



# LIBERTY Matters

NEWSLETTER OF LIBERTY TRUST & ARK RESOURCES

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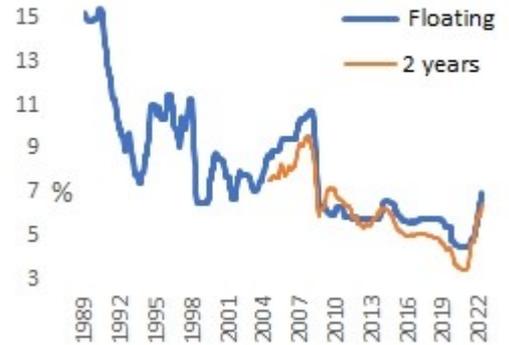
Kerryanne Dalgleish  
Evan Harvey (lending)  
Jenny McDowall

## Liberty Trust is flooded with interest as interest-rates rise

We have been providing loans for 33 years now and find some people chose to put their loans 'on hold' for a while, sometimes many years. Rather than waiting, which would slow everyone down, we offer the funds to the next in the queue which enables those in need to be blessed with interest-free loans sooner than expected.

However in the last two months, as interest-rates in NZ have really begun to climb, many of these 'on-hold' people have all requested their interest-free loans at once! Our loans officer Evan Harvey has been working very hard and in two months has approved over a year's worth of applications! We advanced 3 loans in October & hope to lend 10 this month totaling over \$2m. After that we have another 17 loans all lined up which will use our funds until early 2024. We ask for your patience as we bless these faithful people who have given and provided a blessing for so many others.

### NZ Mortgage Rates



## El Shaddai, Jehovah Jireh Lord God Almighty, the Lord Will Provide

Many years ago now we were blessed with our Liberty Trust loan and began paying off our little house in Edgecumbe. Then, needing to move for employment, we sold our house and found ourselves in the Western BOP with one income, four young children, and priced well and truly out of the housing market!

So began our rental journey, which continued with our move to the stunning Hawkes Bay a couple of years later. Several years further on, now with two steady incomes and children growing up quickly, God brought us out of the rental drought and we purchased the family home we're living in now.

Then one year ago, out of necessity, our family again dropped to one income. We grew concerned that, even though we'd paid off much of our mortgage, rising interest rates and a halved income could swamp us in debt.

Then we remembered our Liberty Trust loan. Our gracious heavenly Father has used this provision to pull us out of the reach of rising interest rates and place us firmly on the path to financial freedom again.

Thank you so much to the team at Liberty Trust who daily walk in humble obedience to God, and thank you to our gracious heavenly Father who knows precisely what is ahead and what provision his children are going to need.

Blessings to all who read this testimony, and may we all be encouraged to trust in our Great Provider whatever the future may bring. May we increasingly become channels of God's riches to those in need around us as a testimony of God's goodness, to his glory! With love and blessings,

Paul and Jenni Lassing

17 Nov 2022



## Principle 5: Biblical Lending

After giving the ten commandments to the Israelites (Ex 20), God promised to bless them if they continue to follow His commands, including:

*If you lend money to one of my people among you who is needy, do not be like a moneylender; charge him no interest. Ex 22:25.*

God repeated and further explained this in the next two books:

*Do not take interest of any kind from him, but fear your God, so that your countryman may continue to live among you. Lev 25:36.*

*If there is a poor man among your brothers in any of the town of the land that the Lord your God is giving you, do not be hardhearted or tightfisted toward your poor brother. Rather be openhanded and freely lend him whatever he needs. Deut 15:7.*

*Do not charge your brother interest, whether on money or food or anything else that may earn interest so that the Lord your God may bless you in everything you put your hand to. Deut. 23:19–20.*

So God's people were encouraged to lend to one another but were forbidden to charge interest or profit on the loans. God wants His people be free from burdensome debt (Dt 15:8, 28:12, Ps 119:45, Pr 22:7, Lk 4:18, 2 Cor 6:14, Rom 13:8, Gal 5:1,13 etc.) And lending was always to be charitable, to help those in need.

The Bible has very strong words about people who charged interest on loans (see Ez 18:8,13,17, Neh 5:7,10). Charging interest on loans was seen as the rich greedily benefiting themselves by taking advantage of the poor. Instead, we are encouraged to generously lend without interest to help others (Ps 15:5, Pr 28:8).

The principle of interest-free lending is taught & commanded throughout the Bible, it was followed by Christians until the Middle Ages and is still followed by Jews and Muslims today. It was canonised at the first Nicaea Council in 325 AD. Pope Sixtus V condemned the practice of charging interest as "Detestable to God and man, damned by the sacred canons and contrary to Christian charity."

Until this century it was still common for the older generation of each family to lend to their young people interest-free to help them into their first home without being entrapped by interest. But today we find that most adults are themselves trapped in the cycle of interest-bearing debt their entire lives, unable to break free to help others.

Liberty Trust was established in 1989 when NZ households and churches were struggling due to the exorbitant interest being charged by the world's financial systems. We knew the solution was to follow the Bible's commands.

By sowing and reaping and stewardship and working together we have been able to lend over **\$77 million** interest-free to release God's people from burdensome debt into liberty. Our vision is for debt-free liberty for every New Zealand church and home.

Some more Bible verses on biblical lending:

*Those who lend money without charging interest ...such people will stand firm forever. Ps 15:5*

*Good will come to him who is generous and lends freely, who conducts his affairs with justice. Ps 112:5*

*He who increases his wealth by exorbitant interest amasses it for another, who will be kind to the poor. Pr 28:8*

*The godly always give generous loans to others, and their children are a blessing. Ps 37:26*

*He grants loans without interest, stays away from injustice, is honest and fair when judging others. Ez 18:8*

*He withholds his hand from sin and takes no usury or excessive interest. He keeps my laws and follows my decrees. He will not die for his father's sin; he will surely live. Ez 18:17*

*You have taken interest and profits, and you have injured your neighbors for gain by oppression, and you have forgotten Me," declares the Lord God. Ez 22:12*

*"You are exacting interest, each from his brother." And I held a great assembly against them. Neh 5:7*

*I, my brothers & my servants are lending them money & grain. Let us abandon this exacting of interest. Neh 5:10*

*Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you. Mtt 5:42*

This is the fifth of seven major Bible principles we are teaching in our newsletters:  
Sowing & reaping, Stewardship, Freedom from bondage, Generosity instead of greed,  
Biblical lending, Storehouse blessing and Support for God's family.

