

SCAC Newsletter

 / southerncrossassociationofchurches / southerncrossnetwork.org.au

DECEMBER

2016

2016 Christmas Greetings to our SCAC Family



Dear SCAC colleagues and friends,

As we draw close to Christmas and the end of another year, Alaine and I want you to know how grateful we are to have you as part of the Southern Cross family. You are the light of the world and the salt of the earth!

During the past year, we have endeavoured to visit as many of you as possible. Our travels have taken us around Australia, beginning with the wonderful SCAC Advance in March on the Gold Coast, and on to NSW, Tasmania, Victoria, SA and of course, WA. We have also visited and spent quality time with our SCAC friends in South America, Africa and Mauritius.

Southern Cross continues to grow both numerically and in quality because we always try to place the Lord at the centre of our lives and ministries. As we read in *Psalm 127:1*, "Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labour in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watch-

men stand guard in vain."

Alaine and I have come to know that the place of blessing is found only as we recognise our total and utter dependence on the Lord. I often meditate on the first Beatitude and how it applies to my life, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." (*Mt 5:3*)

To be 'poor in spirit' does not mean being in poverty, or materially poor. It means knowing our great need of God. Without the Lord's favour and presence in our lives, we can accomplish little of spiritual consequence.

All around, we see our world accelerating in technology, development, and in the manifestations of both good and evil. Rapid changes force us to our knees in prayer. The only way we can remain fruitful is to spend more time in the Lord's presence.



Inside

2/ Queensland

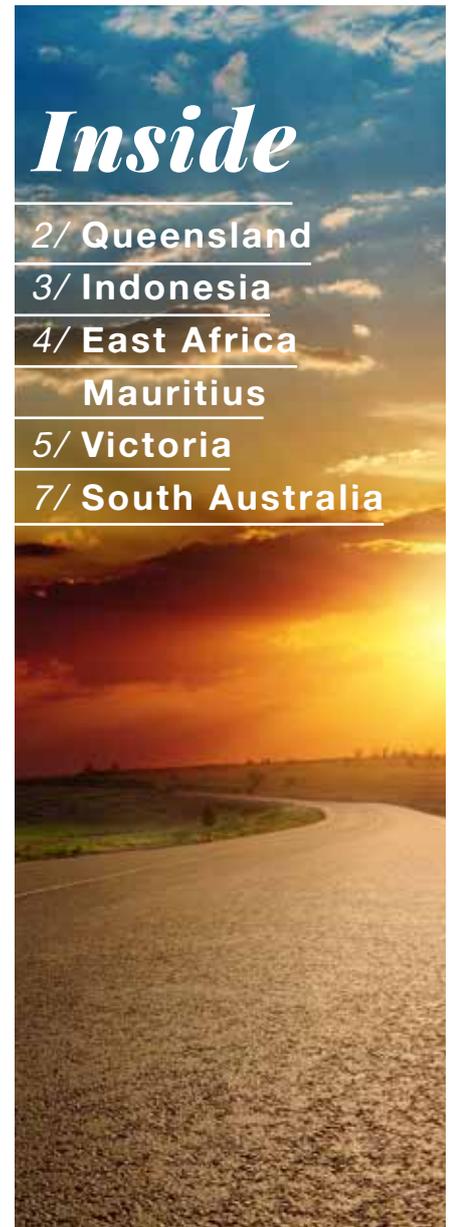
3/ Indonesia

4/ East Africa

Mauritius

5/ Victoria

7/ South Australia



SOUTHERN CROSS
ASSOCIATION OF CHURCHES



cont. ▷

If I could offer you a word of encouragement as we approach 2017, it would be to 'test God' by putting **James 4:8** into practice, "Come near to God and He will come near to you." If you take one step to pursue more of God, He will take five steps toward you. It is amazing, but true!

Every New Year presents us with



challenges, crucibles, and greater opportunities to advance God's Kingdom on earth. The only way to keep pace with our changing world is to draw ever closer to the Lord.

Alaine and I join in wishing each of you, our precious SCAC family, a most blessed Christmas and New Year filled with hope and new horizons of fruitfulness. Know that you are always in our loving prayers. Thank you again for your faithfulness to Christ.

In Christ's love,

John McElroy

SCAC Queensland

At our November gathering held on the Gold Coast, we considered the issue of church unity within a city. To open the discussion we considered some of the key issues raised by John Alley in his book *The City Gate*. John has written the book to promote discussion around the concept of city eldership ... an eldership drawn from five fold leaders who carry a heart for the city, who live and breathe Kingdom.

1) Of fundamental importance in moving the cause of Kingdom focus and apostolic reformation forward is the development of relationships of the heart within the church leaders of a city.... What if five fold ministers within the city lived out the command of Jesus to love one another as He loved us? What if the relationships moved beyond congregational boundaries to develop relationships of trust / humility / serving one another? To enable this, someone needs to take the initiative in breaking through the tendency to isolation and inde-

pendence and build relationships that encourage and empower.

John points to two issues that disempower the churches as they seek to follow the call of God for them in a city.

1) **The religious spirit** that favours an institutional mindset ... No matter what denomination, network or independent congregation we belong to, we all have a tendency to be vulnerable to choose tradition / our set ways over Holy Spirit... The Baptist way, the Pentecostal way, etc... with an accompanying self-righteousness about our approach. We need to be aware and continually guard against becoming locked into an institutional mindset that works against empowering relationship. Such a spirit needs to be resisted in prayer and in practice.

2) **The fleshly claims** that are made to claim a city / or the business people of the city / or families for Christ. While our words may seem holy and right... claiming the city for Christ... the key issue is what is actually in our hearts as we pray these prayers and make these claims. If my claim arises from

a belief that my church is better than the rest or a desire to build the biggest church in the city or a belief that I'm the one with the anointing to do it and the other churches are really poor at doing mission or the pastor down the street is second rate, then what is released into the spirit realm is a word that has come from a heart that is operating from arrogance, evil ambition and jealousy (James 3:16). The end result is an empowering of demonic resistance to the work of the churches in the city. Rather than making such claims, recognising that we are vulnerable to regard others after the flesh and not the spirit, John suggests that we pray in the inheritance that God has for us in the city. Our discussion was fruitful and encouraging.

We look forward to the Advance in Tasmania in March where we have the opportunity of meeting others from around Australia who are on a similar journey of seeking to live as a relational church.

God bless,

Len Rosow

SCAC Indonesia

Over the last two months (October and November) I have made two trips to North Sulawesi.

Here are some highlights:

Moringa Harvest



Six months after planting around 100 Moringa trees at Kapet Kanaan we harvested 2kg of powder which has been given to young families. The intention is for families to have their own plantations for fresh leaves and to make powder.

Moringa Seminar



After having a successful trial growing Moringa, I did a seminar about the incredible health benefit of the leaves and gave each attendee three to five cuttings to plant near their houses, which in six months will provide fresh leaves to add to meals.



Land Restoration Trial

The soil at KK is poor due to burning and erosion. To start land restoration we have sheet mulched an area and planted a variety of shrubs and trees. As the fertility improves we will plant vegetables.

Free-Range Chickens

With the aim of providing organic eggs and meat for KK plus manure for nearby gardens we



have built an enclosure in the Moringa plantation. We started with eight chickens – and if they do well we will increase numbers.

Teaching English

It was great to be joined for two weeks by two young men from Perth, David Visser and Jon Doust, who carried on Jan's legacy teaching English at the KK school.



Province Wide Ministry

Every weekend I have been busy ministering. The needs are great, especially for relevant ministry that equips people to walk in the fullness of God's will.

Along with starting a masters of theology and graduate certificate in permaculture, I intend to make six to eight trips to North Sulawesi in 2017 with a focus on



Kapet Kanaan. Depending on the success of current projects at KK we would like to add another fish pond (already success with catfish), increase numbers of chickens and add goats as we seek to improve villagers health.

Please keep our ministry in your prayers and if you have any questions or would like to support any of our projects please contact me.

Philip East

For further information about SCAC Indonesia, please visit www.philipeast.com or email philipweast@gmail.com

SCAC East Africa

Kaimosi / Kisumu Regional Gathering

One of the ways that we are moving forward as Southern Cross in East Africa is to start to meet regularly in regional areas of Kenya where clusters of members are located. We want to encourage members to be connecting and building relationships with each other.

Pastors Jeremiah and Irene Akhonya hosted our first regional gathering in Kaimosi on 24 September 2016. We travelled to Kaimosi along with Pastor John Odaka. We were extremely blessed by our hosts who had gone to a lot of work for the event. There were about 20 people in attendance and many of them were inter-

ested in becoming members of Southern Cross.

Pastor John Odaka shared about the values and mission of Southern Cross. We shared about the Father's heart for each person. We ended the meeting with a prayer time and a generous lunch supplied by our hosts. We were truly blessed to be there and Jeremi-



ah and Irene were truly amazing. We are looking forward to more regional gatherings throughout Kenya and East Africa in the future.

Blessings,

Anthony & Fiona Schöpf

New Members

Gil Adele
Emmanuel Ministries, ACT

Mark Bateman
Rapid Response
Ministries Inc, VIC

Jerry Boo
New Covenant Life Centre, WA

Christine Velebir
Itinerant Minister, WA

Matthew Ireland
Rangeville Community
Church, QLD

Darrell De Laine
Itinerant Pastor, TAS

Evan Shelton
Rangeville Community
Church, QLD

Gregory Lim
Perth Chinese Christian
Church, WA

David Hughes
Dwell, VIC

Joan Albany
Fount of Life Outreach
Ministries Inc, WA



SCAC Mauritius

John & Alaine visited Churchlands in Mauritius in late September and had a very good time there. The highlight was spending time with Dev Balloo, our SCAC facilitator, to iron some things out and do some planning together. We enjoyed worshipping with the family at Churchlands, Montagne Blanche on the Sunday morning and John preached.

SCAC Victoria

2016: A Year of Increased Momentum and Critical Mass

Well it's almost Christmas 2016. This year has flown by and the number of strategic, often potentially cataclysmic events, which have occurred and required attention this year, is unprecedented. There are apocalyptic like events in the natural, political, economic and supernatural, being experienced all over the world. However the body of Christ and the Kingdom of God are advancing at a phenomenal and accelerating rate in all major countries on all continents.

Grass roots members of churches and even the broader community are starting to say enough is enough and rising up in ones and twos and small groups seeking to make a difference.

Southern Cross Association of Churches (SCAC) is gaining serious traction, achieving critical mass and making a very real and powerful difference as we faithfully serve King Jesus in the nations he has given us the privilege to work in. SCAC five fold leaders are seen making a difference where ever we engage in society and are often well recognised and respected men and woman of influence in our own cities and states. When I think of our SCAC team all over the world, I am reminded of Daniel 12:3 in these end times, "those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars, for ever and ever."

We have had some amazing gatherings this year culminating re-

cently in our Christmas get together at Citywest Church in Melton with John McElroy and a team of twenty of our Victorian colleagues. Thank you, John and Alaine, for your untiring dedication and commitment to the Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ. This occasion was hosted by the Highway of Hope team who always do an exemplary job.



Victorian Advance in Melbourne



We also celebrated the ordination of our newest Colleague David Hughes. Welcome aboard Dave!

I am also excited about other achievements this year. Even though our members have all been facing various challenges, the Lord has been allowing us to get some serious runs on the board. In Victoria alone, we have members from all five role categories: apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor and teacher. Our personal spheres of influence touch on most, if not all, key domains of society. We have built strong alliances with like-minded organisations like Christian Federation, ACAL, ICCA, ACL, ARM, Family Voice, various Political parties, Sports Chaplains Austra-

lia and Churches large and small. These alliances, based on increasing covenantal relationships and a very strongly consistent Kingdom of God DNA, are really starting to achieve some significant gains in Kingdom advancement.

Some key thoughts and reports from the day were:

- We need to seek the Lord's face and Him only and be ready and willing to obey.
- Stick to God's calling on our own lives but always allow space for the calling of others and be willing to encourage and work with them on the journey.
- There has been a lift and breakthrough in the spiritual realm with increasing exposure of the sinister agendas of the left leaning marxist-leninist attempts at destroying our society and creating chaos, while also an increase in the success rates and numbers of good hearted godly people willing to risk livelihood and reputation to make a difference against this onslaught.
- Hundreds of millions of people are also enquiring about Christianity and coming to faith all across the world.
- We are all facing many challenges in our daily lives, but God is faithful and good and the promise of Romans 8:28 is very real and powerful in that "all things work together for good for them who love the Lord and are called according to his purpose."
- We need to be alert and watchful, prayerful and ready for action.



cont. ▷

- Give attention to our relationships and seek to let nothing come between our marriages, families, friends and colleagues, being prepared to fight to maintain good solid covenant relationships.
- Always seek unity and peace between the beloved.
- Don't succumb to things like depression, disappointment, heartbreak, offence etc but stay close to the Lord Jesus Christ and each other and engage fully in the battle of the Kingdom, expecting good outcomes.
- There will always be wheat and tares, light and darkness until He comes, but the Light

has the advantage and righteousness wins the day, so let's take heart and power on in Him until that day.

I also look forward with great anticipation to seeing many of you in Tasmania in March 2017.

Kindest regards and God's very best blessings,

David Apelt



Our next National SCAC Leaders Advance will be held 4-5 March 2017 at the Country Club, Launceston, TAS. We encourage you to come over the whole weekend from Friday 3 March to Monday 6 March.

Register at southerncrossnetwork.org.au (by Wed 1 Feb 2017)

Ordinations



Recent ordination services for the Southern Cross Association of Churches:



a. **Christine Velebir**, Itinerant Minister, WA.

b & c. **Evan Shelton & Matthew Ireland**, Rangeville Community Church, QLD

d. **David Hughes**, Dwell, VIC

SCAC South Australia

God's Blessings, Our Thankfulness

*Give thanks to the Lord and proclaim His greatness.
Let the whole world know what He has done.
(1 Chron. 16:8)*

God is abundantly blessing Encounter Christian Fellowship (ECF) in Victor Harbor, South Australia. As well as a very successful Men's Day Camp in October, and our special Ladies' Day in November, we are excited to share the following highlights:

Back in August, someone gave us an Op Shop



Yes, you read that right. Someone who ran a very successful Op Shop in Goolwa, a nearby town, felt their season there was over, and asked if we'd like to take it over, fully stocked. An eager

band of volunteers generously rose to the occasion, ably led by Hannah Steele, and we took over in October, opening three days a week. We pay the rent, staff the shop and collect all the proceeds to help improve our 'new,' but in much need of renovations, building. Praise the Lord.

Heart's Ablaze for Jesus

A new daytime ladies home group started in August, led by Margaret Ogilvie. They worked through John Bevere's dynamic A Heart Ablaze curriculum. Lives were transformed, a new member of the church became part of our family, and great anticipation abounds at the prospect of another study in the New Year.

Focus on Thankfulness

We so often have good intentions, but don't get around to expressing our thankfulness, in word or deed.

Hence our focus for October – thankfulness, culminating in a Celebration of Thankfulness. We took the opportunity to express our thankfulness to God for all that He is, all He has done for us, all that we are in Him, and all that we have, including those around us, particularly all those who have stepped forward to be involved in various aspects of ministry in our fellowship.

A song was written in response to this focus: *Give Thanks*. You can see it performed by the Encounter Trio at www.youtube.com/watch?v=CRJRevhfRSM

Blessings,

Robert Bailey

The Southern Cross Association of Churches

- ☎ {+61 8} 6241 2700
- ✉ enquiries@southerncrossnetwork.org.au
- 📍 PO Box 640 Balcatta WA 6941
- 🌐 southerncrossnetwork.org.au

 / [southerncrossassociationofchurches](https://www.facebook.com/southerncrossassociationofchurches)