



THE INSIDE RUNNING

What does faith look like when everything seems to be going wrong? How does God use your life, no matter what you are going through?

This month we bring together several stories of men who see God working in their lives despite enormous

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adversity in health, relationships and finances. When we come to the end of our own strength and resources, we have to humble ourselves and put our trust totally in God. The paradox of Christianity is that in our weakness, God's strength can shine through us. I trust that these stories encourage you as much as they do me.

For the first time we are including MP3 audios of classic PK messages. PKUSA is represented by Ed Cole with a really stirring message from Boulder in 1993. PKNZ features Graham Walshe's message about the workplace.

This WiseChoices DVD has the power to help you launch into 2011 on a firm foundation. Use it to your advantage.

May God be with you on every step of your journey.



John
John Subritzky

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by Tony Tay

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A lot of people have said I am a self-made man. Despite starting from a very humble beginning, I managed to build a large business empire that covers various sectors including property development and construction, tourism and hospitality, the film industry, media and newspaper, a training college and healthcare. But I firmly believe it was all because of the grace of God alone; it is about His kingdom rather than about me, because He has used all circumstances in my life to position me for His eternal purpose. *"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to His purpose."* Romans 8:28

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One of the major circumstances God has recently allowed to happen in my life is the financial tsunami of 2008. In 2006, through a book I read and during my quiet times, the Lord revealed to me a picture of a ping pong ball dropping down the stairs; a sign of world financial market collapse. Though I tried my best to consolidate my various businesses, it was a daunting task to turn a titanic around. I found it too hard to retrench employees who had been with me for many years and I underestimated

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how long it would take to sell large projects in a declining market. It is true that you cannot catch a falling knife and you know who is swimming naked when the tide goes out!

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When the credit dried up in the market, most of my debtors were unable to pay their bills, the banks pulled the plug, and we had to "fire sell" our assets to keep our creditors happy. More than half of my companies went into financial difficulties and I simply did not know which holes to plug.

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All the bad news around me just sunk me to the ground and I experienced seven days going through the valley of death. Normally I am a very optimistic person who never experiences the trauma of insomnia and depression. Suddenly I fell into depression, I completely lost my appetite and suffered from serious insomnia. I had never had problems with sleeping but for the first time I had to take sleeping pills to simply have a nap. I felt so miserable that I constantly cried out to God and asked Him to take my life. This was the first time in my life I had had these suicidal thoughts and a strong urge to throw in the towel, as I thought my problems were just too big for me.

On the seventh day, Psalm 23 went through my mind hundreds of times, especially verse 4: *"Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me."* Over the years I have preached this Psalm many times, but this time was not just head knowledge. These scriptures became

"If we try to find our purpose in the ending, we only end up losing ourselves in the process of getting there. What I have discovered is that the purpose is in the journey, no matter where that journey leads us. The path we are on, no matter how successful or unsuccessful, is littered with stories of meaning, of relationships, and of purpose... I have found purpose in the day-to-day living of my life. The colours are brighter, the relationships more vivid, and what it means to serve humanity is more apparent."

Jared Noel, *The Boredom Blog*

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very personal to me as I walked through the valley of the shadow of death. These words just infused life into me and I experienced an unspeakable joy, though my situation hadn't changed. Hallelujah!

On the eighth day I woke up with great joy and trust in the Lord. It was the joy in the Lord that gave me the strength to face so many challenges before me. We experienced numerous miracles in which the Lord turned so many impossible situations around. It was like the 39 battles the Israelites fought when they entered the Promised Land. Similarly, I have won so many of these battles because the Lord was with me.

Today as I look back I can understand why the Lord allowed me to go through this trial. It was because my God is a God of comfort, "who comforts us all in our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any troubles with the comfort we ourselves have received from God." 2 Cor 1:4. I found that it was definitely a lot more fruitful in the valleys than on the mountain tops. He definitely has an eternal purpose for us if we remain obedient all the way through our lives.



Tony Tay's message from GPS 2010 in Wellington is included as an MP3 audio on this issue of WiseChoices DVD.



What's On the DVD

Featured Speaker: Jared Noel has almost completed training as a medical doctor. His story of facing cancer and reconciling that with his faith, as a recently married young man, moved men around the nation at Promise Keepers last year. 31 min. *Google "Jared Noel The Boredom Blog" for insights and updates from Jared.*

Panel: Navigating your way through the decision-making process and how to know God is guiding you. Dunedin 2010. 35 min

My Story: Peter Lucas describes how he and his Men's Small Group came to see how God can use their weaknesses to show His power and strength. 2 min

Humour: Will it blend? – lightsticks; Dad's GPS; cat accident; the runaway car. 5 min

Music: "Mighty to Save" 4 min

Men's Small Groups: The importance of these groups and some practical insights. 12 min

DVD ROM

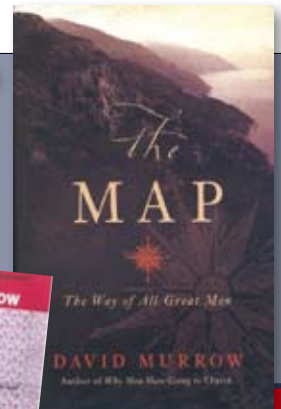
- **Study Questions** for Jared Noel's message
- **Weekly Studies** for Men's Small Groups
- **Bible Reading Plans**
- **Book:** "Hope" by David Peters. Sample chapters to give a taste of this incredible story of faith in the face of adversity.
- **Articles:**
 - **Forgiveness** – one of the most powerful actions in the life of a Christian. By Bill Subritzky
 - **Evaluating your Men's Small Group** – assess your progress.
 - **How Ministry to Men affects the local church.** By Steve Sonderman
 - **Pledge of the Fellowship of the Unashamed.** By Ed Cole
- **iPod videos:** Jared Noel, music and Peter Lucas
Listen to these great audios on your computer or MP3 player while you exercise, commute or spend time growing spiritually:
- **MP3s** of the main videos
- **Tony Tay** – author of our lead article, speaking at GPS Wellington 2010
- **PKNZ Classic** – Graham Walshe "Witness at Work", PK Invercargill 2004
- **PKUSA Classic** – Ed Cole, Boulder, Co. 1993. Ed is a father of the Men's Movement, founder of CMN (Christian Men's Network) and a gifted communicator.

Resources

The Map
David Murrow

David Murrow goes on a thrilling chase to find the map that guides men to spiritual maturity. How do you move from submission to Christ as a new Christian, to strength and finally to sacrifice? \$29.00 + \$5 p&p

Bonus! Buy the book now and get David Murrow's new, expanded Church for Men DVD free!



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A Promise Keeper is committed to honouring Jesus Christ through worship, prayer and obedience to God's Word in the power of the Holy Spirit.



PK Events 2011 - Book Early!

- ♦ Dunedin 29-30 July 2011
- ♦ Christchurch 12-13 Aug 2011
- ♦ Tauranga 26-27 Aug 2011
- ♦ Wellington 9-10 Sep 2011
- ♦ Auckland 7-8 Oct 2011

0800 PROMISE (77 66 47)