

Living Generous Lives

Date: Sunday 16th April 2023

Speakers: Andrew McNeil, Cap
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Key Verses: 2 Corinthians: 8 & 9

Talk Summary:

This is a brief IMPACT report that shows how your giving makes a difference. Income, Ministries, People, Advance the Kingdom, Contribute to The future.

Income. The vast majority of the money that enables Birmingham Vineyard to thrive comes from individuals just like you who want to support the vision and activities of the Church. Last year we invested a significant amount of our strategic reserves. This covered a significant increase in running costs because of inflation and the energy crisis and the up expenditure linked to regathering as Church. This is also enabling the plating of East site and the employment of pastor Pui to expand the Hong Kong ministry.

We've also chosen to invest in production to maintain weekly streamed services and a strong online presence. God has been gracious, and we have seen these investments bear fruit and growth in many areas of Church life.

We have fixed costs for venue hire, mortgage payments, utilities, equipment, ministry expenses, essential support and administration. That's approximately 40% of our budget. We give at least 10% of all the money we receive away to other charities and organizations in the UK and overseas.

The rest of the income is used on employing the staff team. Their role is to lead by example, involve and equip people, build teams, train leaders and develop the ministry with clear vision, leadership and pastoral oversight.

Ministries - Income enables every single area of ministry to happen. This week we'll reach 10,000 foodbank bags given away. We distributed over 300 easter eggs. We've multiplied another "grow baby" into the east site refitting and hiring a room in the Church. Through it all we are Loving God and loving people.

People - It's all about people. Last week it was inspiring to hear the stories of people's faith journey at the baptism services. Through small groups and the site pastors we regularly respond to pastoral needs in our Church community. We get to show God's love in practical ways.

Advance the Kingdom - We give away 10% of the income we receive each year to things beyond our local Church. We support the work of Vineyard Churches UK and Ireland in planting about 6-8 new Churches as well as supporting existing Churches and their leaders. We support the planting of Vineyard Churches in Malawi and community transformation through the partner charity Dalitso Trust. We also support the persecuted Church, other charities in our city and region.

Contribute - 2 Corinthians. We see 5 principles in this passage.

Giving is an overflow of the Grace of God - 2 Cor 8:1-2

Paul is using the Macedonian Churches example to inspire the Church in Corinth to

generosity. Not once does Paul use the word money or its equivalents. He does make the connection between grace and giving.

God's the source 2 Cor 9: 10 & 11 Deut Ch 8:17

If you forget this, you'll think your source is your savings or your job – Rick Warren said “Your salary is not your source, your savings are not your security - put confidence in something that can't be taken from you. My source is not my job, it's my savior.”

God first 2 Cor 8:5 5 Proverbs 3:9 “If a person gets his attitude to money straight it will help straighten out almost every other area of his life” (Billy Graham). God first - It's a principle in everything.

Have a plan 2 Cor 9:7-15

Planning or budgeting is telling your money where you want it to go, rather than wondering rather than wondering where it went. Giving is a heart issue. Jesus said Where your treasure is your heart will be also.

Grow in Generosity

2 Cor 9:6, 1 Tim 6:17 Generosity is about an Adventure with God. You can't out-give God. Every generous person I know is a joyful person.

The invitation to everyone in our Church community is 1 Prayerfully review your giving that supports the ministry of this Church. 2 Pray and consider giving to support the work of Dreaming the impossible.

Future Here are some of our plans and prayers for the next year. We want to fully establish East site, keep planting a new small group a month, appoint a new pastoral staff member to oversee the youth and the team, focus on leadership development so we can train the next site pastors and Church planters. Invest in every area of ministry. Serve our city and reach more people with the good news of Jesus.

We are here today because of the consistent generosity of many of those who have gone before us and many of you in the room. Lets be a generous Church for all God is doing with us now and for those yet to come.

Discussion Questions (choose some which are most relevant your group)

Review 2 Corinthians Chapter 8-9 (Ch 8.1-8 Ch 9:6-15)

- What do you think is the connection between grace and giving (review the times grace appears in the passage).
- What phrase or concepts in the passage strikes you most?
- Can you recall a time when you have had to trust God for something outside your control? What did you learn in that experience?
- When have you experienced joy in giving?
- “I need help in this area”, “I can help others in this area”. Which is you and what could be a next step?

Resources

If you have any practical questions about finances, giving to church or the DTI offering you can ask your site pastors one of the trustees team or visit the web site giving page:

www.birminghamvineyard.com/giving

See <https://dreamingtheimpossible.org> for more info.

A great website - <https://generousgiving.org>

Worship

Small group Worship & Prayer resources can be found at bvc.so/sgworship