



# LIBERTY *Matters*

NEWSLETTER OF LIBERTY TRUST

March 2008  
Vol. 2, no. 35

P.O. Box 2211  
Whakatane, NZ  
0800 Lib Trust  
info@libertytrust.org.nz  
www.libertytrust.org.nz

## TRUSTEES

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**Jonathan Segedin**  
Building Sales

**Colleen Medwin**  
Senior Teacher

**Tom McDowall**  
Operations Manager

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Dear friends

We are pleased to welcome new members from Hamilton, Tauranga, Te Awamutu, Palmerston North, Kaikohe and Whakatane.

Kelvin & Kathleen have recently returned from Congress 08 in Waikanae where they spoke with other New Zealand church leaders, and were very pleased with the response received.

Biblically orthodox teaching that we can lend to one another without interest and enable each other to become debt free is always welcome news indeed.

## *Kelvin's Comment:*

Liberty Trust is going well. Almost every month we are achieving new levels of membership, cashflow and lending through Ark Resources Ltd, although we have temporarily stopped our magazine and Radio Rhema advertising. And every month we receive more testimonies of how God has used Liberty Trust to bless His people—we have 130 wonderful testimonies on our website and too many photos to fit on our walls.

It's very tempting to now sit back and put the ministry onto auto-pilot—enjoying the fruits of our labour. Why not take it easy from now on, avoiding the stress and cost of life on the edge? In reply God clearly says "I have far more ahead if you choose to accept the challenge".

Although our present growth is most encouraging the need in New Zealand is immense. With traditionally the highest interest rates in the developed world NZ Christians are saddled with a huge burden—spending most of their working lives paying rent or a mortgage, unable to serve God as they desire. Young people are faced with paying over \$500,000 in rent or mortgage interest. Rising interest rates cause many to fear that they will be forced out of their homes. But after 19 years of operations we are still amazed at how few Christians have even heard of Liberty Trust. We have no hope of helping every NZ Christian and setting them free from debt on our own.

1 Corinthians 2:9 says "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him." In June 2007 I shared with the trustees a message from Paul de Jong teaching that the Bible never calls us to be only successful. "Success" is an illusionary goal, the hunger for which can never bring permanent satisfaction. Instead we are all called to achieve "significance" for the Kingdom. Significance is permanent and fulfilling. The best way to achieve significance, he said, is to multiply yourself through your children, in both the natural and spiritual. Does Liberty Trust have children?

Liberty Trust's next goal must be to replicate itself through the churches so that all of God's people have the opportunity to be set free. We are currently discussing with some senior church leaders the birthing of "Liberty Trusts" in their denominations. This doesn't mean that we will change in any way our present growth and direction. But it does mean that we must continue to be transparent and open to searching questions. Those who are parents know that raising children is challenging and time-consuming.

Today the economy is struggling with rising living costs and mortgage interest rates of around 10%, share market decline, uncertainty in the housing market, a surprise government deficit and a world-wide credit

## News

All your contributions from 1 April 2008 will be regarded as charitable donations so that you can receive a cash refund of 33% from the Inland Revenue at the end of each financial year - instead of the LT rebate after 10 years. You can use the IRD refund in any way you wish eg. invest for a greater return, repay debt, save, spend, add to your LT contributions, or give to another ministry.

To find out more see Jan 08 newsletter or contact us.



**Kelvin Deal**  
Chairman

crisis. The collapse of many major finance and investment companies have affected thousands of Kiwis who have lost about \$1 billion so far, leaving some investors frightened they will lose their homes.

All this seems like a flashback to 1989 when Liberty Trust first commenced—the share market had crashed, the economy was in recession, wages had fallen, unemployment was high, and home owners were struggling with interest rates of around 18%! Sceptics predicted we wouldn't last 12 months. We were also opposed by many Christians who claimed that the church shouldn't be involved in finance!

All this financial uncertainty proves again the value of a robust and independent Biblical storehouse. We can have confidence knowing that we walk with liberty when we follow God's principles (Psalm 119:45) instead of relying on man's shaky systems. Stewardship of our resources, working together, providing freedom to the captives, sowing & reaping, lending to each other without interest, and supporting God's family are unchanging principles of God—and bring great liberty to God's people.

Finally I am reminded that none of the great heroes of faith in Hebrews chapter 11 ever saw the fulfilment of their vision in their lifetime. I don't expect that you and I will be any different. Thank you for partnering with us and for your prayers.

*Kelvin*

## ***From the News:***

### **Homes further 'Out of Reach' and Bank Profits Increase**

Twenty years ago, almost 74 per cent of Kiwi households owned their home, but that fell to just 67 per cent by 2006, according to the Centre for Housing Research, a research agency set up by the Housing Corporation.

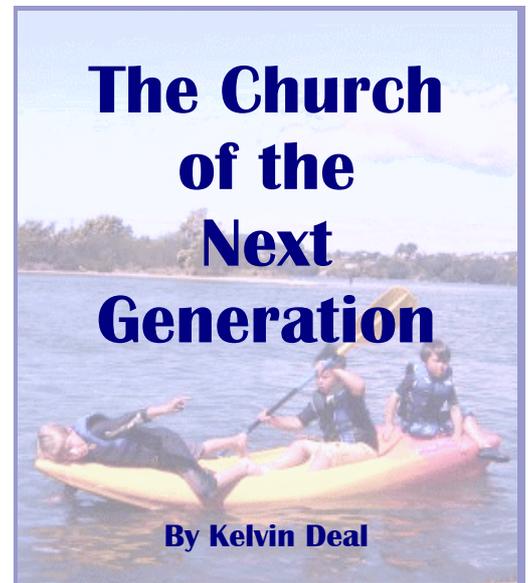
A doubling in median house prices since 2002 and the worst interest rates in a decade are pushing the dream of buying a home further out of reach - especially for the poor, young and single and most of all, single parents.

Fewer people under 40 are buying their own homes. They are also taking longer to do so - and it is costing them relatively more, according to Professor Philip Morrison, author of the report.

More people are buying homes in multi-unit blocks, which in the past were usually occupied by renters. Others are buying farther out of town and accepting a longer commute to work - a trend that has grown in the past five years.

With each successive generation, the home ownership rate is falling, the report shows. Buyers are putting off purchasing, but when they do buy, they still are not meeting the previous generation's rate of ownership.

More and more people are being forced to wait till they are well over 40 before buying a home. Even



*"The Bible contains the financial principles which will enable the Church to triumph."*

Kelvin has recently published a 40 page book addressing the challenge of training our next generation. Contact us to order.

*For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a future and a hope.  
Jeremiah 29:11*



then, they have to make do with a smaller home, with interest payments taking an ever larger share of their income, according to NZ First MP Pita Paraone. The fall in home ownership was further evidence of the "housing affordability crisis", he said.

Highly profitable big banks raised fixed and floating mortgage rates this week to their highest levels in a decade, increasing the financial pain for borrowers. Banks say overseas borrowing costs are going up because of the international credit crunch. Rates are up about 2 per cent from two years ago: fixed rates are rapidly approaching 10 per cent and floating rates are close to 11 per cent, making borrowing even more difficult.

The median house price has doubled in the past six years to more than \$350,000 by late last year. However, the median price has slipped about \$12,000 in the past two months, but even with that drop, buying a home was out of reach for many first-time buyers and the poor, Mr Paraone said.

On Monday, ANZ National announced underlying profit of \$300 million for just three months, up 12 per cent on a year before.

JAMES WEIR - The Dominion Post | 1 Mar 2008

