

SCAC Newsletter

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Becoming Like The Sons of Issachar

Current news is shaking the church and the world around us like never before. Issues like SSM, 'Safe Schools', Islamic terrorism, paedophile priests, political correctness, North Korea, identity politics, and declining commitment in churches have presented God's people with a new and unfamiliar battlefield. Today, we must become like the sons of Issachar, "*who understood the times and knew what Israel should do.*" (I Chronicles 12:32). I would like to offer a few perspectives to assist us in this regard.

1. Remember God is Sovereign and the Lord of History

All things in creation work to serve the purposes of God. This is a bold statement, but absolutely true. Nothing takes God by surprise. He foreknew everything about our period of history and that each of us would be living in the 21st Century. (Acts 17:26) Our God, Yahweh, is omniscient and working to a plan.

This is why Paul could confidently say in Romans 8:28, "*And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purposes.*" Even now God is working His purposes to mature His children in the image of Christ, thus bringing His Kingdom plans to culmination.

In the Parable of the Wheat and Weeds (Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43),

Jesus taught that the sons of the kingdom and the sons of the evil one coexist until the harvest. This implies good will get better while evil gets worse. The current acceleration of evil should not surprise or dishearten us. God laughs at those who despise His Word (Read Psalm 37:1-20). We know the end of the story. Jesus returns and one day there will be a new heaven and a new earth. We need to keep a Biblical perspective so we do not panic and lose heart.

2. God Is Shaping His Church into a New Apostolic Wineskin

Exactly 500 years after the Protestant Reformation, Father is bringing His Body into reformation by returning His people to the priorities and practices of Jesus and the Apostles. That is why the current reformation is called 'Apostolic'. The Lord is, in effect, raising the bar and allowing churches to be shaken so His people will become more like Jesus. Apostolic Reformation seeks a (church) wineskin that will expand God's Kingdom in all the earth prior to Christ's Second Coming.

The goal of Apostolic Reformation is to see the emergence of the sons of God. Paul wrote in Romans 8:19, "*The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons*



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of God to be revealed.” All around us creation is convulsing, giving birth to a new wineskin that will fulfil the purposes of God. Every believer has the inborn capacity to be and to function as a son or daughter of God, but the church in its current form has not been capable of releasing more than a relative handful of believers into positions of significant Kingdom advance.

Sadly, the current wineskin has become ‘industrial’, eg institutional, religious, passive, and therefore incapable of producing the crop the Father seeks. Much of the current state of our nation; disbelief, spiritual, moral confusion, and apostasy, can be attributed to centuries of an industrial model of Christianity. To counteract this decay, God is shifting church and marketplace leaders from a pastor/teacher model to one that is apostolic and prophetic. Rather than gather, confine and teach, future leaders will be highly relational, focused on equipping and releasing all God’s people into the work of ministry.

Current events in Australia are forcing churches to re-think priorities and practices. The current institutional, consumer driven, mega-church, church growth models have produced culture conformists, not culture changers. Kingdom culture is counter to most of what passes today as desirable. The caving in of religious and society leaders to SSM and political correctness reveals

how far Australian Christianity has devolved from the priorities and teachings of Jesus and the Bible. As the axe is laid to the root, many things hidden will now be revealed.

God is using current events to distinguish between those who uphold and seek to obey His Word vs. those who follow a different gospel. We live in a season of ‘merismos’. We see this Greek word in Hebrews 4:12, “*dividing* soul and spirit.” God’s Word judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. This ‘division’ will enable believers to see which side of fence their leaders are on and act accordingly.

Resistance builds muscle. (Romans 8:18) Many Christians fail to understand that this current life is but a training ground for one day reigning with Christ. Seen in this light, the ‘giants’ we face in Australia are not meant to destroy us, but to be food for us to become more like Jesus. If God be for us, who can be against us?

3) Now Is the Time to Remain In Fellowship and Stand Together

“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”
Hebrews 10:24-25

My final encouragement is to stay close to God and to each other. Remember Jesus’ two great-

est commands, love God and love each other. Apostolic Reformation is about rediscovering the love of the Father. We need each other, to pray together, to reflect on God’s Word together, to be generous in our encouragement and sparing in our criticisms.

As the Day approaches, we must live as wise as serpents and harmless as doves. Industrial to agricultural means life as believers becomes more ‘organic’, relational and mutually supportive. God has given each of us a ‘piece of the pie’ to bring to the table, but we must learn to receive what others bring as well.

Yes, we live in perilous times, but our Father is sovereign and working to a plan. It’s amazing what you can face in life if you have perspective. God gives us grace to follow in the footsteps of the Sons of Issachar. Let us stand together, proclaiming God’s Word and Kingdom, and all the more as we see the Day approaching!



Dr John McElroy
SCAC Director

**New
Members**

David Hunt
MiraclePoint, WA

Zelda Naidoo
Aglowhouse Global Women, WA

Jacob Cho
Columba Christian Church, WA

Carolann Kelleher-Clarke
Lifeway Christian Centre, WA

John Gill
The Apostolic Christian Church

Thomas & Vicki Ruys
Open Gates Ministries, WA

David Lovell
Christian Surfers Australia, NSW

Pier & Marjike Schurer, TAS

Yuan Lin
Perth Chinese Christian Church, WA

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SCAC New South Wales

John McElroy and David Balestri met with the NSW SCAC and ACAL members at the beginning of June at Servants of Jesus Church in their Conference building. They had a great time of worship together followed by teaching on the theme: "How church ministries and market ministries should look in the season of Apostolic

Reformation".

Lunch was enjoyed by all!

We also ordained three new members from Freedom Ministries- Philip & Vicki Cosgrove and David Brennan.

John and David wrapped it up with a question and answer time.

Blessings,

Douglas Cheah



SCAC Queensland

Queensland contingent of SCAC members and friends met recently in Toowoomba for a great day of worship, sharing and prayer. Special thanks to Ps Andrew Hoey, Evan Shelton, Corinne Hartshorne and the team for their hospitality. Over the next six months the co-ordinating of the Queensland SCAC will transition from Len Rossow to Gavin Irvine releasing Len to focus more fully on his work on the Gold Coast in particular with the Beyond Gold GC team. Gavin technically is from New South Wales and is an ardent blues supporter in the State of Origin Rugby League, but he is loved deeply by his maroon brothers and sisters from SCAC, while his congregation, Kingdom Life Church meets in Queensland.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday October 18th... Venue to be confirmed.

Ministry Profile: Beyond Gold GC

Beyond Gold GC is a city wide network of leaders from local churches, groups including

YWAM and Gideons and Christian sports organisations founded initially by the northern Gold Coast's pastors network. The intention was to stimulate and provide a coordinated approach to minister into the Gold Coast community as our city hosts the 2018 Commonwealth Games (4-15 April 2018).

Planning is well under way into a number of initiatives in the city including highlighting the social justice issue of sex trafficking, a holiday club program for children (Ready, Set, Go!) available for churches across the city, street evangelism, an Easter Festival and strategic prayer in the sporting venues and people gathering areas.

In the prayer preparation, one initiative sparking attention is the Queen's Baton Prayer watch. The Baton has now passed through Africa and is in the Caribbean. Churches, Houses of Prayer and individual intercessors are committing to pray for one of the 70 nations and territories or to pray for each nation as the baton passes through. Prayer points can be found on www.oneheartgc.com.au. (under the Beyond Gold Tag)

Just prior to the Games will be an

Easter festival celebrating Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord, to set a canopy of God's presence over the Games. This will be held on Easter Sunday afternoon 1 April, just a couple of days before the opening ceremony. Our hope is that athletes, officials, volunteers, tourists and visitors to the Games and the Christian community on the Gold Coast, will join in the celebration. As part of the festival, an exhibition for Christian artists is generating a lot of interest. Cultural performing arts, family activities, and food stalls are planned.

Gold Coast City Council is behind the event with Mayor Tom Tate recently offering organizers the use of the new Amphitheatre at the Gold Coast Arts Centre in Surfers Paradise.

As part of the preparation for the games with an eye on long term legacy, is the establishment of a 24/7 prayer canopy over the city with participating churches being encouraged to pray firstly for their own mission context, but then to take up with the other churches key strategic prayer points for the city.

For more information contact Len Rossow: len@citylinkgc.com.au and www.beyondgoldgc.com.au

Blessings,
Len Rossow

Ordinations

a. Mark Bateman, Rapid Response Ministries, VIC & Neva Atkinson, St James Community Church Lockington, VIC

b. David Brennan, Philip & Vicki Cosgrove, Freedom Ministries, NSW

c. Carolann Kelleher-Clarke, Ruth Alexander & Caitlyn Johnson, Lifeway Christian Centre, WA

d. Commissioning - Zelda Naidoo, Aglowhouse Global Women, WA

e. Thomas & Vicki Ruys, Open Gates Ministries, WA



SCAC South Australia

Dedication Down South

It has been a season of dedication here at Encounter Christian Fellowship (ECF) in Victor Harbor, South Australia.



Dedication refers to the setting aside of something for a particular purpose. Back in April, the parents and grandparents of our youngest member joined together with our church family to dedicate Benjamin to the Lord. He is now set apart to be raised in the knowledge and understanding of God and His Word. Powerful, prophetic prayers were spoken over Benjamin's life, and the life of his family, as we committed his future to our loving Heavenly Father.

Dedication also denotes the process of devoting something to God. A newcomer to our Fellowship did just that in May when he dedicated his life to Christ. He received Christ as his personal Saviour along with all that comes with such a life-transforming decision: grace, forgiveness, a new heart, a new family, and new purpose. We celebrate with all of Heaven that another soul has been saved.

Dedication implies a willingness to give much time and energy to something because it is important. Many people are dedicated to the work of the Lord in and through ECF because they know how important it is. They express their dedication in many ways – praying for the Fellowship and

the community, serving in the kitchen, looking after the building and grounds, setting up the hall before our meetings and packing up afterwards, serving in the Op Shop, providing anointed and inspirational praise and worship, and seeking God for His specific word for the church and preaching it. We may be few in number, especially through the colder months, but our dedication doesn't waver, because the God we serve is always the same.



Finally, dedication suggests self-sacrificing devotion and loyalty. This is the kind of dedication God has toward us, His chosen people. Our celebration of Pentecost reminded us that part of God's dedication to us comes in the form of the Holy Spirit, who is with us always. He is loyal to us. God's dedication sets us apart for a particular purpose, and provides all we need to perform it. The Holy Spirit is devoted to empowering us, guiding us, and comforting us. God is willing to put infinite time and energy into us because we are important to Him.

Being loved by a dedicated God "who is able, through His mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think" (Eph 3:20, NLT) is amazing. Living a life of dedication to God is amazing too, because we get to be a part of His 'immeasurably more.'

Part of that for ECF is hosting the



next SCAC Advance here in Victor Harbor in March 2018. Our team is dedicated to making it a great Advance. Even better, we know that God is dedicated to enabling us to make it abundantly more than all we might imagine, through His power at work within us.

Robert Bailey

Save the date

ANNUAL SCAC

**LEADERS
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9-12 MARCH 2018

VICTOR HARBOR
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

SCAC Victoria

While being disgusted by some of the social, moral and spiritual degradations we have seen in our state in these last few years and months, I am greatly encouraged by what I observe the Lord and His followers beginning to be and to do.

There are significant numbers of thoughtful, often prayerful, passionate people beginning to connect more closely with the Lord Jesus, and enquire more seriously regarding the things we need to be doing in these perilous times.

While the problems seem intractable, the wisdom, power and resources of Father God are infinite and inexhaustible.

On the one hand, I am seeing brethren who would prefer to bury their heads in the sand and give over to despair and resignation. But on the other, am also seeing the Lord raise up anointed cohorts of faithful lovers of God, who have great courage and patience and are making a valiant

effort to understand that which is causing the confusion, distraction and chaos in our world. They are taking the time to listen to people where they are at, and then leading them step by step on to a greater and deeper understanding of the issues of the day. They are also leading people to Christ Jesus in increasing numbers and identifying and explaining practical and viable solutions that can be employed to stem the flow of

***While the problems seem intractable,
the wisdom, power and resources of
Father God are infinite and inexhaustible.***

darkness, by striking at heart and root causes of the challenges of our day. This really gladdens my heart.

The Lord is also exposing darkness in high places, both inside and outside the church. And yes, this is embarrassing and discouraging, but is not meant to destroy His church but rather cause us to re-evaluate, refocus, purify and simplify who we are and what we are doing. We are beginning to revisit the Word of God, the gospel

we have been preaching, the lives we have been living, and reconnecting with the heart of God in the power and wisdom of the Holy Spirit. This is and will continue to purify and beautify the bride of Christ, if we have the right attitude and posture toward the Lord Jesus and those around us... And this purity and glory in His people will overcome the darkness, weaken its resolve and hold on humanity and will ultimately lead billions more out into the light of Christ.

And finally, the Lord is giving us strong faith and early indications and results to believe that He is going to lead us to have great influence in the marketplace so we will be much more akin to the prophetic utterances He has given us as a nation. Let's keep powering on in Christ.

By the way, the Tasmanian Advance was a resounding success, a delight to be a part of and we are looking forward to Victor Harbor 2018. We are also pleased to celebrate that our Victoria Southern Cross team is now stronger in numbers, breadth and depth of coverage than we have experienced in recent times.

Jesus' very best blessings and success to you and yours.

David Apelt

The Southern Cross Association of Churches

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