



SA NEWS

Newsletter of the Presbytery of South Australia Issue 55 September 2022

What should the Christian life look like?

Barry Cooper identifies nine qualities that the Spirit of God grows and cultivates in every true believer.

Full disclosure: I am clueless when it comes to gardening. It's safe to say that I do not have green fingers. In fact, given the incompetence with which I wield garden shears, it's remarkable that I have *any* fingers.

We have two trees in our backyard. I've taken to calling one of them the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, because it's rather mysterious, I'm not sure what it is, and I don't want my daughter eating any of the fruit.

The other tree even I can identify, because it produces these gorgeous little green limes. And that's the thing about fruit. If you can identify the fruit, then you've identified the tree.

I think that's one of the reasons why the Apostle Paul talks about the *fruit* of the Spirit. He could have talked about "the characteristics of the Spirit" or the "evidences of the Spirit," but instead it's the *fruit* of the Spirit. In other words, it's what you would expect to see growing in a genuine Christian believer.

If somebody says the tree in my backyard is an apple tree but all I ever see on it are limes, then we can assume that it is indeed a lime tree and not in fact an apple tree. In the same way, if someone claims to be a Christian, but we don't see the fruit of the Spirit, then it's quite possible that what we're looking at is not in fact a Christian after all.

Paul describes what the fruit of the Spirit looks like in Galatians chapter 5:

The fruit of the Spirit [says Paul] is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

So, what should the Christian life look like?

Well, there are two ways we might fall off this particular horse, two opposite but equally mistaken views of what the Christian life should look like.

One is the legalistic life. That was the temptation the Galatians were facing. It seems that they'd been told that faith in Christ was not enough in itself. *Unless you keep obeying the law in every single respect, then you cannot be a Christian.* That's legalism.

The other equally damaging view of what it means to be a Christian is the licentious life. *We're called by Christ to freedom*, they say, and they use that statement as a passport for going wherever their desires happen to lead them.

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To both of these ways of thinking about the Christian life, Paul says, no. There's another way. The way of the genuine Christian. He calls it "walking by the Spirit" or "keeping in step with the Spirit." A person who *walks* by the Spirit will begin to show the *fruit* of the Spirit.

Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

Paul mentions love first in the list, and that's no accident. The church father Jerome once wrote, "Without *love* other virtues are not reckoned to *be* virtues. From love is born *all* that is good."

Unlike the *gifts* of the Spirit, which are different in every believer, the *fruit* of the Spirit—*all* the qualities in the list—should be evident in *all* believers. That's why it's "fruit," singular, and not "fruits." This isn't like a pick and mix or some kind of fruit-based buffet. We don't get to say, "Well, I'm completely unloving, but on the plus side, I *am very joyful*." No, these qualities come as a job lot. A package deal.

Now, to be clear: that doesn't mean we'll have *all* these qualities *perfectly* and *fully* throughout every moment of our Christian lives. Very often, just like fruit on a tree, you can barely see them at first. They may never win any awards at the county fair.

But it does mean that these "fruit of the Spirit" are as inevitable in a true Christian believer as limes are on a lime tree.

<https://www.ligonier.org/podcasts/simply-put/the-fruit-of-the-spirit>



Barry Cooper is a British writer. He lives with his wife and daughters in DeLand, Florida, and serves as an elder at Christ Community Church Daytona.

He's the producer, writer and presenter of the Simply Put podcast, presenter of the Luther: In Real Time podcast, and co-producer/presenter of Cooper & Cary Have Words.

In June 2019, he became Supervising Producer at Ligonier Ministries.

Barry is the presenter of Stephen McCaskell's feature-length documentary LUTHER, writer of the feature-length documentaries PURITAN and THE CHURCH, and writer of the six-part mini-series MISSIONARY (forthcoming). The series explores the lives of William Tyndale, James Hudson Taylor, Amy Carmichael, William Carey, Adoniram Judson, and John Paton.

Born in Epsom, Surrey, Barry holds a BA in English Language and Literature from St Catherine's College, Oxford. He wrote, directed and performed in numerous comedy shows at Oxford, including the Oxford Revue. Having trained as an actor at the Webber Douglas Academy of Dramatic Art in London, he co-ran a theatre company for seven years. He's performed in such places as Shakespeare's Globe and the National Theatre.

Barry also holds an MA in Christian Studies from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Chicago. He has interned with Mark Dever at Capitol Hill Baptist Church in Washington DC, and was part of the core team that helped to plant Trinity West church in Shepherd's Bush, London.

Adelaide

Norwood Congregation

This term, following Davo's return from annual leave, we have commenced a sermon series looking at Genesis 15-25 focussing on God's covenants with Abraham and his family. This will be the theme for both Sunday services and Growth Groups during the week.

We currently have 4 growth groups as a result of our evening group needing to divide in 2 due to increased attendance. As well as the evening groups, we have 2 groups which meet on Wednesday morning. Between these 2 morning groups we have a prayer time to which all are welcome. Our children also study the same passage in a relevant and fun way in Kids Church, which takes place during the sermon. Our small group of 10 to 15 year-olds have a worksheet, produced by a couple of church members, which helps them to engage with the message.

We are experiencing slow but steady growth in numbers and commitment, with all visitors who actually live in Adelaide continuing to attend.

Davo is running discipleship training sessions on the first Saturday of the month and this is followed by a working bee co-ordinated by Ken. We recently levelled the carpark to help prevent localised flooding, cleaned out the gutters and removed much accumulated old furniture and fittings from the church and hall. We are also in the process of bringing our electrical system up to current standards.

We are thankful for the willingness of so many of our congregation to be involved in services, pastoral care, maintenance and admin tasks and we continue to be blessed by the ministry of Davo and Megan Gunning, supported by our elders, Harvey and Damien, and our other leaders.

Seacliff Congregation

The past few months have seen a gradual return of friends and visitors to our Seacliff community.

As many have experienced, caring for one another has been a struggle during COVID. Throughout this time the Seacliff WhatsApp group has continued to enable everyone to be praying together for both personal as well as the issues of the world. Heather and Nick Blunt have gone the second mile in phoning and visiting many shut-ins during this time, offering prayer and encouragement. Another enhancement to our church life together has been the introduction of Soup Suppers following our afternoon service. We all enjoy the nourishing food and fellowship on these cool evenings.

We look forward to a sermon series on Revelation that David Tsai will begin in September. This will be enhanced by Ian and Heather Gossip sharing from their recent trip to Turkey.

Relating to The Lord's work overseas, the ongoing journey of service by Matt B,

with its joys and needs, are followed with prayer at Seacliff, as well as The Lord's work in parts of the world in need.

The Wednesday Bible study growth group has been well attended with issues and questions raised from Bible passages covered, shared and applied.

Continuing prayer for the ongoing gathering of God's people in our locations across Adelaide and its leadership under Davo Gunning and elders are on the hearts of us all.

Heather Blunt

Karnkendi Campsite

Karnkendi June – August 2022

With Winter well and truly upon us activity at Karnkendi certainly slows down. However, we have been fortunate with a few late season groups looking to enjoy the facility and fellowship that the camp can offer.

Beaconhills Christian College concluded their month long stay on the 10th June as they pushed on, in trying weather conditions, to complete their Outdoors Explorer's programme with students spread out camping in the Lower Glenelg National Park and along the length of the Great South West walk from Portland to Nelson.

A big effort from the cleaning department saw the College depart and a regular family group from Warrnambool/Portland area in on the same day for a lovely weekend in Nelson. The weather could have been kinder but they all enjoyed the time together and have rebooked for June Long weekend 2023.

My Dad Donald had waited long enough, with a 3 year break this saw a reduced but very keen "Old Time" musicians and groupies enjoy a lovely weekend of old favourites and they have also set a date for 2023. Please see the image of their talents in full swing with more musicians than spectators at an evening jam session!

Unfortunately the lingering fallout from COVID saw Tenison Woods Catholic College from Mount

Gambier cancel their Junior Music Camp for the end of June. This was due to the lack of staff to run the much anticipated event.



The beginning of July saw the intended use of Karnkendi come to pass with the Youth of Jubilee Christian Centre Mount Gambier spending a 3 day weekend at the camp, with humbling reports of how beneficial the facility and event was for all who attended.

August – September at this time are completely free of bookings which is pretty standard coming out of winter but October has Big Heart Adventures from Adelaide using the camp as they carry out guided walks in the area. This will be closely followed up on the 22nd with the wake ceremony of an elderly couple who were long time residents of Nelson and great supporters of Karnkendi so this will see the facility supporting the town in a very special way as we remember them.

The kitchen is having a little upgrade with the addition of a “new” SA made Westinghouse Gas Cook top with electric oven that has arrived. We had 2 all gas stoves but the one on the left “Thelma” with the right one being “Louise” (of course) giving us trouble for some time so “Thelma II” will be a great improvement for those supplying meals.

The Cottage is vacant at this time so if any families wish to enjoy the area please call Heather 0448 871 225 to book a lovely weekend etc away.

We are back on schedule with meetings finally, which are programmed at approximately 2-3 month intervals.

Once again thankyou for all the support and prayers that are extended to Karnkendi as we get back to having our doors open to provide this wonderful facility for those to enjoy.

Harvey and Heather McBain
Karnkendi Caretakers
Nelson

From the Editor

As I prepare this issue of SA News, Pat Leitch is preparing to once again enter South Korea and has requested the following prayer points:

- Pray for safe travelling and easy entry into South Korea, as there are now new entry requirements.
- Pray for a good number of students at the Missionary Training Institute this semester, as COVID has impacted on those who may have applied under different circumstances.
- Pray that I would humbly serve, that God would fill me anew with His Holy Spirit and that I would bear the fruits of the Spirit day by day - Gal 5:22-23



Still Going Strong!



Rick & Kayleen Manton

As hard as we try, some rumours never seem to die! A few years ago Rick and Kayleen Manton stepped out of pastoring the Mount Druitt Indigenous Church, to provide training for the wider Aboriginal Christian community

However some took this to mean that they were retiring — which is not true. COVID saw them return to the Mount Druitt church where they continue to serve.

You can learn more about their ministry by watching this video

<https://vimeo.com/733117015>

Showing God's Love in PNG



Rob & Katie Hovenden and family

APWM Missionaries Rob and Katie Hovenden serve with Samaritan Aviation in Papua New Guinea's remote East Sepik Province. Rob serves as a pilot as part of a team that transports injured and sick people to hospital — and all this is done in the name of Christ.

To gain a glimpse of this ministry — and the way that the whole Hovenden family serve together in this ministry, please watch this video

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1u2ZzCkydSeOvmVxrEM_9nX8J5n-tBxq8/view



When You Can't Find the Words



Using the 5fish app, you can play audio recordings of scripture and Bible stories in another person's language so that they can hear about Jesus. It's good for sharing the gospel with your neighbour or friend who speaks a language other than English.

To find out more about 5fish or to download the app please go to

<https://globalrecordings.net/>

Update: Nathan & Tomoko Stewart



Nathan & Tomoko Stewart and family

The APWM National Committee recently made the difficult decision to conclude Nathan and Tomoko's service with APWM in Japan.

Late last year it became clear that their ministry plans at the Osaka Presbyterian Church were not progressing as we had hoped. This was due to a conjunction of events: changes brought on by COVID in Japan itself, the local church's response to the COVID situation, and some factors within the congregation.

Their service will conclude on 30th November 2022. Please pray for them.

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www.apwm.org.au facebook.com/AustralianPresbyterianWorldMission/



APWM's Five Key Ministry Principles

Sending

Since God the Father sent His Son into the world, so we seek to send suitably gifted and qualified Christians to plant local national churches where no churches exist and to serve existing local national churches in cross-cultural contexts. (John 20:21).

Teaching

We seek to send suitably gifted and qualified Christians to cross-culturally teach the gospel of God's redemption in Christ, who died and rose from the dead to pay the penalty for our sin and who will one day return to this earth in glory. We do this in order to plant and grow the local national church. (the examples of Jesus teaching Nicodemus in John 3:1-21; and the Samaritan woman and the town of Sychar in John 4; and the disciples in Luke 24:45-47).

Training

We seek to send suitably gifted and qualified Christians to train national Christians to lead the local church in their cultural context. This training is made available also by inviting and at least partially funding leaders to study in Australia to be able to better lead their national church (the example of Jesus teaching His disciples in Luke 24:13-32, Luke 24:45-48 and in John 20:19-29 & 21:1-23; Paul training Timothy & Titus through the letters bearing their names).

Partnering

We seek, as far as possible, to work in partnership with Partner Churches and other gospel-minded ministry workers and institutions. Our goal is not to plant Australian churches in other cultures, but to stand alongside and support local nationals in the development of churches that are distinctive to their gospel-redeemed culture. (Philippians 4:10-19).

Resourcing

We seek to provide support and resources cross-culturally, as we are able, to enhance the ministry of the national church, according to the expressed desires of the national church rather than us promoting our wishes on the national church. (Philippians 4:10-19; 1 Kings 17:12-24; 2 Kings 4:1-7; 4:8-10).

Each fortnight, APWM sends out an email newsletter with updates on various missionaries, points for prayer and stories of what God is doing in the world to spread the gospel. If you'd like to receive APWM Partnership News then please sign up here shrtm.nu/NSAb or email national@apwm.org.au

Whyalla

The last few years have not been the best for Whyalla Presbyterian Church. Apart from the obvious i.e. the pandemic and COVID-19 restrictions – our numbers have declined. Five of our members have died and several others suffer from on-going ill health. Those suffering from ill health, are sometimes able to join us when the weather and their health permits, some are not.

However, regardless of the circumstances, we keep in contact with them and always remember them in our prayers. Despite a small reduction in numbers, services continue. However, it should be noted that attendance tends to fluctuate from week to week.



On Saturday 25th June we held a Soup and Sandwich Lunch, which was well attended by members of the congregation and friends from the wider community. A few weeks later, on 10th July we organised and held a Congregational Lunch after the morning service, so we are keeping up our program of getting together as a congregation outside of the morning service. If there are any of the “not so well” members feel they would like to attend, there are always a number of cars that can go and get them. Apart from those, we have a few more congregational get-togethers planned as the year progresses. We also organised a Board of Management meeting on 17th July and a Session Meeting on 14th August.



A few of our congregation are in their 80th year with two in their 90+ year. However at this time of writing, only 1 has breached the 100 mark. In early July, Ray Powell celebrated his 100th Birthday and received his Telegram from H.M. The Queen, The Mayor and Council, the Premier and the local Member of Parliament. Congratulations were also sent from the Congregation. So, despite the restrictions imposed from time to time, we made the best of our time together. The future may be a tad uncertain, but whatever comes, we will face it together as a congregation of God's people.



John McVey / Barry Williams



Camper Trailer Muster



PIM invites you to attend our first ever Camper Trailer Muster at New Dunesk, from 30th September - 3rd October

A weekend of fellowship and fun, the Camper Trailer Muster is an opportunity for camping families to come together, meet other people, be encouraged by the Gospel and the work of PIM, and enjoy staying somewhere a little different. A number of family and children focused activities will run throughout the weekend.

Booking for the Camper Trailer Muster is essential. To secure your campsite, please contact Paul at New Dunesk directly by emailing newdunesk@pim.org.au or call 0493 294 798.



A New Dunesk sunrise over the ridge

The New Dunesk campsite is fully equipped with a camp kitchen that includes cooking and washing facilities, an undercover common area, and toilet blocks.

Apart from camper trailers, we also invite those with caravans, tents and swags to come along!



Our mailing address is:
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PRAYER POINTS

- Intercede for the Federal Government; Prime Minister Anthony Albanese; Leader of the Opposition Peter Dutton; that they will be guided by Christian principles and come to know Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.
- Pray for the Adelaide Church; Davo Gunning, David Tsai; congregations and elders.
- Pray for Bible Studies being held; that people may come to a deeper knowledge of God and our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
- Pray for all security forces around the world working to prevent violence and destruction, that our Lord will lead and guide them in their work, even though they may not know Him.
- Intercede for the Defence and Police forces and all emergency services.
- Uphold in prayer your parliamentary representatives, federal and state.
- Pray for people living in remote and rural parts of South Australia with little access to the Gospel. Pray for PIM and the churches in SA to find effective ways to make disciples amongst these people.
- Pray for persecuted Christians throughout the world.
- Pray for 'M' serving in west Asia.
- Pray for the Wattle Range Charge; congregations and elders.
- Pray for the Presbytery of South Australia, Moderator Davo Gunning; Clerk Gary Ware.
- Pray for the APWM office, Kevin Murray (Director)
- Pray for the towns and cities of South Australia, for the people in them who do not know Christ, including unsaved family members, friends and work colleagues.
- Pray for hearts to be opened as the Lord Jesus Christ is proclaimed by word and deed by PIM workers.
- Pray for Christian witness in primary and secondary schools (especially your local ones) through believing pupils, parents, staff and visiting teachers.
- Pray for Jeroen & Diana as they work in Papua New Guinea.
- Please be in prayer for pastors and leaders in Ukraine, that they would know how to best care for their flock.
- Praise God for the Indigenous ministry and training that is taking place in the Northern Territory. Please pray that in God's mercy, many would come to faith in Christ.
- Pray for all those affected by the recent floods in the Eastern States.

Editor's Note

Thank you to all who have contributed items for this issue of SA News they are all very much appreciated. Contributions for the December 2022 issue are to be in my hands **no later than 5.00pm Monday 14th November 2022.**

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SA News is a publication of the Presbytery of South Australia.