

# SCAC Newsletter

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DECEMBER

2015

*Dear Southern Cross colleagues,*

**I** said to the man who stood at the Gate of the Year, 'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.' And he replied, 'Go out into the darkness, and put your hand in the hand of God. That shall be better than light, and safer than a known way.'

On Christmas Day in 1939, King George IV read this poem given to him by his 13-year old daughter, Princess Elizabeth, just at the beginning of World War II. For a King not known for compelling speeches, this one would be a landmark. It united King and Country in a common cause and inspired the people to hold fast.

Britain was to face five more years of war and brutal bombing by the Nazis before the day of liberation would arrive. The end of 1939 was an ominous time and it was great leadership that would hold Britain steady against the threat of formidable aggressors.

**It's amazing how history repeats itself.** Seventy-six years later, the world and indeed the Body of Christ, face ominous forces that seek to intimidate God's people and render us ineffective in the war against darkness.

In these times, we must wholeheartedly embrace the sovereignty and majesty of God. Our God is the Lord of history. As the poem says, we must learn 'to put our hands in the hand of God'. How can we do this? The answer is revelation and obedience; by positioning ourselves to hear God, we then courageously act on what He says.

Every generation faces unique challenges that shape us in the image of Christ. In WWII, it was the Axis Powers. In our day, it's

Islamic terrorists, hedonism, and political correctness. As always, good will inevitably triumph over evil, but only when godly and courageous leaders stand faithful to God's Word.

**The parable of the wheat and weeds (Matthew 13:18-23, 24-30) gives us perspective.** The parable's lesson is simple: good and evil grow side by side until the hour of Christ's return. Good will get better and evil will get worse!

The media provides us with up to the minute, graphic depictions of increasing evil. Nothing makes news like bad news! Little, however, is said about the increase of good. In Australia, there are hopeful signs that we must not overlook. ▷

***Every generation faces unique challenges that shape us in the image of Christ.***

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SOUTHERN CROSS  
ASSOCIATION OF CHURCHES



cont. ▷

**Prayer for our nation and Government are at a fever pitch.** Courageous Christians are standing against the enemy's schemes to sabotage the godly foundations of our nation. Church and marketplace leaders are catching the vision of covenantal relationships linked with advancing God's Kingdom. (We can't have one without the other.) Each of us could give testimonies of God's

goodness over the past year.

This Christmas we thank our Heavenly Father for His Beloved Son, sent to earth to give His life, and so we could be sons and daughters of God. All of us are still in a process of becoming more effective disciples of Jesus.

**Entering the New Year of 2016, we stand as brothers and sisters, committed to helping each other 'put our hands in the hand of God'.** He alone is better than light and safer than a known way'.

We are so thankful to be on the journey of life and ministry with you, our SCAC friends and family.

Thank you for your prayers and ceaseless efforts in your sphere of ministry. We wish you and your family a blessed and restful Christmas and look forward to exciting new horizons and victories in the New Year.

With love,

*John & Elaine McElroy*

## SCAC Queensland

**O**n Friday 13 November a contingent of SCAC members from south east Queensland met together for a day of sharing and prayer at Agape Church in Tingalpa, Brisbane.

Highlights of the day included a special time of worship and the opportunity to share testimony of what the Lord has been doing with us in 2015. There were great examples of healings and breakthrough.

For some it has been a tough year and yet through it all the Lord has been a source of strength and has been building His people.

We welcomed Ps Kerry Brownsey and his wife Penny as honorary Queenslanders for the day and Kerry outlined how they are able to assist pastors and congregations in developing ministry in the Holy Spirit.

We particularly appreciated Kerry's pastoral heart and prophetic ministry.

Len opened up the topic of five-fold ministry and the issue of



Please ensure we receive your forms by Friday 16 February 2016.

We in Queensland look forward to meeting with the wider body of Southern Cross in March next year at the Greenmount Resort in Coolangatta.

discipleship as applied to the four Kingdom priorities, which are fundamental to Southern Cross.

Of particular value was the opportunity to strengthen relationships and support one another in small groups through prayer and prophetic ministry.

Our thanks go to Ps Phil Spence and the Agape team for their hospitality in hosting the day. Of special note were the fabulous cheesecakes.

God bless,

*Len Rosso*

# SCAC Indonesia

## Making a practical difference

**J**ust as the early church leaders reminded Paul to ‘remember the poor’ (Gal 2:10), when we

moved to Indonesia in 2014 we wanted to minister in a community where we could make a significant difference.

**How can we help? Where can we make the biggest difference?**

These were the questions we asked Dr Jeff Hammond, a mentor of ours, as we considered the

best place to invest our lives.

We did not just want to talk about making a difference, we wanted to do something tangible. We now live among the Lata-Lata people, who were originally from North Maluku and have relocated to Kapet Kanaan, North Sulawesi.

On a recent trip to Perth a pastor offered to help in our village. When I suggested our need of medi-

cal professionals, trauma counsellors and agricultural experts I sensed cognitive dissonance. His offer of Christian living seminars, while useful, is not the

priority needs of our people. As they made a quality decision to return to Christianity after being forcefully Islamised in 2000, their needs are primarily practical.

Rightfully so, the Lata-Lata people have received extensive help from the Body of Christ (Gal 6:10, 2). Now we sense it’s time for Galatians 6:5: ‘every man shall bear his own burden’ (NKJV); ‘everyone must do his own work’ (NLV). **To this end we are working on several projects:**

### *Current projects . . .*

- **Teaching English** – with a growing tourist industry in North Sulawesi, Jan’s work teaching English at our village school opens up future employment opportunities
- **Vitamin programs** – with the support of a Jakarta donator and guidance of a Manado doctor we daily give each child a spoonful of multivitamin syrup
- **Vegetables** – to increase the amount of vegetables in villagers’ diet, I have 40 pots of vegetables (including tomatoes, pumpkin and spinach) growing using seeds I brought from Perth. As the soil is poor, I travelled to a nearby town to buy manure and compost to mix with the local soil.
- **Concreting a road** – with the support of a donator from Bali we have concreted one

For 2016 we are looking to bring a goat herd into the village (they rarely eat red meat, apart from dog and pig), provide start-up loans for a number of small businesses

Motivated by three verses in Galatians chapter six (verses 10, 2, 5), we are seeking to make a difference in the village of Kapet Kanaan in North Sulawesi.



a. Philip and Janice: beach clean up day at entrance to Kapet Kanaan village

b. Janice teaching English

c. Vitamin program in Kapet Kanaan primary school

d. Philip with pilot vegetable program

e. Repaired road in Kapet Kanaan village

and start several hydroponics setups in village homes.

We have no idea how long we will stay at KK. It’s not easy functioning with only generator power for a few hours a day, an unreliable water supply and the nearest shops an hour away. However, while we can, in co-operation with keen locals and our supporters, we are seeking to make a positive difference in the lives of a precious people who have suffered so much.

**For more info /**

Philip and Jan East are Southern Cross members who serve in the remote village of Kapet Kanaan in North Sulawesi, Indonesia. To find out more visit: [www.philipeast.com](http://www.philipeast.com)

# SCAC East Africa

## Visit to Orphaid, Kitale

**R**ecently we had the privilege to visit a new project that was started by one of our Southern Cross Members, Joan Wafula. The project is located just outside the town of Kitale in Kenya and started because one woman saw a need in the community. Many children were wandering throughout the village, scavenging for any food they might find on the floor of the local markets. The children come from homes where they are either orphans living with very poor elderly relatives or they live with a parent who is very ill. Basically, they are living in extreme poverty. None of them have ever been to school before. Prior to

the project starting the children were extremely malnourished. We were blessed to meet a number of amazing people who are giving their all to see these children flourish.

The projects Directors, Joan and Carolyne, fund the project out of their own small salaries. They have employed a teacher who is paid \$40 per month and a cook, who is paid \$20 per month. The children are able to use a small

room in the local church as a school room and the children are fed two meals a day (porridge and beans & maize).

We were able to bless the children with some treats. We bought them lolly pops, biscuits and bananas. Some the children had never had a banana before and weren't sure what to do with it. Thanks to a generous donation from a couple in Australia, we were able to



*Orphaid School*

help Joan and Carolyne buy enough food to feed the children for the rest of the school year. The children also enjoyed using coloured pencils for the first time. It was a great joy seeing them colouring in.

After spending time with the children at the school we went to visit a little boy called Moses and his grandparents. Moses is a student at the school but sadly is HIV+. He struggles to get to school as he

is too weak to walk there. Moses' mother died when he was three days old and his elderly grandparents have raised him. He is on medication to control the HIV, but without a balanced diet he cannot get strong enough to get back to school. So we went to visit his home and take a food package to him and his family so that he can get stronger and return to school. Despite everything Moses has to be unhappy about, he was actually a really happy giggly kid. His grandparents were so grateful to us for the gifts we had bought that



*Joan Wafula & Carolyne Wanyonyi*

they went outside and came back with a live chicken to give to us as a gift. We were very honoured and blessed by their generosity.

We are so grateful to be able to connect and walk with our Southern Cross members here in Kenya. So many of them have given up so much to make a difference in this country. There are many more stories just like this one.

God bless,

*Anthony & Fiona Schöpf*

## *Special Notice /*

**SOUTHERN CROSS**  
ASSOCIATION OF CHURCHES

We are now in the process of sending all receipts and invoices via email. It is vitally important that your email in always current with us, so if you change your email for any reason, please let the office know. Thank you.

# New members

**Luke Koller,**  
Blue Mountains  
Franciscan Church,  
NSW

**Mayo Catanes,**  
Baguio City,  
PHILIPPINES

**Pustikawati  
Djunaidi,** Pontianak,  
KALIMANTAN  
BARAT

**Paul West,** The  
Grainery, NSW

**Li Ju Chou,** Grace  
City Church, WA

**Bill Cochrane,**  
Community Church  
Lockington Inc, VIC

# Ordinations



**a & b. Brett Davis,** Christian Surfers Australia. The ceremony was conducted at Brett's home church in All Saints' Anglican Church, Austinmer (near Wollongong, South of Sydney) during their evening service. We are thankful to their minister Steve Dinning for allowing us to host the ordination.

**c. Geoff & Leonie Combridge, Karen Nelson,** Coastcity Church, WA

**Li Ju Chou, Lionel Kwik,** Grace City Church, WA



# SCAC Victoria

## Greetings from the beautiful Philippines

I write this report with a joyous heart from the amazing city of Butuan, at the north of Mindanao, the home of our founding Southern Cross members in the Philippines. The Lord has impressed upon me that Philippines is an Esther nation which He is especially preparing for this time. She will become an amazingly godly model in the region; will be an outpost of His glory in this place, an example to her neighbours and a key resource in bringing in the great global awakening.

There are tens of millions of Filipinos spread throughout most nations of the world and they are sweet, beautiful, hardworking, passionate and godly people. Since being here we have seen all manner of signs and wonders. The people are hungry for more of God, a closer more personal relationship, an increased awareness and practical reality in their daily walk, as well as a new level of spiritual revelation, which is clear, precise and powerful in these challenging times.

**And this is exactly what The Lord is doing. He is pouring out His Spirit in the most generous of ways.** Hearts are being healed and people set free. Minds are

experiencing increasing clarity, and there is all manner of physical, social, emotional, psychological and spiritual healing and reconciliation being experienced. Hope and Purpose for the future is also emerging and limitations of thinking are being overcome.

Churches are growing strongly and new ones being planted. The land is being blessed economically and financially and the nation's reputation and influence is increasing exponentially. What a joy it is to be a part of this journey.

Last month we also had a gathering of the Southern Cross team back home in Victoria. We were all encouraged by the success of recent missions to Africa and the growth of the work in Australia and overseas. Although many of us are still experiencing challenges of various types, the Kingdom of God powers on as we are made strong in Him in the midst of our own human frailty.

I am looking forward to seeing you and all of the Australian Southern Cross team at our national Advance on the Gold Coast in March 2016.

God bless you dear ones.

Be encouraged in the cause of our precious saviour.

Kindest regards

**David Apelt**

# SCAC New South Wales

**R**ecently SCAC NSW have formed a state “Leadership Resource Team”. In addition to Douglas Cheah as State Co-ordinator, They now have Steve Browning

as their Wedding Celebrant Resource, Wilma Thomson ministering to women within the state and Kerry and Penny Brownsey assisting with Pastoral Care and “Roving” Resources volunteering their time to serve the SCAC fellowship

in NSW.

Together their aim is to better the State SCAC fellowship, with each person ministering in their gifting to serve other leaders.

## Medical Mission Trip 2016

Thailand January 11–24, 2016

Requires expression of interest by 15 December 2015

**P**astor Perry and Aileen Lim (from Glory International Church, Sydney) will be leading a Medical Mission trip to work

among the Karen Tribal people in Pai and also the Shan Tribal people in Piang Luang in North West Thailand. Both ethnic groups are residing in the province of Chiang Mai living up in the mountainous region of Chiang Dao. They have led previous mission trips to this

area (see pictures).

Participants must purchase their own air tickets to Thailand arriving Chiang Mai on 11 January preferably in the morning

the land cost of \$1200 Australian dollars is payable on arrival (land cost will cover pick up and drop off to and from the airport, transportation for the duration of the mission, Hotel accommodation

ical practitioner regarding what vaccination is needed for Thailand especially north West Thailand. It is also compulsory for participants to purchase travel insurance as medical require-



and all food). Bring some spending money as the mission team will be staying near the night Bazzar in Chiang Mai. Participants must check with their own med-

ments can be very expensive overseas. If you would like to participate, please contact Pastor Perry ([limperry@gmail.com](mailto:limperry@gmail.com)) with your full name and age.

# ChinaHeart International

**A**s the founder and leader of ChinaHeart I love engaging with people in the marketplace and the church because that provides knowledge of what the Father is doing in China and opportunity for them to respond, not to me but to God.

In 1995 God opened a door for me to visit China for the first time. Walking through that door changed my life forever as since then He has opened door after door, increasing the opportunities to help bring change for China's orphans and children living in poverty, one by one. Perhaps this is a door opening opportunity for you.

Personally the original door led me from a direction in business towards ministry. My original life plan as I saw it was business and a little ministry on the side. Now, we still have a business with a team of 15 distributing laser and 3D products Australia wide. However, I am released from that by my wife Beth (who is also ordained through SCAC) and our general manager. I do see many opportunities for Christian business people today to step through a similar door though. Business people have opportunities to

speak into the business world, encouraging others who are and are yet to be believers, to impact people and communities in positive ways through their business skills and gifts.

ChinaHeart in many ways morphed into existence. From taking teams to a single orphanage, we now have many more opportunities to be the Father's hands and feet in a land where, officially speaking, He is not very welcome.



**The programs we're currently leading include:**

- *Rural children's sponsored educational scholarships, enabling them to gain more education, even university for some*
- *Fostering babies & toddlers and helping prepare them for their adoptive or forever families*
- *Special needs day care training centre. Help and training is also proved to their families.*
- *Activities for special needs children in two orphanages*
- *Short Term Teams, opportunities for people to come and serve the children, letting them know they are loved and special.*

We are also beginning to grow into serving children in other countries as God opens those doors too.

God used ChinaHeart to change Wendy's life...

*David & Wendy*

*Check us out online...*

**[www.chinaheart.com.au](http://www.chinaheart.com.au)**

**Please contact us** via our website or email us at [david.r@chinaheart.com.au](mailto:david.r@chinaheart.com.au). Our passion is for people to respond to the opportunities God provides. When they have the chance to hear and see those opportunities personally who knows what other "ChinaHeart's may follow; overseas or in your local area.



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- university student graduates or current university students who are English literate.

# SCAC South Australia

**E**ncounter Christian Fellowship has been blessed with some great speakers during the past few months. Many of them have been videotaped and can be found on YouTube (for example - 'Hettie Blom speaks at Encounter Christian Fellowship'). These special speakers have brought encouragement, teaching, ministry and blessings as they have faithfully ministered to the folk at ECF and beyond. It all comes with responsibility, we cannot just be hearers and not doers. (James 1:22.)

In reflection, I have no idea how many sermons that I may have

heard in my life. No doubt it would run into thousands. When I consider these sermons that I have heard in church, or online or perhaps on a CD and even the sermons I may have preached, God has been speaking to me personally through these words. Of course these sermons do not include my daily

quiet times or other devotionals that I may have shared in. There have been many times I have heard God's Word just for me.

And guess what? That is nothing to brag about. We don't get to be

self-righteous because we have heard lots of messages or sermons. In fact, we should be a bit fearful. We are accountable for all those words of scripture that we have ever heard, studied, or preached.

So while we may be blessed to have others come and share it comes with responsibility. It comes

to build us up, to prepare us for whatever God has called us to. Let's not be just hearers but also doers of the Word. 'We are blessed to be a blessing.' (Gen 12:2.)

***We are blessed  
to be a blessing.***  
– *Genesis 12:2*

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