



LIBERTY *Matters*

NEWSLETTER OF LIBERTY TRUST

April 2010
Vol. 2, no. 43

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

TRUSTEES

Kelvin Deal (Chairman)
Chartered Accountant

Jonathan Segedin
Building Sales

Colleen Medwin
Senior Teacher

Tom McDowall
Operations Manager

Robert Cleland
Dairy armer

ADMINISTRATION

Jenny McDowall
Info & Promotions

Kerryanne Dalglish
Secretary

Kathleen Deal
Administrator

Mark Langridge
Computer Modeling

Dear friends

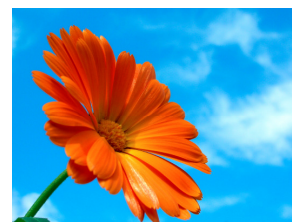
Greetings in the lovely name of Jesus.

A big welcome to the those who have joined us since our November newsletter from Waitara, Massey, Whakatane, Waitakere, Manukau, Opotiki, Rotorua, Kaiapoi, Wellington, Wairoa, Tauranga, Christchurch, Waiatarua, Torbay, Glendowie, New Lynn, Mt Eden, Russell & Christchurch, Wellington, Waitoa & North Shore. It is wonderful to have you part of our ministry.

We will be sending annual statements and receipts in May. We encourage you to send these receipts to the Inland Revenue Department in order to claim a donations tax rebate.

We were approved as a donee charity by the Inland Revenue in 1989 and again by the Charities Commission in 2007 and are in the process of another review at present. We are confident we meet the charitable criteria and ask for your prayers as we go through this review.

TV3 approached us recently wishing to include Liberty Trust in their Easter news stories. We asked if this could be postponed until May when the charities commission review should be complete. Until now our publicity has been limited to Shine TV, Radio Rhema, magazines, church meetings and various Christian events such Parachute and Promise Keepers so this is definitely new territory for us. We would ask again for your prayers that our story be told accurately and to the glory of God. These are exciting days!



The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor.

He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives & release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.

Is 61:1-2a

Does the Bible Forbid Borrowing?

Many churches and leading Bible teachers persist in teaching that Christians should not enter into debt. They are misleading their people, and bringing those presently with debt into false condemnation, by falsely teaching that Romans 13 v 8 is referring to "money". In doing that they ignore the message that Paul is teaching in the first half of the chapter and teach verse 8 out of its context. For a Bible teacher, that is inexcusable. Yet unfortunately it seems indicative of the general standard of teaching of the Bible's financial principles, world-wide.

This week an honest soul has emailed Liberty Trust to say that we are wrong to be encouraging debt by lending on house purchases. This couple wants a house of their own, and is praying that God will give them a miracle without borrowing. Otherwise, she says, they won't get one but will remain renting all their lives.

The plain fact is, no-where in the Bible does it say we shouldn't borrow. Nor does God even address a person who is considering borrowing. Instead the Bible frequently commands and encourages us to lend to assist others (Deut 15:28, Deut 28:12, Ps 37:26, Ps 112:5, Mtt 5:42).



Kelvin Deal
Chairman

Good will come to him who is generous and lends freely.

Ps 112:5a

Continued on page 2

Does the Bible Forbid Borrowing? *Continued from page 1*

Ownership of a house was seen as a basic necessity in the Bible but people did not normally borrow to buy a home. Instead every newlywed couple was typically given a house by the husband's family, apart from the Levites, the aliens, the fatherless and the widows who were supported by the community tithe (Deut. 14:28).

If the poor had no family support then it was up to others (the righteous) to assist them by giving and lending without profit or interest as a charitable act. We know that lending was widespread in Bible times because the Bible commands many times that lending should always be without interest (Deut 23:19, Pr 28:8, Neh 5:11). Lending was also short-term to enable the borrower to become debt free as soon as possible. Interest-free lending to one's fellowmen was practiced throughout the Bible and into the early middle ages in Europe, and continues in many ethnic communities around the world today.

Although the Bible never tells us "not to borrow", it clearly warns in Proverbs 22 v 7 that *"the borrower is slave to the lender"* and in Corinthians 6:14 – 17 that we are not to be *"yoked with unbelievers"*. Debt was definitely not to be entered into lightly or with the wrong people.

So would it be preferable to rent a home instead of borrowing for a home? With a mortgage you typically borrow hundreds of thousands of dollars from a money lender (bank) to buy a home then pay interest for much of your remaining life. When renting you typically borrow a house worth hundreds of thousands of dollars from a house lender (landlord), and pay rent for the remainder of your life. The same Bible principles of borrowing (Prov. 22:7 and 2 Cor. 6:14 above) obviously apply both to borrowing a house and to borrowing money for a house. Also, the money lender has the power to change their interest rates, ask for their loan to be repaid and, if you default on the contract, they may sell the property (mortgagee sale). The house lender has the power to restrict the number of occupants, conduct inspections, change the rent, make & prevent alterations, ask the tenants to move out, or to sell the property—whether or not you default on the agreement! The principles of debt can't be avoided by renting instead of borrowing for a home.

God instructed us in 1988 to build a storehouse to enable His people to borrow for homes interest-free, in order to release people from debt into liberty ASAP, in order to be better able to serve Him. Why? – *"To prepare God's people for works of service so that the body of Christ may be built up etc."* (Eph. 4 12) In Christ' words: *"He has sent me to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives, and release from darkness for the prisoners"*.

God wants us to have genuine liberty. Instead of God's people repaying mortgages until well after their retirement or renting throughout their whole lifetimes we should follow the Bible's instructions and lend to each other interest-free. Both long-term borrowing and renting are a source of marital, health & family stress, a huge waste of hundreds of thousands of dollars and a denial of the principle of "stewardship" of God's gifts. Furthermore, both could severely restrict the ability of His Church in the future to fulfil The Great Commission. Churches of the future could be filled with people who are unable to give freely of their time and money for the extension of the kingdom because they are crippled by financial stress, locked into a relationship with their lenders which could have been avoided by the simple principle of "Sowing and Reaping". It is a frightening picture, but one that I am confident will not take place.

By borrowing without interest whole generations can be set free. We are literally seeing this in practice as we give, share, lend and assist others for His Kingdom. Praise God.

They [the righteous] are always generous and lend freely.

Ps 37:26a

The rich rule over the poor & the borrower is slave to the lender.

Prov 22:7b

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free.

Stand firm then and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

Gal 5:1

We seek to teach & demonstrate the Bible's financial principles in order to assist those in financial difficulty, relieve financial burdens & advance the Kingdom of God.

