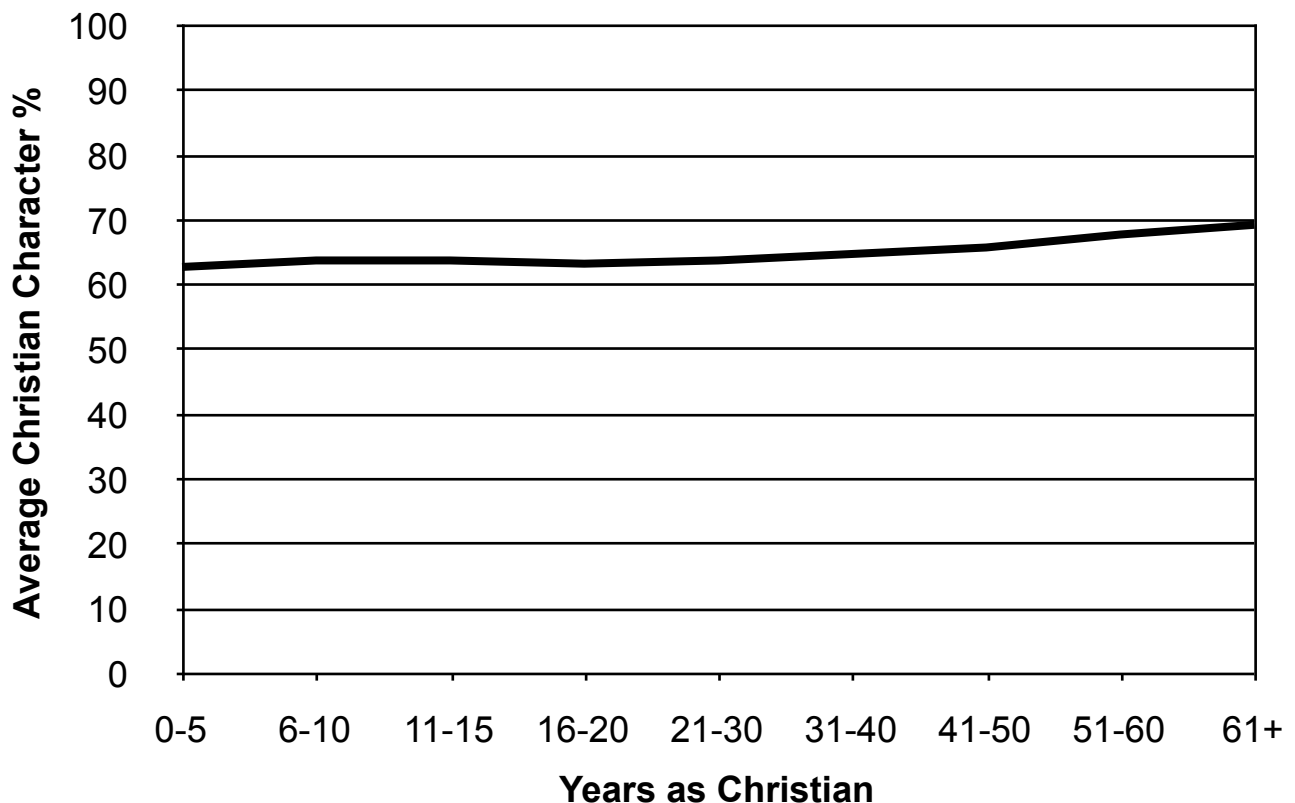


Michael Zigarelli conducted a study of the Christlikeness of 5000 Christians from around the world. Disturbingly the average amount of growth over time was found to be pitiful:

Character Growth with more years in the Faith



However all is not lost because this is an average - some Christians are much more Christlike (high virtue Christians) while others are less Christlike. He analysed the data to find out what was different about high virtue Christians compared to average virtue Christians. He found **the characteristic that most distinguishes high virtue Christians is GRATITUDE**. Gratitude turns out to be a ‘parent’ virtue. “Growing one’s gratitude has a radical and transformational effect on character because it is one of God’s primary vehicles for **inducing** other Christian qualities.... Want more inner peace? Work on gratitude. Want more patience? Work on gratitude. Want to be more compassionate? etc. etc... “

“One of the major secrets to success for high-virtue Christians is that they have mastered the art of **maintaining** a grateful disposition. Gratitude is simply part of who they are, rather than being some sporadic, refreshing occurrence.... They consistently think about how much God has blessed them”

Information and quotes from “Cultivating Christian Character” by Michael Zigarelli

Giving Thanks to God for 2007



List things about God and your relationship with Him that you can be thankful for: who God is, what He has done, the way he has been with you, helped you, taught you etc.

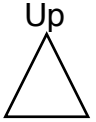


List the things about your relationships with your family, friends, and church family that you can be thankful for:



List the things in the wider world that you can be thankful for: aspects of creation; our country and aspects of its culture and the benefits of our society (peace, schools, hospitals etc); how our church has interacted with the community around it; and what you have seen happen in mission organisations, in people that have come to know Jesus etc.

Hopes for 2007



List a few things that you want to see happen in your relationship with God and your discipleship in 2008



In

List a few things that you want to see happen in your relationships with family, friends and church family



Out

List a few things that you want to see happen as our church engages with the community around it, what you would like to see happen in our country, through mission agencies, and in the wider world