

18 May 2010

Dear Friends:

I want to inform you about a special focus in our church over the next few weeks. We are going to think, pray and talk about materialism. We live in a materialistic society and that can make following God harder. Ecclesiastes 5 makes the point:

*“Whoever loves money never has money enough ...
I have seen a grievous evil under the sun:
wealth hoarded to the harm of its owner ...
Naked a man comes from his mother's womb,
and as he comes, so he departs.”*

I would ask you to begin praying about this season at NewHope. Financial freedom is an improbable dream for many people. Money can make loved ones argue and churches fight. But God wants all his children and his church to be free of material shackles so we are going to tackle the subject.

Spiritual Keys to Financial Freedom

Beginning Sunday, 30 May we will have a four week preaching emphasis on this. We have also organised Bible study material to assist Small Groups and families to study this topic together (available online and from the iGrow window beginning 30 May). Here are the four keys we will explore.

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Scripture</i>	<i>Sunday</i>
Key #1: Transfer Ownership to God	Luke 19:1-10	30 May
Key #2: Invest for Eternity	Acts 4:32-37	6 June
Key #3: Embrace Sacrifice	Mark 12:41-44	13 June
Key #4: Practice Cheerful Generosity	2 Cor 9:6-14	20 June

I believe this series has the power to transform families, businesses and our mission at NewHope. We tap into spiritual power when God's people take what the Bible says about money seriously.

God's people putting their resources together can make a tremendous difference in the world. I'd like to talk with you about the difference we can make.

Cuppa with Allan

Do you have time for a cuppa? Below are some opportunities when I will be available along with two other ministry leaders to meet with you. We'd like to share our vision. There will be opportunity to ask questions and talk about aspects of the church that matter to you. Please choose one of the times and RSVP by email Melissa.Brauer@newhope.net.au or ring 9890 7999.

Monday 31 May	7:00pm	Phil Gaudion & Danny Hunt	West Hall
Tues 1 June	7:00pm	Melissa Adam & Jess Sanders	Main Hall
Wednesday 2 June	10:30am	Michelle Monro & Michael Henshaw	West Hall
Friday 4 June	7:00pm	Chris Pittendrigh & Danny Hunt	Training Room
Tuesday 8 June	7:00pm	Peter McMullen & Danny Hunt	Main Hall
Thursday 10 June	7:00pm	Jess Sanders & Danny Hunt	Main Hall
Sunday 13 June	9:00am	Surette Southwood & Cathy De Witt	CER
Sunday 13 June	11:00am	Surette Southwood & James Lin	CER

A History of Generosity

One of the greatest moments of generosity of all time is recorded in the Bible in 1 Chronicles 29. David and the people provided an amazing amount of resource to advance God's glory. The Scripture lists the gifts and describes the people's excitement. At the end of that worship service the spiritual temperature of Israel was at an all time high. Money matters are deeply spiritual.

Twice in my life I have experienced something like 1 Chronicles 29. Once in Canada when I was Chairman of the Board for an inner city mission to kids and once at NewHope.

In Canada God showed us a great opportunity for reaching out to street kids. People of bold faith were moved by God's Spirit to fund a Kid's Outreach Centre in the heart of our city. There were amazing stories of spiritual growth and divine blessing. Kids and families got converted. The Centre still thrives! It all started with a release of material wealth for the work of God's mission.

At NewHope a passion for our community led leadership to propose that we build a Community Centre as a gift to the region. This vision stirred the faith of God's people mightily and in October of 2002 there was an amazing avalanche of sacrifice and generosity which made it possible to build our current thriving ministry centre. We experienced three other outcomes: unprecedented spiritual growth, incredible unity and an outpouring of gratitude to God. If you were here at that time and if you made a sacrifice you know what I am talking about.

A Future of Generosity

Today we stand in a place of opportunity once again. The same vision for ministry in our community stirs among us. And we need to experience the blessings of sacrifice and generosity again.

God wants the story of 1 Chronicles 29 to be the norm in His kingdom.

On 20 June when we gather for worship we will have a "Generosity Offering". Our Church Council invites each of us to bring a GIFT that represents personal sacrifice and to make a giving COMMITMENT for the coming 18 months. Who knows what blessing God will pour out as we practice generosity!

Thank You

Many faithful people sacrifice regularly to God's work at NewHope. Thank you! We are very grateful for all that you do. This season of teaching will serve to reinforce and grow what you have already experienced. May I ask you to share your witness of God's faithfulness with others?

I will write to you again in two weeks to talk more about the practical details of the Generosity Offering and to provide you with an envelope and a commitment card. I will also give you more detail about the church's vision for ministry as I answer the question: "Why Make Your Sacrifice at NewHope?"

Above all can I invite you to pray in this season for God's work among us? The dream is to see God's people and our church materially UNSHACKLED!

Blessings,

Allan Demond

PS. If you no longer participate at NewHope and want to be removed from the mailing list please ring 9890 7999 or email Melissa.Brauer@newhope.net.au.

PSS. For information on the church's current financial position, check the May Bulletin. For a simplified up to date summary visit www.newhope.net.au/friend (username: friend, password: matt2819).