

SCA President's Letter



July, 2017

Dear SCA Prayer Partners, Supporters, and Friends:

SCA is having a celebration party! The cake will have 111 candles on it because we happen to have ministered for that long and God has blessed us. Please join us!

YOU ARE INVITED TO A CELEBRATION

SCA International (formerly **Shantymen's Christian Association**) was established in 1906 and has been in ministry for all these years. We're almost as old as the oldest person alive in the world . . . Since the death of 117-year-old Emma Morano of Italy on 15 April 2017, 117-year-old Violet Brown of Jamaica, born 10 March 1900, is the oldest living person in the world whose age has been documented. We think it's time for us to celebrate again, with you.

In a different comparison, and according to the BBC (2012), "The average lifespan of a company listed in the S&P 500 index of leading US companies has decreased by more than 50 years in the last century, from 67 years in the 1920's to just 15 years today, according to Professor Richard Foster from Yale University." We think it's time for us to celebrate again, with you.

Getting a little closer to home, and using an update of 2011, George Bullard, a strategic leadership coach for congregations, denominations, and leaders, as well as a recent Director of Missions for the Columbia [S.C.] Metro Baptist Association writes, "The average church that makes it 7 years [has a life span of] **80** years." Another church leader has written, ". . . the average life of a church is about the same as that of the average human: 70 years." We think God has been very good to us and it's time to celebrate again, with you!

Finally, I tried to find some of the oldest Christian missions around today and I did not have a lot of success. But I discovered that SCA International has a lot in common with one of the oldest Anglican mission organizations (way older than us) . . . "The **Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge (SPCK)** is the oldest Anglican mission. It was founded in 1698 by Thomas Bray (an Anglican priest), and a small group of friends. The most important early leaders were Anton Wilhelm Boehm and court preacher Friedrich Michael Ziegenhagen. The emphasis was on setting up schools, and the SPCK was a major factor in setting up church schools across Britain. Today, the SPCK is most widely known for its publishing of Christian books. A Scottish branch^[reportedly] was founded in 1709. It sent missions to Scotland's Highlands, and a handful to Indians in the

American colonies. The Society was founded to encourage Christian education and the production and distribution of Christian literature. SPCK has always sought to find

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ways to communicate the basic principles of the Christian faith to a wider audience, both in Britain and overseas."

As I read that I could not help but notice the similar history (although over two centuries longer) of SPCK with that of SCA. We're both old. We value Christian education and an opportunity to meet Jesus. We had outreaches to indigenous people. We distribute Christian material. We communicate the basic principles of the Christian faith to a wide audience. And I wouldn't be surprised if our founder, William Henderson, who emigrated from England, was well aware of the

work SPCK was doing in his homeland before coming to Canada. It's time to celebrate again, with you!

So, will you join us?

SCA's 111th Year of Service Celebration

Saturday, September 23, 2017

7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Northridge Community Church

15338 Leslie Street, Aurora, ON, L4G 7C4

RSVP: Devika Ramroop, toll-free 1.877.474.2689 or devika@scainternational.org

Come & Bring a Friend

Program Details to Follow

(music, dessert incl. celebration cake, presentations, and more)

*This is **not** a birthday party – we're practicing the "discipline of celebration".*

Bible.org's blog on [Living a Life of Celebration](#) has much to say on this topic:

At the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem, the Levites were sought out from where they lived and were brought to Jerusalem to celebrate joyfully the dedication with songs of thanksgiving and with the music of cymbals, harps and lyres. The singers also were brought together from the region around Jerusalem—from the villages of the Netophathites (Nehemiah 12, 13:1-3).

Celebration is an essential aspect of one's spiritual life. Richard Foster in his classic book, *Celebration of Discipline*, said this: "Celebration is central to all the Spiritual Disciplines. Without a joyful spirit of festivity, the disciplines become dull, death-breathing tools in the hands of modern Pharisees."

We see celebration not only here in Nehemiah 12, as Israel dedicated the wall, but we also see celebration throughout the Bible. The shepherds, wise men, and angels celebrated the birth of Jesus with gifts, songs, and prayer. God gave Israel many celebrations in the Old Covenant such as the Feast of Booths, year of Jubilee, etc. In the New Covenant, he has given us the Lord's Supper and Baptism. We also see future celebrations such as the wedding of the Lamb and the wedding feast with Abraham. This abundant life includes celebration.

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But how then shall we celebrate?

Christians Practice the Discipline of Celebration by Dedicating Everything to God – join us as we give thanks and praise to God for what He has done, is doing, and will do.

Christians Practice the Discipline of Celebration when All of Us Serve Joyfully Together – join us we unite hands to serve a world in desperate need of Christ and His peace and forgiveness.

Christians Practice the Discipline of Celebration by Corporate Worship – join us as we'll be led in singing by a vibrant musician or two.

Christians Practice the Discipline of Celebration by Giving Thanks in Everything – join us as we thank you for all you have done in enabling us to serve together.

In closing, let me remind you dear friends that space is limited at this venue with varying maximums allowed in certain rooms, and then facility allowances are saying "no more" or we hope we can upgrade if larger rooms are still available. So, please make that call today and reserve this evening of celebration. Please come as our guest(s)!

See you on September 23rd.

In His Grip,



Ken Godevenos

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p.s. Again, I welcome your comments and your questions on any aspect of our work and our programs. We also ask you to consider joining us in any way you can. Just give me a call. We also welcome your prayer requests and we will join you as we take them to God's throne of Grace discretely.

p.p.s. Our celebration event is without cost but folks will have an opportunity to make a contribution towards the ministry.