

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

## **Both God And Money**

Ten years from now reflecting...

It was called GROWZONE then... Remember?

And isn't it amazing how many of those kids are now leaders in the Youth Group, and their schools!

And 2006 was the year of the first SWAT ("Swat"? ) and Mission One mission trips: to Ecuador and to Toronto, respectively... and respectfully! And look at the number of those kids now living and working and serving God overseas!!!

And 2006 was the first year a group of adults took a trip... To Novi Sad...(They paid for that trip themselves!) ... To Novi Sad to work with Danny and Vera -- and in a way, that was the beginning of our involvement in Missions. Just look at all we did

And Matt Russell is an Alliance missionary in, what is it, Indonesia?

And College and Career ("Octane")/ Humphreys / and SEND and TWR / and our community outreach (started with ESL) with Ming's church... Ten Great Years!!!!

And man, some of these things we've done sure did cost a lot of money!!!

### **ONE MORE TIME... AND THEN NO MORE ABOUT THIS UNTIL JANUARY!**

What the Staff is thinking: *We have some big things to get on with!*

**Adding to the Staff ...** a full-time Director of Music and Worship Arts (Starting mid-2006)  
**Expanding the Facility...** Children's Wing/Youth Wing/Community Centre (In 2007)

What the Board is thinking: *There's no standing still: either we take big steps forward or we begin to decline!*

**Paying for it?**

**Business-as-usual, regular church life giving → "tithing"**

Tithe to "the work of the Lord" and start with your own church's finances.

**Special times of church life → Special giving...** *[Less and less necessary with more and more tithers!]*

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

### **BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES REGARDING YOU AND YOUR MONEY**

1. **Your heart and your money stay together.**

Matthew 6:19-21

2. **Our attitude and our action affect our supply.**

2 Corinthians 9:6-11

3. **Trusting money is the opposite of trusting God**

**Matthew 6:24**

"No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth. ["mammon" ... money]

**American** money says: "In God We Trust" ... beginning 1864

On the penny, since 1909 / On the dime, since 1916 / On paper money, since 1957

## OBSERVATIONS...

a) Both God and money promise “life” but money is lying! Only God is telling the truth.

### Luke 12:15

"Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions."

"Life" is mysterious stuff... "My So-called Life? "COKE adds life... to everything"

**I've Gotta Be Me** Words & Music by Walter Marks/ Recorded by Sammy Davis Jr., 1968

Whether I'm right or whether I'm wrong / Whether I find a place in this world or never belong  
I've gotta be me I've gotta be me / What else can I be, but what I am  
I want to live, not merely survive, And won't give up this dream of life that keeps me alive

Money claims to be able to give "life" ... but it's lying to you!

### Mark 4:19

...the worries of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

### John 10:10

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

### Deuteronomy 30:15-19

"See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, and death and adversity;  
in that I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in His ways and to keep His commandments and His statutes and His judgments, that you may live and multiply, and that the LORD your God may bless you in the land where you are entering to possess it.

"But if your heart turns away and you will not obey, but are drawn away and worship other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall surely perish. You will not prolong your days in the land where you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess it.

"I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants...

"Life" is a gift of God. And therefore anything that, in any way, draws us away from Him steals life!

b) Both God and money promise security but money is exaggerating! God is telling the truth.

### 1 Timothy 6:17

Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy.

Just as mysterious as "life" in any qualitative sense is "joy"... It's what everyone is seeking. And some people spend their whole lives failing to achieve it... "no talent for happiness"

### Psalms 16:11

You will make known to me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever.

c) Both God and money demand faith (a commitment of trust and obedience.) Only God is trustworthy!

### Hebrews 11:6

And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

### Matthew 6:24-34

"No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and

despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth. For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ... for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”

### **1 Timothy 6:9-12**

But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction.

For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

But flee from these things, you man of God, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness.

Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called...

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!