

SCAC ONLINE

International Leaders

Advance '22

THE POST COVID CHURCH

Look to the Past to see the Future

Ron Simms

A SOUTHERN CROSS CENTRE EQUIPPING EVENT

Post COVID? Really?

Pre 2020 COVID as we understand it was unknown

- 25 January 2020 – first case of COVID in Australia
- March 2020 – National Cabinet established
- 20 March – Australian borders closed to non-residents
- 21 March – Social Distancing rules
- 22 March - Non-essential services began to be closed
- 27 March – Returning residents Quarantined 14 days

Post COVID? Really?

- 22 March 2020 – Churches closed
- Late March 2020 - State Borders closed
- March/April 2020 – Movement restrictions in place
- May 2020 – Second wave begins in Victoria
- November 2020 – Cluster Outbreaks
- Vaccination began in Sydney 21 February 2021
- Today, over 1.2 million cases of COVID-19 have been recorded in Australia

A VUCA Environment

- ***VUCA stands for***
 - **Volatile**
 - **Uncertain**
 - **Complex**
 - **Ambiguous**
- **VUCA** is the new normal of constant, unpredictable change
- **VUCA** demands that you avoid **traditional, outdated** approaches to leadership, and day-to-day working.

As in the days of NOAH

- **The problems Noah faced in Genesis 5 & 6**
 - **No-one believed him**
 - It had **never happened** before
 - The whole **environment changed**
 - Some of the people with him were **not trustworthy**
 - There was **no roadmap** for a way forward
 - Most things that worked before were now **obsolete**

Noah

- **What did Noah do in his VUCA environment?**
 - He listened carefully to God's voice
 - He built according to the PLAN God gave him
 - He did not allow the denial of the masses to change him
 - He did what he could with those whom God gave him
 - He prepared for the unknown
- He listened
- He planned
- He obeyed



David in Ziklag

- **The Problems David faced in Ziklag – 1 Samuel 30**
 - Everyone was gone – taken captive by the Amalekites
 - Wives, Children, the old and young – All gone
 - The city burnt with fire – There was nothing left
 - All their animals, possessions, treasures – All gone
 - They all wept till they could weep nor more
 - Then, they turned against him – wanted to stone him.



David in Ziklag

- **What did David do in this VUCA environment?**

1. He strengthened himself in the LORD his God. Vs 6
2. He enquired of the Lord. Vs 8.
3. He obeyed the voice of the Lord. Vs 9.
4. He used his strengths, talents, and opportunities. Vs 15
5. He had courage in the day of battle. Vs 17
6. He recovered all. Vs 19



Nehemiah

- **Nehemiah environment was VUCA**
 - The people were weak and leaderless
 - The enemy was strong and united
 - The walls of the city were broken down
 - The gates of the city were burnt and useless
 - There was no common vision



Nehemiah

- **How did Nehemiah lead through this VUCA environment?**
 - He responded to the CALL OF GOD, not his own ideas
 - He cared about the people of God and made himself one of them
 - He faced the reality of the situation
 - He Prayed!
 - He sought the Lord's vision, answers and direction

Nehemiah

- **How did Nehemiah lead through this VUCA environment?**
 - He built a team (and equipped them)
 - He kept the Main Thing the **MAIN THING**
 - He refused to be discouraged



The Post COVID Church

- **The Church now and in the future will be a church that:**
 - Always looks to God, always prays, always seeks His face
 - Always love the people
 - Always faces the reality of the situation
 - Ascertains the will of God and makes it plain to others
 - Obeys the voice of God in all things



The Post COVID Church

- **The Church now and in the future will be a church that:**
 - Remains humble yet resolute
 - Takes courage and move forward
 - We don't suggest the blessing; we **command** the blessing!



Not

The End