

Liberty Trust

PO Box 2211, Whakatane



Second Newsletter to Contributors November 1989

Greetings to everyone.

Although it is only 4 months since we wrote to you it seems like a year, so much has happened. As many of you are contributing or sponsoring at some personal cost for the sake of God's Kingdom it is a privilege to share with you our progress to date.

Ballots

At the beginning of August Sergeant Bruce Glover drew the first 3 ballots for mortgages under \$20,000 amidst much thanksgiving, praise and worship. It was especially a highlight as we had just received news that the Inland Revenue Department had at last agreed to accept our trust as a Charitable Trust. This really vindicated our decision to proceed under God's direction. Thank you to all those who joined with us in prayer through the many months of preparation and waiting for this decision.

Before the ballot Pastor Frank Darcy led us in communion in which he traced through the Bible, God's gift of "Liberty". He showed that Satan's aim is to place mankind under his bondage. God's will is to release us into a beautiful liberty. It is a spiritual battle - as the Trustees well know.

Eventually, to the surprise of even themselves, two of the three persons balloted finally declined their mortgages. One, in declining, nominated another member while the other has taken a "rain cheque" for the present. This astonished us but it has meant that others will receive their mortgages sooner.

Consequently last month we drew our first "over \$20,000" ballot. We are pleased to announce that it went to Tricia McDonald - the very person nominated!

Confidentiality

This brings up a question. Should we declare the names of those we receive ballots? We believe the answer rest with the person who receives the ballot. We would love to tell you the news. However some could very well be embarrassed by such publicity. In the spirit of Romans 14, who are we to say they must? An example of this was the first 3 ballots. We left the people to declare the news if they wished. However news got out from another source and this proved a little embarrassing to those who subsequently declined their mortgages. In doing so they have given back to God.

Matthew 6:3-4 covers this:

Let not your left hand know what your right hand is doing that your deed may be in secret, and you Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly."

In other words contributions to the Trust are clearly a gift to God's Kingdom, as your copy of the application form clearly states. It really depends upon your personal motive. Also, these figures are based on the average in the model. We are presently preparing tables which will show people, at various time periods when they might receive their ballot, whether and by how much their saving will exceed their contributions to Liberty Trust or vice versa. Of course if your contributions should exceed your saving in interest we will reduce your contributions to ensure that you cannot lose.

The Vision

The alternative of increasing one's mortgage repayments has only been revealed as a result of our obedience to God's word in launching Liberty Trust. Why has He revealed it? In praying this though we believe God is calling those with a vision for this aspect of His Kingdom to join together and put it into practice. When He said that those with mortgages should pool their money and cast lots etc. we believe He was speaking both of those presently in a financial bondage and those who could see past the present, to the many who will benefit in the future from their participation. God has shown us progressively that many who repay their mortgage to us will continue their \$20 per week by sponsoring families whose only hope is Liberty Trust. Sponsorship will be a major aspect of the Trust in the future. There are far more folk with mortgages, needing help, than we can assist. Others are committed to renting, possibly for life, because they cannot save a deposit. Rent to a landlord is an endless bondage.

This is a progressive vision. We have to admit that when we began we didn't appreciate the savings from the alternative of increased mortgage repayments. Nor did we foresee the needs that there are in the Body. We are excited by the savings - and they are still there. But God is revealing a far greater purpose.

Another issue we are looking at is that of the person who cannot afford the deposit on a house - even if he/ she has received a ballot from us. This is a real problem to many people today. We are considering either lending them 100%, if necessary, on a approved home, or buying the house of their choice and renting it them, such rent being credited to them when they have enough deposit to purchase the home from us. However we doubt that Liberty Trust could afford to purchase more than a very modest home.

We believe God sees the church in the Western Nations as the breadbasket for the churches in the Third World Nations, just as we read of support for the church at Jerusalem in the Book of Acts. Presently the churches in New Zealand have not faced up to the issue of interest and debt among their members. Not only is this severely limiting giving but it is leading to serious

social problems. God's design is for generous givers (above the tithe) by people who have been set free and are debt-free.

Furthermore, we are approaching the last days, when those Christians with mortgages must surrender their hooves or receive the mark of the beast. Should churches be contributing a proportion of their income now to Trust such as ours?

What Else is Happening?

A lot. Much of it is confidential to individuals however.

A month ago Kelvin spoke to churches in Napier of Liberty Trust. At that he mentioned the situation of a single lady of 57 paying 20% interest-only (for life) on a \$20,000 mortgage and unable to find a better deal due to her age. After the meeting he was approached by a single lady of similar age who is struggling to pay 20% interest-only on a \$25,000 mortgage in the same circumstances. That is the equivalent of \$100 per week rent. There must be many others like her. She had been praying for some Christian to start a mortgage scheme!

As Trustees we have felt moved by her situation and have offered her the membership of a person who has had to resign due to her changed circumstances. It has since been confirmed that her daughter will sponsor her.

Her letter arrived when we were having difficulties in preparing mortgage documents for a particular situation, under considerable pressure on our time, and facing the uncertainty of what God was saying in regard to the alternative of accelerated mortgage repayments that I have just mentioned. It was a real joy to us to see in her letter God's hand of confirmation of the vision He has set before us.

Another matter that has caused us some concern has been the issue of a prospectus under the Securities Act. At the time when we learned of the Inland Revenue Department's acceptance of our Trust Deed as charitable, we were told by two legal sources that we were guilty of soliciting money from the public without a prospectus! Two months later however we received a most unexpected letter from a Christian solicitor in Auckland to say that Charitable Trusts are exempted by the Act from the requirement to register a prospectus. This has since been confirmed. Praise the Lord.

It reminds me of Radio Rhema's history. Each victory comes only after a battle.

What Next?

The giving of the first interest-free mortgage marks a stage of maturity as tis repayments increase the speed of our cash flow. Two more will soon follow.

We haven't received any further interest-free loans since the two when we commenced. This will be our immediate priority.

Many are asking when the next group will start. Some have had applications in since July. At this point unfortunately we can't promise a date. We are presenting evaluating several suggestions that have been made for minor changes to the next group. These require careful consideration by the Trustees. We hope a final decision can be made this month. This has been a period of frustration, joy and confirmation. We would assure those waiting that we want to see the new group commence as much as you do.

In the meantime many churches are watching our progress. The next period may see some members withdraw, who believe before the Lord that they should take advantage of the advice offered in this newsletter, and use their \$20 to accelerate their mortgage repayments. We are glad to have assisted you.

The principle object of the Trust is:

To set people free from the bondage of interest in order that they may live a Kingdom lifestyle in accordance with God's Word.

Your loss will make no difference to the time to the last ballot; - only to the amount of contributions we are able to carry forward. We are unable to refund contributions as this is beyond the powers of the Trust Deed. We hope you may be able to return, once your mortgage is paid off, and perhaps sponsor someone else. Already we have several un-sponsored contributors who will have to withdraw due to loss of employment, car repairs etc. if sponsors cannot be found.

Finally I leave you with a verse from Romans 18:8 –

Owe no one anything except to love one another.

Together with you in His service

Kelvin Deal

for the Trustees