

"God's project" is to save the world by redeeming many people and by building His church

Three More Things

TWO WEEKS AGO

We have been given a slice of the project...

VISION: Making known the GREATNESS of GOD...

MISSION: To build for Jesus Christ by the power of His Holy Spirit a church of joyful worshippers...

OUR FUTURE GOALS:

- A greater impact on London...
- More "all about missions"...
- Apprenticing leaders

NEEDED!

More people giving more time, more effort and more money to West London's piece of the project ...

BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES REGARDING YOU AND YOUR MONEY

1. Your heart and your money stay together.

Matthew 6:19-21

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth... But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven... where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

a) Your heart directs your money

b) Your money directs your heart

Your money has the power of a thermometer: to indicate where your heart is

And the power of a thermostat: to set your where your heart is

2 Corinthians 9:6-11

Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed;

as it is written, "HE SCATTERED ABROAD, HE GAVE TO THE POOR, HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS ENDURES FOREVER." (Psalm 112:9)

Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness;

you will be enriched in everything for all liberality, which through us is producing thanksgiving to God.

THIS WEEK ... a second principle

Pieces of the second principle

Attitude:

"not grudgingly... God loves a cheerful giver..." → "hilaros" 'extreme mirth' → JOY

"Joy is the serious business of heaven" ~ C.S. Lewis in Letters to Malcolm

What every human being is after: so it always requires an explanation (e.g. Acts 2)

Action:

"he who sows... reap... each one must do... purposed in his heart... every good deed... he scattered... he gave..."

It's helpful to understand what is being explained here, because there are a lot of decisions to be made.

"How to sow" // "To sow", "What to sow", "How much to sow" → Be clear on God's response...

Supply:

"God is able to make all grace abound to you... having all sufficiency... an abundance... He who supplies... supply and multiply... increase the harvest... enriched in everything for all liberality"

The principle?

2. Our attitude and our action affect our supply.

- a. The more you give and the more cheerfully you do so, the more you get to give.
Here, it's \$. But "time" is a treasure, too. "Effort" is a treasure, too. And God determines the supply.
A.B.Simpson: At age 37... until age 76 (39 years!) And it made him VERY joyful!

- b. **The more generous people (time and effort and money) are the more cheerful people.**
 Have you noticed that? “Go to the ant...” / Observe the sluggard...” / → Go to the grouch → to the cheerful
 Would you like to be more cheerful? [The correct answer is “Yes”]
 → I perhaps should point out that the people around you would like you to be cheerful!
 So here, the “extreme mirth,” the “hilarity” is explained, so that we can all get in on it:

- 2. Our attitude and our action affect our supply.**
 a. The more you give and the more cheerfully you do so, the more you get to give.
 b. The more generous people (time and effort and money) are the more cheerful people.

What does this mean about being a part of West London Alliance Church: especially in the years just ahead of us?

What the Staff is thinking: *We have some big things to get on with!* **Expensive things:**
Staff... to do for “Music” what we did, e.g. youth (also, children; adult “e.g. Forevergreen)
Facility... Children’s Wing/Youth Wing/Community Centre... (Ming’s piece of the project)
 What the Board is thinking: *There’s no standing still: we take big steps forward or we will begin to decline!*

→ **“It sounds like he’s after our money!”**
 Well, yes, but not **only** your money: your time and effort too.
But it’s not me, or the Staff, or the Board.
 It’s God, who calls us all to get in on His project: His work of saving the world!
 And to do so cheerfully. So don’t be gloomy!
 He calls you to the **cheerful** giving of your money and your time and your effort
 → And to a large degree, it will be doing so **that makes you cheerful!!!**

Here’s that hunch of mine again: *Some very happy years ahead.*
 Ten years from now many of us will be saying:
I’m so glad I didn’t miss this. I’m so glad I didn’t lose interest and wander away – or get ticked off and switch churches – or even get sick and die --- I’m SO glad that I got to be a part of this!!!!

Many of us feel exactly that way already! But we ain’t seen nothing yet!

It means things on two dimensions...

- **Business-as-usual, regular church life → “usual expenses”** : How? Tithe to “the work of the Lord.”
 Remember your own church’s finances first.

The financial implications of church life... Re: involvement...

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| 1. Worship with us on Sundays | 2. Be a part of a small group |
| 3. Serve the church in some capacity | 4. CONTRIBUTE FINANCIALLY |
| 5. Get in on the work of getting the gospel out... | |

And our attitude and our action will affect our supply, because God loves a cheerful giver.
 So holding back means everyone loses. ↔ Getting in on church life means everyone wins.

So let us love God’s project --- and let us love West London’s slice of it!
 Let’s get in on this! Who wouldn’t want to dedicate his life to saving the world?
 → And let’s make a point of finishing 2005 strong – and entering 2006 with a head start. There are great things ahead for us – and if God empowers and enables us, London and the world won’t be the same!

- **Special times of church life → Special giving...** A BIG project: Expanding the building!
In due time, a new church started in London?
 A church or a project overseas?

- **Special times of church life → Unusual disbursements...**

It won't be bake sales and car washes and bazaars in the church basement that make big things possible.

It will be a lot of us not replacing our cars for a couple more years... and not getting into the biggest home we can possibly afford... and not going south in the winter for a few years... and not buying a cottage ... It will be dozens and dozens of us making choices regarding thousands and thousands of dollars...

And our attitude and our action will affect our supply, because God loves a cheerful giver.

LOOK:

And as the Lord leads us in regard to our church's slice of His project: as we are given greater and greater ways to make known His greatness, every one of us who call this "my church" will have the opportunity to become a more **cheerful** giver of money and effort and time, and THEN more **generous** givers of money and effort and time, because:

"He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness; you will be enriched in everything for all liberality..."

And more and more of us figuring this out, and believing it, and acting upon it IS THE WAY that we will, in the next ten years, see West London accomplishing, by God's power working in us, some things that are exceeding abundantly beyond all that we can even ask or think! May the Lord be with us!

Ephesians 3:20-21

Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us,

to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.