

SCAC Newsletter

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2018

A Word from our Director:

Four Indicators of Spiritual Maturity, Part II

In August, we published the first of a two-part article on Indicators of Spiritual Maturity. As followers of Christ we are urged to live lives worthy of the calling we have received. How do we know if we are fulfilling God's expectations for our lives? Before examining new indicators of maturity, let's review the previous four by asking the question:

Do we have passion to know God and follow His Word in our lives?

Do we evidence brokenness and humility?

Are we able to persevere in difficult times and have hope for the future?

Are we growing in the character of Christ, e.g. the fruit of the Spirit?

1. Revealing The Father Heart of God

For many years it was popular for young Christians to wear a bracelet that carried the letters: WWJD (What Would Jesus Do?)

So, what did Jesus do in His words and actions? He demonstrated the true nature of His Heavenly Father. Today, just as in Bible days, many have a distorted view of God's nature. They see Him as angry or judgmental, and not compassionate or caring. Jesus said, "If you've seen me, you've seen the Father." His mission was to make the Father known to humanity.

In the same way, the spiritually mature reflect the 'countenance of Christ' as God's ambassadors. This means reflecting the Father in our attitudes as well as our words. Jesus was kind, merciful, willing to forgive, and looked for the best in people, He had compassion on the sick, poor, and downtrodden. Yet He was bold and not afraid to condemn religious hypocrisy. How then do we grow to reflect the Father heart of God? The key is to do what Jesus did, to spend regular time in the Father's presence. We become the company we keep.

2. Power Ministry

When Jesus sent His twelve disciples to minister, he said, "As you go, preach this message: 'The kingdom of heaven is near'. Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons."

Mature Christians know how to move in the power of the Holy Spirit. They receive words of knowledge and discern spirits, they prophesy, and are vessels of God's healing and deliverance. Because they hear God's voice and act upon it with faith and boldness, He honours their obedience and His power accompanies their testimony of Jesus as Saviour and Lord.

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The Lord recently challenged me to return to my roots in power evangelism and power healing. Today, the pressures of political correctness and intimidation are so great that we reduce the gospel of the kingdom to wise and persuasive words. Like Paul in I Corinthians 2:4, the Lord wants us to be mature and trust in His power to validate the truth that Jesus is Lord. Like in the days following Joshua, an entire generation has grown up that knows little of the power of God. Now is the time to equip and release God's people in every generation to reveal the power of God in their families, workplace, and all relationships.

The power of God is given to all of God's people and is not limited to pastors and those who minister from the platform of a church. The mature are those who equip the saints for the work of ministry, which includes demonstrations of God's power.

3. A Heart That Submits To Godly Authority

Hebrews 13:7 and 17 challenge us to respect and obey godly spiritual authority. Submission to godly authority is the key to oneness and teamwork and unity. Where believers dwell together in unity, blessing and good fruit are the result. (Psalm 133) This principle applies equally in marriage, families, in companies, organisations and in churches.

The spiritually mature person recognises that God is the ultimate authority. He has delegated part of His authority to men and women in families, the governments, the workplace and the church. A key principle to the exercise of godly authority is that, "those in authority must themselves be subject to authority." It is not enough to say, "I only submit to God." This is the mark of an independent spirit who does not understand the ways of the Lord.



The tide of the Spirit is a rising tide.

- Watchman Nee

At the heart of submission to authority is humility and righteousness. Jesus is our model of submission to authority, as we read in Philippians 2:1-11. In the Parable of the Talents, Jesus reveals the blessing of coming under authority. Those who are faithful will be promoted to greater things, while the rebellious, independent and lazy miss out on God's promotion.

4. Willingness to Be Persecuted for Following the Lord (John 15:18-21)

In life, I have discovered that there is only one path to spiritual maturity, and it is the way of the cross. The cross points to the death of our flesh. Our flesh must die for us to reflect the countenance and power of God.

Spiritual growth will inevitably lead us to the place of persecution. The Apostle Paul warned in II Timothy 3:12, "everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted." The matter becomes not IF you will be persecuted, but WHEN.

In Australian society Christians will face increasing persecution for upholding God's standards of righteousness. Why? Godly people can easily offend people who embrace non-Biblical worldviews. The things of the Spirit seem absurd to those who are not led by the Spirit. We should remember that the goal of persecution is two-fold: 1) to win to Christ those

who persecute us, and 2) to assist in the death of our flesh so we can reflect more of the countenance of Christ.

As you consider these Four Indicators of Spiritual Maturity, recall II 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."

In the current season of history, the Lord is raising the bar among Christians, both in the way we do church and how we relate to others at home and in the marketplace.

As Watchman Nee once wrote, "The tide of the Spirit is a rising tide." This means that we can always depend on CHANGE, in the world and in life. As we travel together through life, may our Lord help us avoid the subtleties of pride and self-satisfaction, instead turn our face into the wind of the Spirit, allowing Him to blow on all that hinders us in advancing God's Kingdom on Earth.

May the coming year of 2019 be a year of increased peace and fruitfulness in your life and ministry. Alaine joins me in wishing you and your family a blessed Christmas and New Year!

With love,

John McElroy
SCAC Director

SCAC Western Australia

On 21 September we had a WA Southern Cross Leaders Advance with approximately 20 people in attendance.

During the day we were inspired and encouraged by the sharing of a few of our members as to how the Kingdom is being impacted through their ministry. John then followed, sharing about the highs and lows of pastoring the local church through a transitional season. Our refreshment breaks, including a delicious lunch prepared by our hosts, the Caine's, gave us an opportunity to really connect with each other. The day concluded with a powerful time of ministry in two groups – men and women. We all left empowered after praying and proph-



syng over each other!

The day included the ordination of Dee Stepanoski who ministers as a street chaplain here in Perth.

On another note, congratulations to Pastors Regan and Narelle Frank on their new leadership role at Miracle Point Church in Mandurah. Pastors Raphael and Bea Tan have passed on the baton and we are excited at what God has ahead for both couples.



Move of Office

The SCAC Office has moved to U5/22 Gibberd Rd, Balcatta WA! While we have a new physical address, our postal details are still PO Box 640 Balcatta WA 6941.

SCAC South Australia

SCAC in SA is well placed to handle the many enquiries we have been receiving from potential members. Earlier this year we hosted the Advance which seemed to be a springboard for renewed interest in SCAC within SA. There have been numerous conversations and considerable interest in SCAC and what it is able to offer, and we expect that in the near future we will have some good news to report. We anticipate exciting changes in SCAC in SA. God is good!



SCAC Victoria

Greetings in the Lord Jesus Christ and a happy blessed holy Christmas from the Southern Cross team here in Victoria. We are looking forward to seeing many of you at the Southern Cross National Leaders Advance on the beautiful Mornington Peninsula here in Victoria 1st - 4th March 2019.

On a sad note, we have just had the devastating news that the Andrews' Labor Government has won the Victorian state election again by a significant margin. This is devastating news... and

even though in some areas they have been doing some really good work, over these last four years, they have demonstrated a clearly anti-Christian agenda.

What can we do about this?

- Remain focused and one in the Lord Jesus across all Christian communities.
- Stay close and listen and be obedient to Him in all that we do and say.
- Seek His wisdom and serve faithfully in the political domain, along with all other domains of our society.
- Operate at all times in the dominion and authority He has given us over the whole earth.



Finally, I am reminded that all things work together for good for them that love God and are obedient to His call. So, let's keep powering on in Him into 2019. Keep fanning the flames on the great awakening which has already commenced and watch and see what mighty miracles the Lord will do in His wonderful name.

God bless you dearly beloved, kindest regards,

Dave and Kathy Apelt

LEADERS * ADVANCE

1-4 MARCH 2019

MORNINGTON PENINSULA, VICTORIA

The Southern Cross Association of Churches

REGISTER NOW
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SCAC East Africa



We are in a new era for Southern Cross in East Africa. As Fiona and I have moved

back to Australia, we have commissioned a local leadership team to carry on the work. On the 25th of September, John and Alaine McElroy, David Apelt and myself hosted a leader's day where we continued building relationship with one another. The following day, we hosted a gathering for all members in East Africa. We had a

turnout of approximately 30 people and we enjoyed teaching from both John and David. Please pray for the new leadership team that they can continue to pursue the



Southern Cross vision and see it grow throughout Kenya and East Africa.

Anthony Schöpf



New South Wales

In late October, my wife, Oneng, and our children, Samantha and Samuel, had the privilege of ministering to a SCAC Church, Lockington Community Church, in Victoria led by Bill and Kaye Cochrane. We were very blessed to spend with their church family, and the visit to Bill and Kaye's farm was a big plus.



SCAC NSW is blessed to have Phillip Prabu, his wife Kezia, and two daughters Patricia and Petra, join our network recently. As a family they currently attend Grace Community Church with Pastors Simon and Paula Black in Seven Hills, Western Sydney. Phillip works as an IT Consultant and is an itinerant minister in the Western Sydney area. Phillip has been ministering since 1999, in India, United Kingdom and now in Australia with a particular focus on evangelism.

Blessings,
Dougie Cheah

SCAC Queensland

I don't fully know what God is doing at the moment, but I know He's up to something and among some of the Queensland churches there is an excitement in the air! On Friday 16th Nov I went and visited Toowoomba and met up with the pastors. We chatted, we



shared testimonies, struggles and we prayed. One of the encouraging things I came away with was the atmosphere of excitement in the churches. Go God!

I'm also excited to announce that Debbie Dodds will be doing the bulk of the pastoral care among the SCAC pastors. Deb is a natural nurturer with a real pastor's heart, and much

more gifted at this than myself. We'd also like to welcome John Gill and his wife Chelsea into the Southern Cross network. I ordained John on the 3rd November here at Coolangatta.

Grace and shalom to everyone!

Gavin Irvine

New Members

*Prabu Balagopal
Denise Stepanoski
Robert & Mary Tulloch
Andrew Morris
Elmer Batres
David Graham*

BRAZIL
APRIL

MISSION
TRIPS

2019

KENYA
SEPTEMBER

Places are limited. For more info about SCAC Mission Trips in 2019, email enquiries@southerncrossnetwork.org.au

The Southern Cross Association of Churches

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