



LIBERTY Matters

NEWSLETTER OF LIBERTY TRUST

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Post: P.O. Box 2211
Whakatane, NZ
Ph: 07 308 4187
A/h: 07 307 0444
Fax: 07 308 6308
Email: info@libertytrust.org.nz
Web: www.libertytrust.org.nz

TRUSTEES

Kelvin Deal
Chartered Accountant
Mark Langridge
Info Services Manager
Colleen Medwin
Teacher
Tom McDowall
Operations Manager
Jonathan Segedin
Master Builder
Robert Cleland
Dairy Farmer

Treasurer & Admin:
Kerryanne Dalgleish
Accountant

Administrator:
Kathleen Deal
Office Administrator



Welcome to 2004! We hope you had an enjoyable Christmas celebration with your family and are all relaxed and ready for what looks like a great New Year. We would like to welcome to our community Rori from Hamilton, Alison from Te Puke, Sylvia from Auckland and David & Kathryn from Upper Hutt - see below.

We expect to be welcoming many more new contributors once word leaks out about changes the Trustees are presently considering.

Kelvin, Kathleen and others will be presenting Liberty Trust to the wider Body of Christ at the Parachute Global Village at Mystery Creek, Hamilton from January 23-26, so point your friends in our direction and if you are in the neighbourhood please come and say Giddyay, we'd love to meet you.

After years as missionaries and pastors of small churches we are for the first time in our lives now able to save - I lecture at a Bible college and Kath is assistant pastor at a local Baptist Church.

We want to have a home for our retirement and have a base for our missionary son and family. We have just bought a house close to the church and are excited about all the opportunities for hospitality, prayer and discipling that it will bring.

We have a great concern not to pay any more interest into the bank, but that our resources as far as possible should be used for the Kingdom. I am really hoping we can get others in the church interested in Liberty Trust over the next year or so. There seems little awareness of 'Kingdom' ways of doing things.

Thanks for your help

David and Kath Wells



A recent survey by Tower found that over half of 18—34 year old New Zealanders say they are particularly worried about money. In Auckland more than 70 percent of young people say they frequently worry about the cost of owning their own home and the amount of debt they have.

NZ Herald 22/11/03 C28

*Commit your works
to the Lord,
and your thoughts
will be established.*

Proverbs 16 v 3



With increasing income
let your standard of
giving rise
not your standard of
living

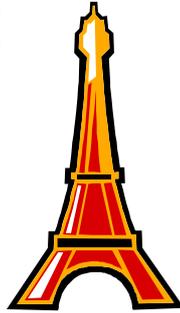
Earn much
Consume little
Hoard nothing
Give generously
Celebrate Life



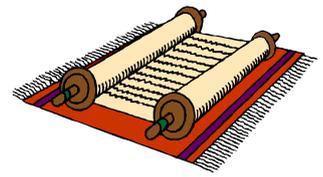
Brian Hathaway, Bible College of New Zealand Principal and Liberty Trust advisor until his recent Passing to Glory

Consider the Cost; Who are You Serving?

For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it—lest after he has laid the foundation, and is not about to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish’. Luke 14 v 28

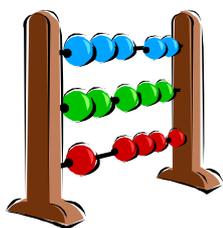


Proverbs 22 v 7b tells us "the borrower is servant to the lender". 2 Corinthians 6 verse 14 warns "Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers".



These counsels can be testified to by brothers and sisters all around the world unable to borrow from secular sources without exorbitant conditions imposed because of their beliefs.

You have borrowed as much as the banks allowed and bought a lovely house with affordable repayments over the next 25 years. Have you fully considered the cost? What would happen if the interest rate on your loan increased to 10% or even 18% like it did in NZ in 1988?



What would happen to your church giving? Would you still be able to afford your mortgage repayments? What would happen if you couldn't? Can you trust your bank to sell your home at a fair price?

In 1988, when New Zealand interest rates soared to 18-22%, many New Zealanders discovered that the easily-managed mortgage they thought they had, was now crippling them financially. Giving dropped and missionaries had to return home as churches could no longer support them. Virtually overnight, many families could no longer cope and were forced to sell their homes in order to pay back their mortgages. The Auckland residential property market fell dramatically due to the number of forced sales. Some, who had purchased on low deposit, found that their house was worth less than their mortgage! Yet at the time they took out their mortgage they could easily make the repayments.

The cost of contributing to Liberty Trust is fixed. It will not change due to world instability or rising interest rates for we do not borrow at interest to lend. The Trustees donate their time and make no profit for themselves. Our costs amount to about 2.5% of the contributions we receive. The other 97.5c of every dollar contributed is lent interest free empowering New Zealand families, ministries and churches to give in greater measure to God's Kingdom.

Many banks and lending institutions prey on the vulnerable. We have needed to rescue more than one elderly widow locked into dreadfully high interest-only mortgages that were crippling them. We have had the pleasure of lending to families and church building projects unable to borrow through secular means. We understand and support churches and their vision for the lost. We are not governed by the pursuit of profit but by God's principles of love and helping each other.

Liberty Trust began with nothing but a mandate from God and has raised almost \$3 million of resources for God's purposes. We have lent this once interest free, received it back and re-lent it again building a storehouse and a heritage for further generations.

We have also been able to donate to many NZ ministries such as Churches Education Commission (Bible in Schools), Family Education Network (School Chaplains etc.), Radio Rhema, Grapevine Magazine, ministries to at-risk groups, and local & overseas Mission activities as recommended by NZ churches, as well as supporting NZ churches in times of need (such as recovery after fires).



There are no compromises when it comes to the principles in God's Word. Have you considered the full possible cost of your home? Are you borrowing from the right sources? How are your payments benefiting the Kingdom of God? When God says "Consider the cost", "Do not be unequally yoked" and "The borrower is servant to the lender" you had better believe Him. He knows.

"I shall walk in Liberty because I follow Your Principles." Psalm 119 v 45