



THE INSIDE RUNNING

If you aim at nothing, you will hit it every time. Goals give our lives purpose and direction. Bringing other people to Christ as Saviour also means that we have to be prepared and intentional.

Mark Beale has been doing this in many ways for many years. As well as planting a church, he has been involved in community projects to control graffiti and organise an annual Christmas in the Park event and he is also a regular prison visitor. Mark has seen a gang leader become a Christian, leave the gang and join his church.

If we demonstrate the effect of Jesus in us – a life characterised by peace, joy, generosity and service to others, people will see in us an attractive lifestyle. Then words can be used to explain the reason for our hope.

Keep your eye on the goal!



John

John Subritzky

Reaching Your World

By Mark Beale

When we think about mission, so often what comes to our minds is overseas missions and missionaries. The work of these missionaries is vital to the kingdom of God. But it is of equal importance to think and work for the mission of the gospel in our local context. To be effective in this we need to follow certain critical guidelines.

Canon Michael Green, a significant world evangelist, held a mission at our church in Clendon, South Auckland. During this mission he said to me, "It is important to scratch where it itches". This means it is important that we understand the critical issues in the communities where we serve. As churches it is important that we then pray and work at how we can constructively assist in addressing these issues in the light of gospel truths.

In Clendon in 2008, four horrendous unrelated murders occurred in the community. This raised for the community a serious issue of feeling safe. Because of the nature of today's media it was easy for the issue of these tragedies to be blown out of perspective and people in the community felt that they were being labelled as a violent community. I soon discovered when I visited people in other parts of New Zealand that this label was real in their eyes. I was frequently asked if I needed to wear a flak jacket to protect myself when I walked around the community. These impressions of Clendon were creating large problems for people in terms of self-worth and self-belief. This was an urgent "itch that needed scratching". How was the church in its mission with a gospel of hope to be a part of turning this around?

In Paul's letter to the Philippians he says, "*I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near. There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need pray for it... Finally dear friends fill your minds with everything that is true, everything that is noble, everything that is good and pure, everything that we love and honour, and everything that could be thought virtuous or worthy of praise.*" Phil 4:4-9 ERV

Having lived in the community for 23 years I was aware that this image of violence was not a true reflection of the community as a whole, so with this passage in mind I felt it was important for the church to help the community focus on what was good and see the goodness of God in their midst.

To achieve this we set about making the world's largest bowl of soup - 25,000 litres. To make this record-breaking bowl of soup we needed the involvement of many large businesses in the community as well as many local people. For a period of months people's attention was distracted from the fear of violence to the excitement of feeding over 12,000 people with free, healthy veggie soup - and being part of a



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world record. A story was created called "The Legend of the Big Manukau Soup". A leaflet of this story was given with the soup, challenging people to see God as the way forward for the community.

As Christian churches we should be looking constantly for creative ways to promote the gospel in the community. We begin through prayer and continue by listening to the key concerns of the community as well as the values of the gospel of Christ. I believe God calls us to put these together as a part of His redeeming work in His world. We are called to be His light and salt. I have given you just one example of how we as a church have responded to the issues of our community. We have experienced many other opportunities of sharing the gospel.

What are the opportunities that God is calling you to take hold of in your neighbourhood?

Went to my first Promise Keepers in 2008, Leave No Man Behind, and at that one we were given a fish to write a name of a person you would like to bring to the following Promise Keepers. I put my brother-in-law's name forward. The following year I built the courage up to ask him. He said he will give it a pass because of work commitments. But as I write this he stands next to me worshipping. Awesome. God's plans never fail.

Elvis

PROMISE #7

A Promise Keeper is committed to influencing his world, being obedient to the Great Commandment (Mark 12:30-31) and the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20).

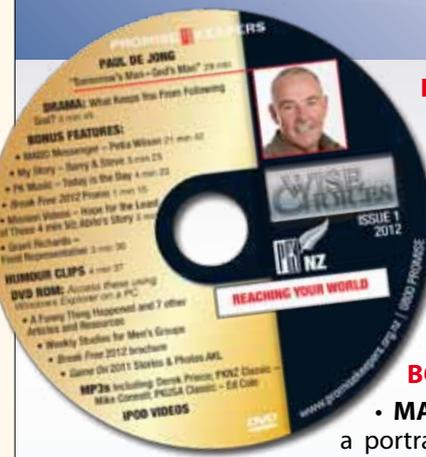


PK Men's Events 2012 - Book Early!

- ◆ Christchurch 24-25 Aug 2012
 - ◆ Wellington 14-15 Sep 2012
 - ◆ Auckland 5-6 Oct 2012
- 0800 PROMISE (77 66 47)
Break Free QR Code >



What's on the DVD



FEATURED SPEAKER:

Paul de Jong - "Tomorrow's Man - God's Man"

Paul and his wife Marie have established one of NZ's most successful churches. This message is a dynamic call to step forward in the plan God has for you by recognising and leaving behind any veils that you feel may be separating you from Him. 29 min

DRAMA: What Keeps You From Following God? 3 min 45

BONUS FEATURES:

• **MADD Messenger - Petia Wilson.** Watch Petia create a portrait of Jesus in less than 5 min before he speaks to Transition. A must-see video! 21 min 42

• **My Story - Barry & Steve.** Steve's "fish" and prayers came before Barry survived a chopper crash at sea and subsequently came to salvation. 3 min 25

• **PK Music - Today is the Day** 4 min 24

• **Break Free 2012 Promo** 1 min 14

• **Mission videos** - Moving stories about the difference Christians can make. Abito's story (World Vision) 3 min Hope for the Least of These (Gospel for Asia) 4 min 50

• **Grant Richards - Field Representative.** How Grant became a Christian and why he cares so much about Ministry with Men. 3 min 30

HUMOUR CLIPS: Bikes spin out; Crashes; Hi Jack! 4 min 37

DVD ROM

Access these using Windows Explorer on a PC. For video instructions on how to open the DVD ROM go to the WiseChoices page at www.promisekeepers.org.nz

ARTICLES:

Derek Prince - Salt of the Earth; Gary & Greg Smalley - Remarriage: Focus on Creating a Safe Marriage Environment; Lee Grady - A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Campus Union; Pat Morley - The Highest Honour to Which a Man Can Aspire; A Man's Guide to Valentine's Day; Ian Buckley - The Time of Your Life

RESOURCES: Weekly Studies for Men's Small Groups; Evangelism Training - Dove Ministries; Derek Prince Ministries Resource List; Break Free 2012 Advance Brochure; Game On Stories & Photos - AKL; Paul de Jong Study Questions & PowerPoint; Bible Reading Plans; PK Ministry; Website Links - Mission Organisations

MP3s:

PKUSA Classic: Ed Cole - Leadership from the Heart 42 min 30; PKNZ Classic: Mike Connell - Epic Battle for Your Heart 35 min 24; Derek Prince - Christ's Last Order 67 min; Paul de Jong 29 min; Music track 4 min 24

iPOD VIDEOS: Paul de Jong; Music video

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Campus Union

By J. Lee Grady

My friend Doug Crescimanno is my favourite amateur comedian... But this 25-year-old University of Florida graduate is also passionately in love with Jesus - and he has given his life to sharing the gospel with students. He sets up a table on the Reitz Union plaza four days a week and posts a sign that says "BIBLE TRIVIA!" and then invites students to play his game.

"You, my friend! Would you like to play Bible Trivia? It's super fast and super easy." When a student agrees to play, Doug asks three questions—all in his over-the-top comedic voice: "Question #1: Jesus was commonly referred to as Jesus of ____? Was it a) Galilee; b) Los Angeles; c) the Bronx; or d) Nazareth?"...

See full article on this month's DVD ROM.



NEXT MONTH: Communication Breakthrough