

Inspire

Wisdom from the Wealthiest Person Ever Lived

Wealth and riches are something I never really pursue or run after. But whenever I am with people that have created wealth around themselves and not so much inherited it I ask questions. I try to learn something, listen to their stories of wealth creation and endeavour to take something home that I can apply to my world on a smaller scale.

Something of their success run on a similar field like the qualities of risk taking, being a tough business person, being generous and investing in property. Take a look at McDonalds. Even though fast food is what they sell, you would have to say that today they're into property as they own some of the best real estate in the world.

The Richest Man Who Ever Lived

We have at our fingertips the story of Solomon, the richest man who ever lived. His life history and quotes can be found in Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs, 2Chronicles and 1 Kings. In a single year, just in his gold business alone, he earned 666 talents, 40,000lb or 18,125 kg which is valued in today's market as 600 million dollars.

For thirteen years he was into the construction business, building some of the most elaborate buildings of his day. He built an incredible army with 1,400 chariots and 12,000 horsemen. He built one of the greatest fleets that traded with and explored the world.

He built copper mines, smelters and refineries.

He wrote 3,000 proverbs which made him a psychologist.

He wrote 1005 psalms, which made him a psalmist.

He owned his own private zoo, which made him a zoologist.

He studied plant life, which made him a botanist.

He owned gold, silver and precious gems, which made him a geologist.

He was wealthy, which made him an economist.

He had 800 wives, which made him a very busy man. (Bet you thought I was going to say gynaecologist).

Need I say that he lived in a big world, so when it comes to wealth creation we can learn much from Solomon. Let's look at some of his keys to wealth creation:

KEYS TO WEALTH CREATION

1. Create in yourself the right motivation

In 2Chronicles 7:12 it speaks of God asking Solomon what he most wanted in life. Solomon asked for wisdom and knowledge to lead the people under his care. God was so blessed by Solomon's heart that He said: "I will not only give you your request for wisdom and knowledge but with it wealth, riches and honour."

When we keep a good heart, things go well. Real prosperity is not just a matter of money, power and position. It is about having a good heart. When our heart is in the right place all these other things are just naturally added to us as well. I think there is a verse on that: "But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well." Luke 12:31

Paul mentioned in 1Corinthians 9:7 that it is not just a matter of giving but giving with the right heart—not reluctantly or because you have to, but because you love to.

When there is wrong motivation, it is a rot that will corrupt the whole lot. In 1Timothy 6:9-10 it says: "People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs."

The word "want, love or eager" for money is the downfall of these people.

2. Honour the Lord

"Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.." Proverbs 3:9-10

I find it fascinating that our church is given free food to feed 700 a week to the needy and free wine for our Jazz events.

There are three ways we can honour the Lord.

Firstly, we honour the Lord by acknowledging Him: "You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me." But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your forefathers, as it is today."

We acknowledge Him for the ability wisdom, blessing and health He has given us to produce wealth.

Secondly, we honour Him by giving the firstfruits of our wage and wealth, just as it says in the New Testament.

"Every Sunday each of you make an offering and put it in safekeeping. Be as generous as you can. When I get there you'll have it ready, and I won't have to make a special appeal." 1Corinthians 16:2 (The Message Bible).

These scriptures speak of a consistency in tithing on a regular basis, a disciplined giving program.

Thirdly, Solomon knew the blessing that came from honouring the Lord with his money and he was happy to receive the blessing of the Lord. In fact, he accredited his wealth to the blessing of the Lord (Proverbs 10:22).

3. Work hard

This is a practical principle but important. (Proverbs 6:9-11 and Proverbs 10:4) Lazy people will always remain poor and so they should. But it is not only a matter of working hard but smart. Work hard and smart at what you can do well. Sometimes people try to diversify too much in areas they are not skillful in. Ecclesiastes 9:10 says: "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might...". What are your hands skillful at doing? Do that, with all of your might and wisdom. For example if you're a builder, try developing your own property. We have two chefs employed in our church that run a café for the homeless and needy. So we increase our income by catering at corporate functions and Jazz shows and so on. I have a gift in speaking and mentoring so can increase my income by helping other churches and businesses. Work the gift that is on your life!

4. Take hold of opportunities

Ecclesiastes 9:11. It flows from the last point. Don't just be a caretaker of your gift, talent, money and investments but be a risk taker—not to be foolish in this but to step out further than where you are at the moment. Do your homework. Calculate the cost. Include the risks. Then have a go!



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5. Be balanced

"The LORD abhors dishonest scales, but accurate weights are his delight." Proverbs 11:1

Stay in the middle of the road. People that are extreme in any arena of life generally fail for example; in morals. I have found that people who live legalistic or lawless lives fail but those that live in the liberty of God's love live well. (Ecclesiastes 7:16-18). So when it comes to money some people can live at one end by having a love of money and others can live at the other end by having a poverty mentality. Both will destroy you. Either you will be poor and miserable or rich and miserable. That is why Solomon wrote: *"Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income. This too is meaningless."* Ecclesiastes 5:10.

What we need is prosperity with purpose and principles, like Paul gave in 2Corinthians 9:6-11. In verse 6 he shares how much to give, in verse 7 he shares on the right attitude in giving and then in verse 11 he shares the purpose of prosperity. *"You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God."*

John Wesley, the richest minister of his day, had this principle and purpose: "Earn as much as you can, save as much as you can and give away as much as you can."

The Babylonians who were quite wealthy lived by the 8.1.1 principle which was to live off 80 percent of your income, give away 10 percent and save 10 percent.

6. Build an inheritance for the future

For your retirement future, or your children's future, for your ministry future, or for whatever, Proverbs 13:22 is important to you.

"A good man leaves an inheritance for his children's children..."

Remember, the greatest thing we can leave to our children is training and experience in handling wealth—showing them how to earn it, save it, invest it, spend it wisely and most of all, how to give it.

That's what Proverbs 22:6 is all about—training a child in financial management. David certainly showed his son Solomon how to be generous. 1Chronicles 29:1-9.

7. Be generous

This has to be one of the greatest giving messages in the Bible. Solomon knew this through and through. Sometimes Christians get bogged down with the tithe, which goes into your local church. The place where you are fed and ministered from. But to be generous we need to go beyond the tithe, because really that belongs to the Lord. *"A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD; it is holy to the LORD."* Leviticus 27:30.

It is in our giving to the poor (Proverbs 22:9), the missionaries and ministers (3John 5:8, Philippians 4:14-20), building funds (1Chronicles 29:1-9) and just simply blessing people—that our generosity is seen. Remember this: *"Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously."* 2Corinthians 9:6.

8. Deal with the little matters

"Catch for us the foxes, the little foxes that ruin the vineyards, our vineyards that are in bloom." Song of Songs 2:15

Song of Songs is the book of love and erotic poems to your partner. So many people lose half their assets, because they don't attend to the little matters at home like family and marriage. If you're not going to look after your marriage you might as well give away half your property to your best mate now while you're friends. A little harsh I know, but how true is it in so many lives.

So, while you're making money, become a great lover with your partner and you will save yourself a fortune. Read the Song of Songs when you are in bed every night and believe for signs and wonders to follow the speaking of God's Word.

Mind you there are also other foxes that eat away at your finances—bad credit card debt, bad and unnecessary habits like smoking. The average smoker spends about \$70.00 a week on cigarettes. That is \$3,640.00 a year. That is a holiday, a second car, a renovation on the house, a huge offering. Catch those financial foxes that are eating away at your finances.

9. Conclusion

"Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man." Ecclesiastes 12:13

Love and honour God and do what He says. Be blessed and prosper.

Kevin



24HR EXPRESS @ LIFE

Will be on the 31st July to 1st August 2009 playing at Soapbox will be Bodacious Cowboys playing tribute to "Steely Dan"

24hr express is a 24hr experience for ministers & leaders that will give you a missional approach to church. You will experience a Soapbox night where some of the best muso's in

Australia play. It will have its own bar and restaurant. Then you'll serve in Soul Café among the needy of Newcastle. You will also get to see an art exhibition, attend A.A. and spend time with Kev talking about the whole missional church and what that means to you, your church and your community.

For more information and accommodation suggestions contact Life Church office on 4961 0211 or Kevin Wilcock on 0407 467 798.

Our next 24hr Express will be in Sept 18 & 19 with

SOAPBOX—Vince Jones + Art Expo with Joyce Wilcock



VINCE JONES
Fri 18th SEPTEMBER
Show 8.00pm \$45
Ph 4961 0211
soapbox@lifechurch.org.au
Licensed restaurant opens
@ 6pm

soapbox café

Jazz - funk - R&B

15 Denison Street
Newcastle West



LIFE GALLERY
PRESENTS
JOYCE WILCOCK

Joyce has had two solo exhibitions: "A Felt Experience" in 1991 and "Felt Journeys" in 1992, both held at the Art Arena gallery in Wollongong. Other exhibitions, both local and throughout NSW, have included works in oil paintings, drawings and handmade felts.

SATURDAY 19 SEPTEMBER
2PM TO 4PM @ LIFE



GlobeReach some of the works we support overseas

Jesus is in prison— are you visiting him

Fiji—Peter Schultz

Men's Retreat & Fiji

I flew back to Fiji for a week to conduct a men's retreat for the South Pacific Evangelical Fellowship and update myself on the situation developing in Fiji. Coming from an Aussie winter, wearing a t-shirt and shorts never felt so good. The unfolding of God's blessing during the Men's retreat was just incredible. Thirty men attended

including some ex-prisoners that I had invited. Together we experienced lives being shaken up and renewed with spontaneous confession and serious conviction.

In between all that I visited with many of my prisoners and ex-prisoners and assessed some of the changing social, economic and political circumstances that have developed in Fiji.

Matthew 25:36 and 43

In summary—"Can't wait to get back" so we are using this time in Australia to renew and review.

Peter Schultz

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Cambodia—Linda Chisholm

A potentially fatal event was handled so well by the Bluegate House staff when a depressed ex-prisoner tried to commit suicide on the premises. Because of Colleen's training the staff knew exactly what to do. They followed the procedures to the letter: empty pill packets collected, man in recovery position and transport on the way. This troubled young man was quickly at a hospital where he was treated and recovered. He was then delivered to caring relatives.

Exciting times in the youth prison where PFC has started a high school inside the prison. Staff interviewed each one of the

300 prisoners, selected the ones who were at the correct level, visited parents to get their support and went to each boy's former school to get records. From this pool 12 were chosen to start at Year 10 level. Four Christian high school teachers were recruited and the classes began. Those in the class are highly motivated. Many of the youth realize they have blown their educational future and to get a chance to redeem those lost opportunities was beyond their wildest dreams. Pray that they can see a brighter future when they leave prison and they continue to study hard in preparing for their release.

Christmas is not too far away. We want to have programmes in 20 prisons country wide. With the cost of living up 30 percent, families have less to give the prisoners and what PFC provides costs more than previous years. With a goal of reaching 10,000 men, women, youth and children in prison and some of their destitute families outside of prison, PFC needs \$20,000 USD. If you can help, please let me know and I will send our bank details.

Linda Chisholm

chisholmlinda1@gmail.com

**Linda is speaking @ Life Church
on 16th August at 9:30am.**

An offering will be taken for her ministry.

Newcastle—Kim Miller

Prison is like Disneyland. We pretend it's real but it's far from reality. We create an artificial world and then we teach people to live there. Some people become very good at it.

This unreal world operates on a reversed sense of values, where people are used and things are loved. It operates on the expectation of judgment and condemnation. It rewards the exercise of power over humility, of violence over vulnerability, of domination over reconciliation.

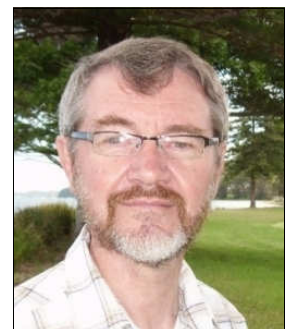
But there is another side to all this. Many people in prison know that something is deeply wrong. Not only is the system

wrong, but there is something wrong in their own lives.

I know people who have had several attempts at living the Christian life. They have responded to a call or made a person decision, but something goes wrong. Mostly, it's because they do not have continuing support. They receive support from prison chaplains, from Prison Fellowship or Kairos members, but outside the gate things are different.

With Home for Good we are trying to change this. This new post-release prison chaplaincy aims at catching those who would otherwise fall away from decisions they have made on the inside. Everybody

needs support, some of us more than others. Home for Good is one partner in what God is doing among people in and out of prison.



Rev. Dr. Kim Miller

Corrective Services Community Chaplaincy
A joint initiative with Samaritans Foundation
www.homeforgood.org.au



OzReach

High School Ministry—Phuong, Wollongong

Dangerous Ground

Hi, my name is Phuong Barraclough and I teach Special Religious Education (SRE) at Smiths Hill Selective High School in Central Wollongong. SRE teachers rely on donations for their salary. We receive no government help, and yet we are expected to perform at the level of professionals like any other DET employed teacher in the school.

What's different? **Our job is a ministry, and the school is our mission field.**

I teach Yr 7 Scripture one period a week; and Yr 8 and 9 for five periods a week. I also run the lunchtime inter-school Christian fellowship group known as ABSTRACT, every Thursday lunch, supervise the OXFAM club, coach the girls' soccer team and organize the Bronze Award for Duke of Edinburgh each year.

I have the honour of witnessing to students

from all year groups and seeing God work in the lives of both staff and students everyday. I have the opportunity to serve, pray and be Jesus' hands and feet in this place and also encourage other Christians to step up in pride as well. We recently had our EXO day which involved free pancakes, live radio broadcast from 94.1FM. the Jesus All About Life ute, jumping castle, basketball bungee limbo, giant jenga, hip hop performance and dance off. Everywhere you looked there were smiles and people enjoying life. The theme was **"life is excellent"** and it was the ABSTRACT group's chance to serve their school. Free stuff always helps with that message. The day was a huge success and God blessed it with beautiful weather and no major injuries, just a ripped basketball bungee and a little bruise on one boy's head. Young people are making decisions to follow Christ through high school ministry. They are making informed, genuine decisions that

will hopefully be life-long commitments to serve and glorify God in their lives. It is the daily reminders, the constant teaching, seeing and acting in His name that infiltrates the hard hearts of skeptical teenagers (and sometimes teachers). School ministry is an important part of God's work, and I am proud to say I love my job! I am where I'm meant to be, and could type on for days about all the amazing things I see God doing in the hearts and minds of our young people. With every revelation of the truth I am constantly inspired.

We are so blessed to teach SRE in public schools. Pray that it can continue!

Phuong and her husband Oran attend SCCC Central in Wollongong.

Email: phuongbarraclough@gmail.com

Friends in Ministry with Kim Hammond



Date: 20th July

Time: 11:00am until 2:00pm

Cost: Whatever you buy for lunch

Venue: Wellspring Café (Corner Town Hall Lane & Queens Street, Auburn).

To Order any of Kevin's CD packs, check out our webpage @ www.lifechurch.org.au



Gold Coast—Greg & Donna Condon

Hi Everyone,

My wife Donna and I and our three boys, Matthew 8, Daniel 5 and Joel 3 are based on the Gold Coast. We were itinerant Evangelists for 13 years, travelling (full time) from one end of Australia to the other. We worked with all different denominations holding 3 to 5 day crusades. We have ministered in many different countries, also. It was through this ministry that we met Kevin in 1994.

God moved upon our hearts to birth a church. I fought against this for about three years but finally in 2006 we gave in to God and birthed New Day Community Church in Burleigh Heads. We started with just three others people, but we have seen God move and do some wonderful things. Many have been saved—some we have kept; some we have lost. In these early days of setting a foundation for New Day, we are being stretched and challenged in so many ways. It is difficult to see people come and go but

right now we have a great core of people who really love God and love people. We are a church which preaches GRACE—absolute acceptance; come as you are.

The gangsters have come (the real mccoys), the outlaw bikies have come. One Sunday we had five members of the Bandido's in church, with three of them giving their hearts to Christ.

We didn't start out to be a 'grace' church—God is just unravelling it that way. With that 'come as you are' culture, many challenges also come along with it.

We are a community minded church. We work alongside the local community centre, donating food parcels to those families who are doing it tough. We supply toiletry packs to four women's refuge centres on the Coast and we also hold Family Fun Days in the community centre's grounds where everything is free (food, craft, face painting, entertainment, etc).

We are a down-to-earth church meeting some of the needs in our community. For the past two

years we have sent teams into the Philippines, working with the local churches there. We not only take our own church members, but we have had other people from different churches come to be a part of the mission trip. We not only evangelise in the villages, but we also evangelise through practical means (much like we do in our church in Australia). Buying rice for villages, taking food parcels into jails and buying fans for local hospitals give back into their community.

If you are ever interested in joining us on a trip, contact me on greg@newday.net.au. We will be going into the Philippines next March (the date is yet to be confirmed.)

Whatever God has you doing at this moment in time, stay focussed on it. Through all your trials, stay focussed on God and what He has planned for you. You will be a success.



Greg Condon

Email: greg@newday.net.au

Ozreach Gathering—13th to 14th November 2009

Speakers:

Dave Ferguson
Kevin Wilcock
Kim Hammond



Dave Ferguson is a founding pastor of Community Christian Church—an innovative multi-site missional church with nine locations locally that have grown in average attendance from 5 to over 5000 since its beginning 19 years ago.

Cost is \$100.00 (2 lunches included)
Early bird registration is \$90.00 if paid before 1st October 2009.

Venue: Life Church,
15 Denison St, Newcastle West
Email: info@lifechurch.org.au
Phone: 4961 0211