' West Wylong*

# Rural Support Service Chaplain's Fund



Assisting Rural Families and Communities



## Rural Support Service Chaplain's Fund

The Rural Support Service [RSS] has been in operation since 1995. The Service has received considerable funding through direct donations, grants from NSW Synod and funds from the National Assembly of the Uniting Church which have been used to support rural assistance projects and direct welfare initiatives.

Over the last four years the RSS has made this income available for use by the Rural Chaplain. Much of this has been used for direct welfare and to finance project development related to the current drought. Following the demonstrable success of the rural chaplaincy, the NSW Synod is exploring the appointment of additional rural chaplains. Therefore the RSS sees the need for more donations to fund this work.

The RSS has used funds from the Uniting Church Drought Appeal and will use the Emergency Relief Fund. When appropriate, funds will be used for specific welfare projects such as paying for electricity and telephone accounts of drought-affected

farmers or rural community people. But this Synod based funding cannot be used for the rural chaplain's wider work.

The RSS will always need funds that are not tied to specific issues and projects. The impact of the drought is not over and will continue to affect rural life at least the next three to five years, if not longer. In addition, long-term rural re-adjustment in response to globalisation of trade and climate change is altering the rural landscape and severely stressing rural society. However, the public understanding of drought and rural adjustment is limited. Public expectations of the need for drought funds will change and diminish as the crisis impact of the drought gradually disappears from public awareness.

Many of the drought affected communities are not covered by traditional congregational ministry, so it is not straight forward to distribute aid. In addition, the kind of help now needed is more associated with dealing with peoples' personal well-being and their mental, social and spiritual needs. The Rural Chaplain's role in assisting rural communities meet these needs is still developing and new areas of ministry are becoming possible. These include community ministry, ecumenical ministry, government agency and government worker cooperation activity, and advocacy roles

We are all aware that the whole of rural Australia is undergoing agricultural and community readjustment. Social resources, agricultural practices, specialist professional availability as well as businesses and community infrastructure development are all changing. In this changing environment the

Chaplain can be the church, Christ's representative in the community.

The RSS will continue to access the Uniting Church Drought Appeal funds and Emergency Relief Fund where appropriate to do so. We still need people to continue to support those appeals.

However, the RSS wants your congregation (or individual members) to consider donating directly to a Rural Chaplain's Fund. This will sustain the work of rural mission beyond the immediacy of drought relief. The RSS will provide an annual report on how these donations have been used.



*Bringing hope to rural communities*