

Uncertainty about the future is irrelevant when we obey Jesus in the present.

In Galatians 5:22 it reads, “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.” In these times of uncertainty about the future plans for Bute church, this is a time to be seeking and trusting in the Lords leading and also ensuring we are developing and exhibiting these qualities to each other. I recently heard a speaker quote – “When you want fruit to grow, you water the root, not the fruit!” Of course that sounds pretty obvious, doesn’t it? But it made me think about my efforts at trying to be more patient and loving etc. I would put my hard work into doing it by thinking about what I should be doing and then trying to put it into practice ... often times failing. The thought of developing these fruits by putting time and effort into my relationship with the Lord was one I hadn’t really considered and yet it totally makes sense. In John 15:5, Jesus refers to Himself as the vine and says we are the branches and if we remain in Him and He in us, we will bear much fruit. Yep. It’s there in black and white (or red if you have a bible with Jesus words in red!)



And it makes sense that if we want to be like Jesus in all of these qualities then it will come out of spending time talking to Him, listening to Him, and reading about Him in the Word; seeing how He lived. As we heard on Sunday, in a vine, all of the nutrients and moisture flow through it to the branches. The branches have access to everything the vine has and it’s necessary for the branches to stay connected if they want to survive and bear fruit. So be encouraged to press in to Jesus in every way you know how. Know Him more and out of that overflow will be ‘good fruit’, grown with ease.

From Fiona Simpson, Bute church. (*Ed: we want to include from time to time pieces of thoughtful inspiring contribs from our various churches*)

James Parker seminar Last Wednesday Parker delivered excellent teaching on ministry addressing trans-gender issues . The teaching was live-streamed and can be viewed on [Facebook](#). HopeNet would hope to sponsor James to return with some extended seminar teaching on the communication of the Gospel into the soul of transgender questions and need. An introduction to James [here](#). presented during the marriage debate.

40 Days for Life Adelaide Lenten Campaign 2019 continues from 8 am – 6 pm until Palm Sunday 14 April 2019 at the Woodville clinic. Contact Alan Tyson 0412 389 875 / 8364 4516. Three women from Branches HopeNet church are on this, please join them and others if possible.

Mosque sheiks and leaders in Australia and around the world [comment on the NZ shooting](#) . Also stunning insights on a response to the NZ massacre which accords with Kingdom of heaven ethics explained by [Kent Hodge](#), Aussie missionary in Jos Plateau, Nigeria..

Presbytery and HopeNet See details [here](#) It is expected Hopenet should continue and grow as a significant resource and support for its congregations into the future. For this to happen, we need your comments to be fed into the Task Group and to us working on the future of Networks. More than that, HNEXec values your views and prayers as Exec meets next week to consider our Lod's will for planning ahead.

Watch out for new HopeNetCountry coming soon. An occasional email resource for leaders and preachers.

Worthwhile upcoming

Dan and Sue Armstrong. Monday April 8th at 7pm at Adelaide Congress Ministry Church 17 Bedwin Street, Salisbury North. Dan preached into the renewal and rapid church growth at YTea Tree Gully UCA in the 70's. and the revival in Elcho island in the 60's. Listen to this true blue nonagenarian evangelist ,true blue! Thanks to Dean Whitaker for organising this event.

Adelaide Mens Convention may 11. [Details and rego](#). Real men, real responsibilities.

Signs of the Times

How do our churches position themselves to quarantine themselves from a doctrine they totally reject which is at the same time, upheld by their denomination on which they depend for infra-structure, property and the ordering of ministry-not to mention a history of rich relationships?

One response by appointed church officers is simply to resort to 'the book' ie of Regulations.



This is the legalistic response. But it is to be expected because there may be legalities which do affect the safety of member churches and these officers are accountable in those matters.

Another response is to separate. This is understandable because it frees us from complicated issues and distractions and may provide the only way to maintain integrity. But it may bring other problems, people are divided- those who once prayed together and gathered around the Lord's Table together drift away from each

others company. Sometimes allowing barriers to grow up between them. This becomes a doctrinal error as serious as that it seeks to address.

Another response is to work out what a congregation can do and what it can't. Selective disengagement. It may change its name, at least in a public way. HopeValley have done this. Branches has always. Some believe they must take full control of their local church finances. Some even believe that they must find an alternative to the assembly council whose actions they in conscience cannot live under but they still cherish their heritage. These are flexible responses which acknowledge the depth of belief . It is wise for all church leaders to respect the thoughtful decisions of local church councils. It is wise for local churches to consider all their members concerns. It is also wise for members to think deeply about the matter of unity which is the passion of our Lord as expressed in His prayer before His passion. In this, unity is not a slogan it is deeply physical and spiritual.

In and around all of this, our churches as they meet together, must confess the Resurrection of Jesus-the Christ come in the flesh. A resurrection which is bodily both physical and spiritual. To continue in repentance and faith. Keeping close in prayer and giving to the persecuted church. Bearing each others burdens and above all learning to love each other in the pattern of Jesus' love. Thus pervading our communities with the perfume of Jesus. And of course praying and seeking for the miracle of conversions and if it pleases Him, to add new believers to the ranks of holy congregations-yes holy!

[John Smith-The passing of a prophetic voice](#). Many of you have been touched by the [ministry of John Smith](#), over the years. Probably one of the most compelling preachers of recent years. In 1982 45,000 SA high school students heard him in pin-dropping silence in their auditoriums. His [memorial service](#) was held last Saturday and attended by hundreds of outlaw bikers along with God Squad in an amazing cross-cultural event. Along with moving eulogies from others Ian was blessed to introduce and deliver the [message](#).

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