

SCAC Newsletter

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AUGUST

2018

A Word from our Director:

Four Indicators of Spiritual Maturity

The Lord is raising the bar among us to make disciples who advance God's Kingdom. The Apostle Paul, in Ephesians 4:1-3, urges his readers to "live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."

This challenge leads us to two questions: 1) Are we living lives worthy of the 'calling we have received'? 2) What indicators reveal progress toward spiritual maturity?

What follows are four of ten of what I consider indications of growing spiritual maturity.

1. Having a deep passion to know God and follow His Word in our lives.

A mature disciple seeks to be intimate with God and to do what He says in His Word. The mature disciple pursues intimacy with our Heavenly Father. We are desperate to know Him, His nature and His ways. Do we pursue God as David did in Psalm 42:1-2, as a 'deer pants for water'?

Intimacy is the key to obedience. Jesus said, "If you love me you will obey my commandments." Is our love for Jesus sufficient that we would want to obey Him? Are we

putting the commandments of Jesus into practice, or are we selective in our obedience? Spiritual maturity is when loving God and being obedient becomes a lifestyle that we pursue with all our hearts.

2. Brokenness and Humility.

"Never trust a leader who doesn't walk with a limp." Jacob wrestled with God and from that point in life walked with a limp. Jacob had been clever in his younger days. On the road to maturity God must break us of cleverness, pride, ambition, and self-centeredness. Do we evidence the brokenness of God? Remember, "What God takes, He breaks; what He breaks, He moulds; and what He moulds, He uses."

In Psalm 51:17 we are reminded, "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise." To whom much is given, much is required. The higher the calling, the more God needs to refine us so we will reflect & can reflect His nature, which is humble and gentle.

3. Perseverance and Hope.

In Romans 5 we are reminded of God's pattern for spiritual maturity. "We rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perse-



Inside

2/ South Australia

3/ Victoria

4/ East Africa

New South Wales

5/ Indonesia

7/ Queensland



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verance, character; and character, hope.”

Thirty-one years ago, God gave me a prophetic word, based on based on Jeremiah 42, that I will never forget, “If you leave the scene of your trials, what you have feared most will follow you and consume you. But if you stand in obedience to My Word; in due time I will lift you up and place you in the land where you belong. Stand and see my deliverance.”

It’s amazing the trials you can withstand if you believe there’s going to be a positive outcome. Spiritual maturity is seeing our trials from the perspective of Romans 8:28, “in all things God works for the good of those who

love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.” The mature live in hope, confident that perseverance will always bring a redemptive outcome.

4. Evidence of the Fruit of the Spirit in our Lives

The spiritually mature evidence the fruit of the Spirit, while the acts of the sinful nature will decrease. God is a fruit inspector. He looks for the fruit of the Spirit’s work in our hearts. This is most evident in the words we speak. Jesus said, “Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks.” Do our words reflect love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control?” In every situation we can ask, “What spirit am I partnering

with? The Holy Spirit or the sinful nature?”

As you consider these four indicators of spiritual maturity, remember 2 Peter 1:8, “For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.” The Lord is raising the bar among Christians in the church and marketplace. In the next newsletter I will reflect on more indicators of spiritual maturity. Growing in the character Christ is crucial to having longevity and fruitfulness in our God-given assignments.

With love,

John McElroy
SCAC Director

SCAC South Australia

Last month, Encounter Christian Fellowship (ECF) in Victor Harbor was privileged to receive a visit from Mike

Rayson. Mike was born and raised at Wudinna on Eyre Peninsula and went on to become an international music star, performing in over a dozen countries, touching countless lives and winning numerous awards around the world.

Mike’s combined gifted storytelling and music in a unique and powerful performance. He told stories of God’s healing power, finishing with a new song. He blended another

story with a familiar song God had used to bring fresh freedom, release, and wholeness. With open honesty he shared the story of God’s strength being available to him when



his eleven-year-old son died in a farming accident.

All of us have a story to tell, and there is nothing more powerful. More and more the world is arguing theology and doctrine, playing at political correctness and even questioning gender. Truth has become relative and nothing is considered ab-

solute. But no-one can argue with your story. What you have experienced

is uniquely yours, always valid and beyond reproach. When you share the story of what God is doing in your life, God can use it to touch lives with His truth.

We’ve been reading Peter’s story at ECF over the last several weeks. Boy, did he have some wild experiences with Jesus! And some amazing stories to share. Jesus turned this flunking fisherman into a fisher of men who walked on water and helped reach the known world with the gospel – by telling his story boldly, backing it with prayer and watching God confirm it with signs and wonders.

What’s your story? How has God’s grace intercepted your life? Have you experienced healing, provision, comfort, guidance? Have you shared the story with anyone this week?

Margot Gilvie

SCAC Victoria

Greetings dear colleagues, friends and fellow servants of our Lord and saviour, Jesus Christ.

Many of you will have already seen that the Southern Cross National Advance will be held at Rye in Victoria, from 1- 4 March 2019, has been publicly announced by our legendary Perth team, and is published on Facebook and the national website.

This will be another momentous occasion of the gathering of our national SCAC team. The event and associated onsite accommodation at Rye Hotel is now open

for bookings and we look forward to seeing many of you here with us. We will be celebrating the successes of this current year and dealing with any needs, challenges and opportunities of the day, while also looking forward to critical strategic future directions and imperatives of the kingdom of God. There is also the possibility of some of our esteemed international colleagues joining us for the Advance as well.

2018 is once again proving to be a challenging year across the globe, full of strategic change, operational risks and kingdom opportunities, all of which require open channels to heaven, clear

and decisive five-fold leadership, and courage and wisdom to stay in tune with the heart of God in these most vexing times.

We are pleased to again report our Victorian team is active and passionately engaged in prayer and other activities covering all domains of our society... and there will be a significant mission going out from here to East and West Africa during September - October 2018, which will be ministering to hundreds of pastors and a dozen or more local churches across four nations.

Finally, I wish to affirm again that we are looking forward to seeing you in Rye in March 2019, if not before by the grace of God.

God bless and kindest regards,

Dave and Kathy Apelt

*Victorian SCAC Coordinator
& Team*

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LEADERS * ADVANCE

1-4 MARCH 2019

MORNINGTON PENINSULA, VICTORIA

The Southern Cross Association of Churches

SCAC East Africa

In July 2018 we felt the Lord's leading to relocate our family back to Perth, Australia after living in Kenya for four years. Over the last year we have been working closely with a local team of Kenyans to continue the growth of Southern Cross throughout East Africa. The team of three couples is each working in different regions to encourage and provide leadership to members in their respective areas. We are excited to continue to work with these amazing pastors from a distance.

Our leadership team consists of:

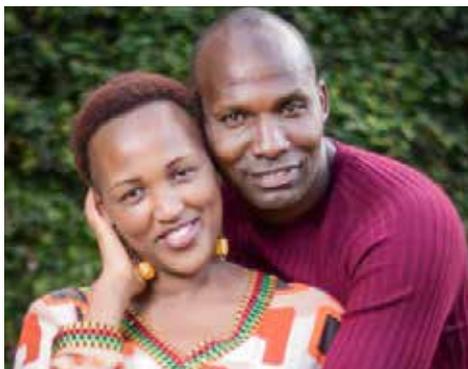
John and Janet Wandera,



James and Leonida Tembula and



Sach and Pauline Matiko.



They will be working closely with us in the coming months to host our regular Southern Cross East Africa conference in September. We are blessed to have such a dedicated team.

We will continue to partner with Southern Cross both in East Africa and Australia and are looking forward to connecting more with SCAC members in WA. We are very grateful for the way that so many Southern Cross members have supported us through our season of living in Kenya. As the Kenyans say, "Asante sana".

Anthony & Fiona Schöpf

New South Wales



Some of our NSW members gathered together in June to network and fellowship.

SCAC Shirts for Sale



We currently have some stock of black polo SCAC shirts available for purchase at \$40 per shirt (plus postage).

Sizes include:

- 2 x Medium
- 2 x Large
- 2x Xlarge
- 1 x XXlarge

If you wish to purchase one, please email enquiries@southerncrossnetwork.org.au

Online Resources

If you have any resources you think are helpful for our members, please email the details to the SCAC office & we will advise our members through the Resources page on the SCAC website.

SCAC Indonesia

Initially motivated by Galatians 6:10: 'do good... especially to those who are of the household of faith'; and more recently 3 John 2 'I pray that all may go well with you,' I have spent much of the last four years serving in the impoverished village of Kapet Kanaan in Indonesia's North Sulawesi. Kapet Kanaan was opened a decade ago to resettle the Lata-Lata tribe who fled Jihadist captivity on their home island in North Maluku in 2001.



5 completed swales

Recently, when doing a sustainable farming seminar, I shared John's prayer and asked them to rate their village. They rated their spiritual health highly, which I agreed with. This is not surprising as they have a thriving Abba Love church (Dr Jeff Hammond from Abba Love, Jakarta, sponsored their rescue and the village construction); also, they have active children's and youth programs. Emotional health wasn't that high, even though it's improving. They rated physical health as low, which is evidenced by the stunted development of many of the children, regular sickness among the villagers and often premature mortality.

As North Sulawesi is a majority Christian province, the surrounding community often visit to give gifts (usually rice, sugar and flour; even though I encourage eggs, vegetables and milk)

to the villagers, which is both a blessing and a curse. While this makes the gift giver feel good and sometimes helps the locals in the short term, it's not sustainable. As Paul writes to the Galatians, we need to 'bare one another's burden' (6.2) and then 'each will have to bare his own load' (6.5). My aim is to help the villagers carry their 'own load' rather than be dependent on outsiders.



Apner digging

A major project I'm engaged in is transforming a ¼ hectare of unused land (previously, chest-high unpalatable elephant grass) into a productive community food forest, layered with root vegetables, perennial crops, shrubs and trees (both fruit and timber). We regularly cut the wild grass on the site to increase mulch levels; have built five swales to capture and increase the water in the soil; dug over 100 holes and then planted cuttings, timber and fruit trees seedlings. As the fruit trees will take several years before they will provide a yield, we have planted sweet potatoes, Ceylon spinach, corn and pumpkins in the swales as we need a short-term yield to maintain interest in the project.



KK Boys planting



Teachers planting pioneer



100 Seedlings planted



Collecting grass cover swales

All going well, the food forest will produce a harvest and can be extended to other areas of unused or underproductive village land and help the Kapet Kanaan villages experience John's prayer for holistic prosperity.

Philip East has been a member of SCAC since 2007 and when in Perth fellowships at Churchlands Christian Fellowship with his wife, Janice, and can be contacted via email: philipweast@gmail.com

**REGISTER
NOW**

the New Wineskin



DR JOSEPH MATTERA



HUBIE SYNN

ADELAIDE

29/08-30/08

tinyurl.com/newwineskin-SA

BRISBANE & GOLD COAST

31/08-02/09

tinyurl.com/newwineskin-QLD

The tide of the Spirit is a rising tide. God is shaping a new wine skin to advance His kingdom throughout the earth. What does this new wineskin look like? What are the essential dynamics of this move of God? How can we participate in the new and exciting things the Lord is doing throughout the earth?

ACAL (Australian Coalition of Apostolic Leaders) is delighted to host Jo Mattera and Hubie Synn, two highly respected apostolic and prophetic leaders from the US, to equip and empower Christian leaders across Australia.

SCAC Membership Directory

If you have recently changed any of your contact details, please notify the office so we can update our records and the online SCAC Members Directory.

If you wish access to the directory, please email the office for the password.

SCAC Queensland

Welcome to the Queensland report. While I'm writing this article, the temperature is dropping, and the Bureau of Meteorology says it feels like 5 degrees. I can agree with that!

Recently, the Queensland network hosted David Balestri. We as a group said we were up for a challenge and David provided us with exactly that. The main point of the day was unpacking what a functional five-fold ministry looks like. While there were many gold nuggets of information, I think these three key points are essential for the church today. Firstly, the church needs to move to a "Discipleship Culture". Worldwide there are many Christians, however, how many of these Christians are active in living their callings? How

many are being equipped and positioned, allowing them to reach their potential? How many leaders are positioning themselves for the next phase? A disciple culture is an Apostolic culture where the saints can thrive, and the church comes alive.

The second key point was recognising the need to shift from a Charismatic era to an Apostolic era. The meaning of this is shifting from a gifts of the spirit model to a gifts of Jesus model, where the five-fold is the full expression of Christ on earth. The questions posed to each of us: Are we representing, manifesting and integrating the five-fold in our own lives and the life of the church?

The third key point was what does five-fold ministry in the marketplace look like? This was the nuts and bolts section of the day where David gave us some practical ex-

amples of fivefold in operation in the marketplace and the difference Jesus makes to people's lives as a result. The difference being a breakthrough in a board meeting because of a word of knowledge, a dream that leads to a kingdom business, or trusting in God in the little things and then allowing God to expand the vision so a little cleaning business becomes a national cleaning business, giving hope to ladies needing to change their lives. Very inspiring!

Over the next week we look forward to seeing John, along with Dr Joseph Mattera and Hubie Synn. The dates are Friday 31 August, Sunday 2 September in Brisbane, and Saturday 1 September on the Gold Coast.

The Lord bless you all from the chilly Gold Coast, where we are not used to any temperature below 10 degrees!

Gavin Irvine

New Members

Anna Jacobs

Itinerant Ministry, The Vines, WA

Stephen Poisat

Aveley, WA

Philip Prabu

Glendenning, NSW

Ordinations

Anna Jacobs

Itinerant Ministry, The Vines, WA

Stanley Pisulak

LifeWay Christian Centre, Parmelia, WA

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