

POSSESSING THE LAND

INSPIRE

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Because of the present space we are in at Life church, I thought I would write a letter to encourage myself in acquiring a property that will house all the work and ministry we are involved within our community. But you can apply this message to whatever aspect of life you are endeavouring to believe God in. When I preached this message on a Sunday, an older lady said that it spoke to her concerning her health, she was believing God for. Another bloke said that it was a word for his company he was building and yet to another couple it was for the house they were wanting to buy. For me it was to simply purchase a chunk of real estate to house the progressive vision of Life Church/Soul Cafe.

THE PROMISE LAND

It led me to read the story of Israel possessing the promise land. It was called the promise land because it was simply a plot of land God had promised them. That is what it is to you, something God has promised you whether by word or by spirit but it is something God has put in your heart. But even though you have been promised it, you will still need to move in and take possession of it. Within the story of Israel possessing the land, it gives us keys and principles of possessing our inheritance.

1. Check Out the Land

"See what the land is like and whether the people who live there are strong or weak, few or many." Numbers 13:18

"Go, walk through the length and breadth of the land, for I am giving it to you." Genesis 13:17

Walk, drive, look and pray through the land. Get a feel of it, let God speak to you, prepare yourself for the challenges by measuring them up and checking them out. There has been numbers of times when I've gone into buildings and God has spoken to me or confirmed something with me. The very first building I ever leased—my spirit jumped when I first walked into it. I remember checking out a building

in the South of my city and as I walked in one empty building I could clearly see it as the COC church who had to set up each week in a community hall. I phoned the minister instantly and said I'm standing in your new building—they eventually leased it, I was that excited for him I sent him an offering toward it and got to preach in there numerous times as well. I remember the second church I planted, I was driving around praying and looking for a building when I drove down this Swan Street and just knew the building was in that street somewhere, so I phoned the real estate that was looking for a building for us and asked if there was a building in this particular street for us. He said there is one that just came up for lease for \$1200 per week. I said: *"great we will take it for \$700 a week."* and we got it. It is like God moves as you move, even if it is just in the testing of the waters or a getting a feel and sense of the place.

2. Speak Positive not Negative.

"And they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored." Numbers 13:32.

Let's speak well of the future. Let's speak faith into what God can do and will do. Let the weak say I am strong, let the poor say I am rich. Let's speak of who God is and what God can do. It is like our humanity is bent towards negativity or we like the problem to get more air space.

The only problem is when your constantly hearing the negative reports, you start believing them and then you start buying into them and before you know it your defeated. I personally hate hearing the negative and a constant confession of the problem. It is not that I am scared of hearing and facing the facts, we all must face the facts. We need to hear the problems and challenges or we will be in denial otherwise and believe in a false faith.

I love what it says about Abraham in Romans 4:19: *"without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his*

body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah's womb was also dead."

He faced the facts, but he believed the truth. He didn't meditate or confess the facts over and over again or give ear to those that did, he simply faced them or acknowledged them—but then he believed the truth of what God had said and had promised.

Whatever you meditate on you will start to speak out. Whatever you speak out—you will begin to act out. Whatever you act out will become a pattern of living which will in time determine your destiny and future—so *"meditate on whatever is good, positive, praiseworthy, word based, wholesome and of good report."* Philippians 4:8.

3. Be Strong & Courageous

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

We all must rise up and be strong and courageous in the Lord—to step out in our giving and living—to be like Calab who was like a tenacious but terrier. I will never forget being over at a mates place one day and for a party trick he got his bull terrier to bit onto a piece of wood then hung it on the clothes line where it remained for 1/2 hour—what a stubborn and determined dog! Caleb actually means dog like. I mean check out his bull terrier language in Numbers 13:30: *"Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said: "We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it." or in Joshua 14:11-12: "I am still as strong today as the day Moses sent me out; I'm just as vigorous to go out to battle now as I was then. Now give me this hill country that the Lord promised me that day."*

What a gun for God. We need to get a bit of that grunt kind of

attitude into our faith. I sometimes think we are way to user friendly and politically correct. Sometimes we need to break out and do something daring and dangerous that extends the kingdom of God. Matthew 11:12.

4. Move out—Move on!

“Early in the morning Joshua and all the Israelites set out from SHITTIM, before crossing over.” Joshua 3:1

When your at a place called SHITTIM (a place between the promised land and the wilderness) this is when shift needs to happen! The need to move on and out is vital unless we want to remain in a Rut. A rut is a position you can get stuck in for various reasons—that is why God said to Joshua **“Move out”**.

“You are to move out from your positions.” Joshua 3:3

Move out from your positions—comfortable, traditional, easy position we can get stuck in at times. That’s one of the reasons. God said to Joshua “take off your shoes, those shoes had been with them for 40 years plus as God had supernaturally sustained them. All the shoe companies

would have gone out of business. Those shoes spoke of the way they had always walked and if they were going to go where they had never gone then they had to think like they had never thought! You are going to have to move like you have never moved, so remove those old shoes!

5. Faith

“Then you will know which way to go, since you have never been this way before.” Joshua 3:4

What an unusual verse! It is called faith—going where you have never gone, doing what you have never done. The bible is full of stories on just that. Let’s get with the program. It’s called faith. It’s the way God operates. It’s His way He moves which is different than our ways, higher than our ways. Isaiah 55:9...It’s called the faith way. The substance of things not seen. The assurance of things we are believing for. To move and operate with God, this is how we must work, going places we have never gone, doing things we have never done, calling things that are not as though they are! Romans 4:17: *“As it is written: “I have made you a father of many nations.” He is our father in the sight of God,*

in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.”

6. Get Ready

In Joshua 3:5, Joshua told the people: *“consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the lord will do amazing things among you.”* May we all do our part of commitment, sacrifice and preparation to move into what God has got for us. That is some of what consecrate means—it is a letting go of. It could be taking a hold of, it could be a laying down, it could be a picking up. It could be a sacrifice or a commitment to, but whatever it is, you will know what God is calling on you to do. It is God preparing, equipping, training and getting you ready to move into what He is about to bring you into.

P o s s e s s y o u r
i n h e r i t a n c e !

Kevin

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Real Life Stories From Life Church

"Where the Rubber Hits the Road"

Well it's farewell to 15 Denison St after eight years of serving over 250,000 meals with dignity and respect to some of our city's highly disadvantaged ,made up of:

- The mentally ill;
- The substance addicted;
- The released prisoner (of which Newcastle is the 3rd highest in the country);
- The homeless person ,made up of the rough sleepers to the couch surfer ;
- The struggling pensioner, the battler, the lonely, the forgotten of our community.

Alongside of Soul Café, a hotspot among the city's needy, we have in our building weekly:

- Legal Aid have assisted 100's of clients that legal matters beyond their ability to comprehend;
- Soul Clinic (volunteer doctors & nurses) have assisted 100s of people that might not of generally made contact with a doctor ;
- Centerlink have provided assistance to the same in accessible proximity;
- Counseling has been made available to a group of people that could have never afforded this service or maybe even considered it;
- Life Houses where we have assisted dozens of men not just with accommodation but teaching them to be accommodatable;
- Recovery Groups all operate out of Soul Cafe, such as Alcoholics Anonymous (everyday), Gamblers Anonymous (weekly).

All the meals and services are but MEDIUMS that allow us to engage with people on a bigger level, endeavoring to lift them to greater levels of living and wellbeing, of which we have many success stories.

I could tell you about.... Big Mick, who says that Soul Cafe saved him from death, with a huge drinking habit and mental illness Mick was on a track to nowhere. Today his life tells another story since connecting to Soul Cafe. He is happily married to Wendy, they have bought their own house, and I consider them personal friends and two of our greatest volunteers.

Then there's navy Mick, similar story, spilt more beer than you and I have ever drank. He found sobriety, community and purpose at Soul Cafe running a little library. There is Tom with severe mental conditions who has found a haven of hope through life house and the strength to move forward in his studies. Tom has not attempted suicide since connecting to Soul Cafe.

There's Tony who has exited life house after a year and a half. Now with his own compass house, money in his bank and a fresh lease on life, Tony is a new man, and I could tell you of dozens more. Yes there are failures and unsuccessful stories, when you deal with a fragile group of people. This will always be the case, that's why Soul Cafe is vital in our community. We work with those who can't, just avoid or maybe have forgotten.



Boys from Toogoolawa School serving in Soul Cafe

We Have Moved

Venue 1 1/43 Denison St Carrington
A church in the community for the community
Soul Café - Breakfast: 7.30am - 8.30am—Friday & Saturday,
Lunches: Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday: 11.30am - 12.30pm
Soul Church Service - Thursday 10:30am to 11:30am
A.A - 7 days per week : 1:00pm to 2:30pm
G.A - Wednesdays: 2:30pm to 4:00pm
Legal Aid - Tuesdays: 12:00pm to 1:00pm
Centre Link - Tuesday fortnightly: from 12.00pm
Soul Clinic Dr Surgery - Tuesdays or Wednesdays: 11:30am to 1:00pm
Counselling - Mondays: 10.00am to 3:00pm

Venue 2
Wallsend Baptist Church
Cowper Street, Wallsend
We're about unity
Soul Café
Lunches:
 Monday & Thursday:
 12.30pm - 1.30pm

Venue 4
 (3rd Sunday of each month)
Pub Church
The Kent Hotel
Beaumont St, Hamilton
Held monthly from
6pm - 7.30pm
We are about
uncluttered Christianity

Venue 3
A church for everyone
Come as you are
CHURCH SERVICES
Mayfield Sport
& Recreation Club
50 Crebert St Mayfield
Sunday 9.30am Service



PUB CHURCH
UPSTAIRS IN THE LIVING ROOM
@ THE KENT HOTEL



BEAUMONT ST
HAMILTON
2 BEER SERVICE



17TH JULY

Artist: **CHRIS ISAAC**

Mel will be sharing on acceptance
 An offering will be taken to
 sponsor Philippines Children



OzReach

P.O. Box 2021, Dangar NSW 2309

www.ozreach.org

We are simply a kingdom of God based ministry that wants to provide fellowship, connection and influence for ministers, leaders of ministries, business owners and managers. Anyone wanting to know more about connecting to Ozreach as a group of churches, contact: **Kevin Wilcock on 0407 467 798**

Email: info@lifechurch.org.au

INCARNATE



Billy Kennedy

Is the Team Leader at New Community Church in Southampton, England. Beyond this he serves as friend & advisor to a variety of churches and Christian organisations including 24-7 prayer, Pioneer Team and Christian band, Delirious. Billy married Caroline, and has 3 teenage children David, Erin and Daniel. He plays golf regularly, holds a season ticket for Southampton Football Club, enjoys cooking and entertaining and would like to try his hand at a whole host of other things but time, money and energy always seems to work against him.



Building local missional churches

20th to 22nd October 2011

Mayfield Sport & Recreation Club
50 Crebert Street, Mayfield

Kevin has pioneered and pastored a number of growing churches. Kevin's realness and ability to relate to the Australian culture has allowed him to travel extensively across the nation and beyond.



Kevin Wilcock



John Robinson, in the beginning of his life, was taken into care at 4 months old. He was mostly left in abusive foster homes. At 14 he was sent to a detention centre for arson. John gravitated to a life of crime. John is now involved in Prison Ministry and working with street kids in Thailand and is the author of "Nobody's child."

Nikki has an amazing story, one of transformation from a life of drug addiction to a life of serving Jesus through what is probably one of



Nikki Correia

Australia's most Incarnational expressions of the local church. Her past has given her the understanding of others and her connection to God gives her the power to influence them. Look for 'Soul Café' on Facebook.

To register for this conference, print off the attached brochure and either email your details to:
info@lifechurch.org.au
 or fax to: **4961 0212**

FRIENDS IN MINISTRY

Soul Business with Tim Owen

Friday 26th August 2011 at Tuggerah Lakes

with Tim Hannah:

Tim has pastored a large church in Brisbane and now oversees Compassion Australia, a major Missional organisation, but maybe his most outstanding achievement is having and raising nine children. So Tim comes with plenty of experience.



We are going to be running a very simple but inspirational business gathering where we will simply meet ;
in a nice venue,
enjoy some nice wine and food,
hear from someone who has got the runs on the board.



Tim Owen speaking on leadership

- Served in the Royal Australian Air Force, rising to the rank of Air Commodore and Deputy Commander in Iraq and Afghanistan.
- Became CEO of CI Agent Solutions, who provide oil-spill solutions to the defence and aerospace industry sector.
- Now Liberal Party Member for Newcastle.

22 Adelaide Street, Tumby Umbi at 6:30pm.

Bookings are essential—Cost \$10.00.

To book phone: 02 4388 9145

Pizza and drinks will be served at 8:00pm

Meeting @ Carrington Place, 132 Young St Carrington

On 17th August 2011 from 6.30pm - 8.00pm

Wine & Cocktail Menu Cost: \$60.00 (limit of 22)

To book Phone 4961 0211

KEVIN'S TRAVEL

JULY

21—23 Mackay
(Business Meetings)



AUGUST

1-3 U.S.A
3-8 Cuba
9-14 Lebanon
14-15 Dubai
(To be confirmed)

SEPTEMBER

3-5 Tasmania
18 Central Coast

NOVEMBER

27 Nowra

OCTOBER

8-9 Mittagong
28-30 Campbelltown

 **GlobeReach** one of the works we support overseas

FJI—Peter & Jill Schultz

A SACRED TRUST

A life sentence in Fiji starts at 15 years and so it's a privilege to now be invited to work with the eight 'lifers' in the Women's Prison.

Operation Foundation has been asked to begin a long-term restorative ministry to each of these eight women.

It is a commitment that will work in harmony with the other activities that have begun in the prison. To undertake such a work is a 'Sacred Trust', first to the inmate, their family, the victims family and the community

Later this month we have a 'Week of Craft' in the Women's Prison. Karen Durbin and Sue Fryer are coming heavy laden with all sorts of delightful resources. The women inmates and officers are counting down the days with great excitement.



Jill Schultz

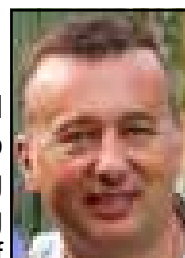
ENCOURAGING FAMILIES

Arriving in a village to bring a message from a 'lost' son in prison is a challenging and delightful experience. Tears are shared as we help mend the broken connections and step past the shame, encouraging families to take their place in the restoration of their son.

The result is often the commencement of family visits to the inmate in prison, changes of attitudes and the re-establishment of the father in the life of his son. It is never a drive or effort wasted.

RESTORING LIVES

G.R. is an ex-inmate and has 'stuffed-up' and so every Tuesday morning you'll find us sitting together over a cup of coffee. I'm mostly listening and from time to time challenging his perceptions or understandings.



Peter Schultz

At other times I'm encouraging him to continue on this straight and narrow path. Anger, rebellion and unforgiveness are common themes and there is always a plenty of life material to work with.

The privilege of working with G.R. is that underlying the anger, rebellion and unforgiveness is a tremendous passion and zeal for Jesus. Is it worth the patient effort? I believe so!

OUR PRAYERS

- ♦ Increased local staffing
- ♦ Strengthening of the ministry in Nasinu & Women prisons
- ♦ The 8 women life inmates and our relations with them.

Peter & Jill Schultz

Email: peter@operationfoundation.org.fj