

# GOD'S LOST PROPERTY

BY KAREN HAYWARD

*"For the Son of Man came to seek and save what was lost."* Luke 19:10

The Howick & Pakuranga Bus Company have an enormous area for lost property. People leave the strangest things on a bus. Shoes, food, bags, books, jackets and even a surf board! Most of the items are never collected but it is always an exciting time for the staff when they are able to reunite an owner and an object.

Occasionally the object in question is particularly dilapidated, grungy and rather revolting. Yet the owner has made the effort to come and retrieve it. And when the owner collects it, clearly he does not see it as a pitiful thing, instead he sees it as a treasure.

This is how the Lord sees His 'Lost Property'. His people are beautiful treasures and to retrieve His 'Lost Property', He wants to use you. Yes YOU. How can you help? He's made many ways – to fit each personality and gifting. If you are willing, there will be a way that is perfect for you. The question is – are you willing?

Recently I was at a healing meeting, held near to where I live. An altar call was made and an entire family went forward and gave their hearts to the Lord. It was wonderful to witness!

After the meeting, I spoke with these beautiful brand new Christians. They had never heard of the Lord until a few days earlier when a local Pastor knocked on their door and spoke with them. He had invited them to this meeting.

I was curious to know where they lived. I dis-

covered that they lived in my community, just a few streets away from my house. The Holy Spirit surrounded all of us with great power and He convicted me very, very strongly that the harvest is right here!!! We don't even need to go out of our own neighbourhoods. The Holy Spirit had been asking me for some time to go to my neighbours and there are many more people just like this family waiting to hear about Jesus.

“...WITH THE POWER OF OUR ALMIGHTY GOD WE CAN TRANSFORM OUR COMMUNITY OF HOWICK AND PAKURANGA AND INDEED ALL OF AUCKLAND, ALL OF AOTEROA...”

These brand new Christians did not own a Bible and did not know where to get one. It was a privilege to be able to explain some of the basics to them and to welcome them to the Body of Christ. It is a very special thing to be around brand new Christians - the presence of God is all over them.

These are people from our local community. They were God's 'Lost Property' and now they have been found. The angels are rejoicing in Heaven. And there are many more just like them in streets and houses all around us. God wants to impact people in our community and He wants to use us to do it. What a privilege to do God's work!

Let's explore some of the ways that we could use. At all times remember that it is God who must be the focus, if He is our focus then everything else will just flow out from that.

## A FOUNDATION OF PRAYER

If one of your main gifts is intercession, then you can walk the streets of your community and pray for the people. Listen to the Holy Spirit and spend more time over the houses that God will point out to you. The impact that you cause at a spiritual level is huge. Be encouraged and keep doing this if God calls you to witness in this way.

## INVITATIONS

Leaflet drops, invitation drops and teaching invitations. A small leaflet inviting people to an event, that you and a group of people have created. Use your gifts, God gave them to you for such a time as this. They are not just a prize for your wall. Step up and do this, listen to what the Holy Spirit is telling you. He has given you these ideas for action not just for thought.

## MEETING PEOPLE

Door knocking is a great way to meet people. If you have an event to invite them to, it makes



it very easy. People are searching and God will guide you to the ones who are ready to be found. Remember, God wants His 'Lost Property' back! Don't be afraid, just put one foot in front of the other, pray, open your mouth and let the Holy Spirit do the rest.

## COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION

Whole communities and even cities can be transformed by God. There are many examples around the world right now. A striking example of this is the city of Cali in Colombia. Cali was a city run by drug kings and cartels. It was full of crime, hate, greed and evil. Occult worship was widespread and it supplied a huge percentage of the world wide cocaine industry. The destructive influence of Cali was felt around the globe.

Yet today, Cali has been completely transformed by the power of God! Instead of brothels and pubs on every corner, there are now churches, brimming over with multitudes of believers. Churches of every denomination have joined forces and created a complete explosion across the entire Body of Christ.

But how did this community transformation happen? Cali is not an isolated example - there are many other cities and communities around the world where similar transformations have taken place. Interestingly, they all followed a



# Friday Night Youth Events

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similar pattern - by doing simple things, things you and I could do. With the power of our Almighty God we can transform our community of Howick and Pakuranga, and indeed all of Auckland, all of Aotearoa!

## KEYS TO TRANSFORMING A COMMUNITY

STEP ONE is to focus on God. He must be our priority.

STEP TWO is unity. Not just in our church but across the whole body of Christ. We must

get together with other Christians - spending time in prayer and encouragement. A key aspect of this is forgiveness and overcoming church territorialism. Unity across the body commands a blessing from God.

STEP THREE is intercession. Every city that has experienced transformation has had all night prayer sessions. In Cali, during one 24 hour corporate prayer time, there was no crime reported anywhere in the city! What a testimony to our Lord and the power of prayer!

STEP FOUR is specific spiritual warfare. Particular areas of concern such as occult or drug strongholds were mapped out, and prayed specifically against. We have areas in our own community that concern us - what are they? Let's get together and pray specifically against them! Let's do battle in the spiritual realm.

*"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the Heavenly realms."* (Ephesians 6:12)

Unity, intercession and spiritual warfare create an atmosphere which welcomes in the Holy Spirit. He will then begin to transform our community, our city and our beloved country. Our Father God gives all of us great dreams. It's time to take a step forward in courage and start believing that He can do more than we could ever imagine!