



# LIBERTY Matters

NEWSLETTER OF LIBERTY TRUST

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## PATRON

Ps Bruce McDonald

## TRUSTEES

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## ADMINISTRATION

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## Welcome!

A special welcome to our new contributors from Ohope, Rotorua, Raglan, Palmerston North, Auckland, Hamilton, North Shore, Queenstown, Wellington, Whakatane, Tauranga, Bulls, Avondale, Manukau, Whangarei, Ngaruawahia & Huntly. So many!

It's wonderful to have you join us.



In July 2014 we plan to hold celebrations in Auckland and Whakatane of 25 years of Liberty Trust.

We would love you all to join us and bring your friends. There will be food and speakers and opportunity for people to share how they have been blessed by God through Liberty Trust. Please let us know if you are able to assist with our preparations.



O Lord my God, you have performed many wonders for us.

Your plans for us are too numerous to list.

You have no equal.

If I tried to recite all your wonderful deeds, I would never come to the end of them.

Ps 40:5



## How did Liberty Trust begin?

Liberty Trust really began early in 1987 when an intercessor who was praying about the plight of families with mortgages received a series of instructions from God that these people should pool their resources and pay off each other's mortgages without interest. She was to tell her pastor who was also praying about this and he would put it into operation.

And so she did, and left her pastor Bruce McDonald very puzzled. But Bruce respected the nurse highly as a fearless worker among under-privileged youth. Indeed he was praying about the plight of mortgaged families in the church, who had seen their interest rate doubled to 18% or more in a matter of months. How could these people freely give to God as they desired? Bruce was convinced that debt and interest were not in accordance with God's Word.

Pastor Bruce shared the instructions with the elders of his church, Whakatane Christian Fellowship. At their suggestion a survey was conducted of mortgages within the church. They found that together the church members owed \$2 million in home mortgages. However they would pay a further \$7 million in mortgage interest over the remaining life of their mortgages! Bruce was astounded. *"Imagine if those mortgages could be replaced by a system of interest-free loans"* he reasoned, *"That's \$7 million that could be given to serve God's Kingdom, but was being taken by banks to prop up the world's system!"*

But how could they "pool resources" when money was so tight? They decided to assume that each family would contribute \$20 per week into a fund. As soon as there was enough money they would re-finance the first with an interest-free mortgage. That family would then repay their mortgage interest-free to the fund. The repayments would increase the cash flow into the fund enabling the next loan to be available sooner.

Working through the figures they found that the last contributor would receive their interest-free mortgage in twelve years. Altogether millions of dollars in interest would be saved. Best of all, the contributions would remain in the fund as foundation capital, enabling countless others following in their footsteps to receive their interest-free loan sooner. Could this be God's plan to release Christians from the bondage of mortgages and interest, in order to release them to give in financial freedom?

And so began a year of research into the biblical, financial, and legal aspects of establishing such a fund. Finally in July 1989 Liberty Trust opened with 120 applicants and five trustees. The original research was proved correct - within twelve years each of the contributing pioneers were offered their interest-free mortgage. Today we have around \$10 million in interest free circulation and a waiting queue of only ten years and almost \$30 million has been lent interest free to hundreds of Saints throughout New Zealand.

"Pooling resources to lend to each other interest free." The original vision and the truth of those simple instructions have become a reality as God has continued to bring greater clarity and purpose to His Word, and new meaning and fulfilment to Bible principles such as sowing and reaping, stewardship and community storehouses. Saints have come out of debt into liberty, free to serve the Kingdom of God instead of paying rent or mortgage forever, bringing a glorious release of finance and the promised blessing to His Church - His Kingdom in the last days.

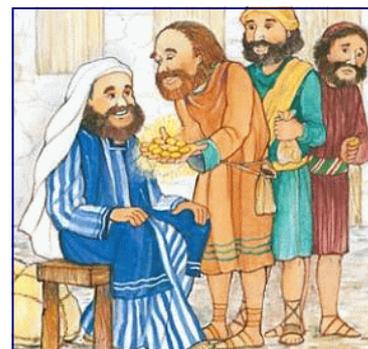
# Stewardship

Many modern translations of the Bible have changed the word 'steward' to 'manager', for ease of understanding, yet a steward in Bible times was far more than a manager. A steward was the trusted servant in a rich man's household, who enjoyed high responsibility and relative freedom to manage the estate of his master. Abraham's chief steward stood to inherit his master's estate if God hadn't miraculously provided Abraham and Sarah with a child.



In His Parable of the Talents (Matt 25 v 14), Jesus taught a simple parable that explains so much.

"Again it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to the other, one talent; each according to his ability." After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. He who had been given the five talents had put them to work and gained five more for the master. Likewise he who had two had gained two more. But the servant with one talent had dug a hole and buried it for safe keeping.



"Well done good and faithful servant." said the master to those who had doubled their talents. "You have been faithful in a few things. I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness." But to the servant who returned his one talent he replied: "You wicked lazy servant. Throw that worthless servant outside into the darkness where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Matthew chapter 25 lists several parables that teach on 'The Kingdom' that was about to be established at His death. Like all Jesus' parables, this one had a hidden meaning which becomes clear as we think about it. The key to the metaphor was the identity of the man going on the journey. The man is Jesus, and his servants – they are ourselves. And 'the talents' – they are symbolic of our various giftings and abilities, entrusted to us to be used in the our service to the Master.

This story has become so well known that in the English language we have even adopted the word 'talents' which referred to the coinage of the day, to mean giftings'.

It's a simple illustration of a profound truth. Jesus is saying that He is going to a far country (to be with his 'Father') for a time, and will return. In the meantime He is lending us various giftings, to some more than others, to be invested for his Kingdom until he returns. We are each created differently with different giftings, for the purpose of building His Kingdom.

To my mind the two most important facts Jesus taught were:

1. Our abilities and accomplishments are not ours, no matter much we pridefully claim them to be.
2. One day we must hand them all back to him. We will be accountable for what we have done with what He has given us.

These abilities and giftings include our money, health, skills, education, possessions, family heritage and culture, intelligence, spiritual giftings, friends, God's unique calling for each of us, etc.

So, don't compare yourself with others. Thank God for what He has given you. Recognise that your life is His, and that He chose and equipped you for a particular role in the building of His Kingdom.

Best wishes, Kelvin

Christmas Blessings  
From all at Liberty Trust



Kelvin Deal  
Chairman

