

Minister's Message – May 2009

CEO Takes Cut

In almost every news bulletin these days the words 'global economic crisis' can be heard. Today I heard the acronym 'the GEC' for the first time. Even if you have not been affected directly, you might be asking why the government is giving you money all of a sudden. Many are being affected directly with dramatic declines in their investment portfolio. Others even more so with cut backs at work even loss of their job.

The Government is trying to help everyone with a stimulus payment. Some are willing to help others by job sharing or the like. It was surprising but none the less encouraging to read that the CEO of a large bank agreed to take a pay cut of 10% (SMH). He will have to make do with a salary of just \$2.7million for the next year. The \$310,000 cut will help other workers keep their jobs.

Imagine if all the other 'greedy CEOs', as the US President calls them, were to do the same. How can they take these 'obscene' and 'immoral' amounts of pay at this time, many are asking? Imagine if the bank CEO gave up another 10 or 20% to help others stay in their jobs. Would he find it so difficult to make ends meet?

In the wilderness the people that Moses led out of Egypt were given manna from heaven. Every day they went out to collect this food- every day except the Sabbath. Every day they had sufficient food to eat. But just like today, some people wanted to get more. Some wanted to get rich. They collected lots of manna and stored it up. But the next day they found it had worms and stank. Moses was angry with these greedy individuals. In the end, each one had as much as he needed (Exodus 16).

Jesus told a story about a man who had a bumper harvest. He decided to build bigger barns to store his crop. He was not satisfied with just 1 million bags- he wanted 2 million and 3 million bags stored away. Then he could sit back and enjoy the good life. But God was angry with this man and called him a fool. He died that night (Luke 12).

Is God angry with some people today? Is he angry with a lot of people who think like this farmer, people who have stashed away a lot of money so they can eat drink and be merry for many days? Is he angry with you for trusting in your money and not in Jesus? Is God bringing good out of this GEC?

It is encouraging to see the token 'sacrifice' of the bank CEO. May he go even further and help even more to keep their jobs and provide for their families. May many others follow in his steps!

It is no real sacrifice of course compared to the sacrifice of Jesus Christ the Son of God, who *though he was rich yet for your sake became poor* (I Corinthians 8:9). Jesus, the king of heaven, left the glory of heaven to come and die for you that you might not just eat, drink and be merry for a few days, but have life, eternal life in him.

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