



# URGING EVERY CHRISTIAN TO GIVE!

## Join The Week of Bounty 24<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> May

—by Ps. Willie Crew

There are so many needs around us. The Bible teaches that we are to be generous to the poor; that we are to care for them. As the Church, we should be far more active in meeting the needs of the poor. Often churches run their own individual programmes, but a more collaborated approach is needed if we really want to make a difference. Just think of the Xenophobia crisis last year and how the Church came together so powerfully. Often though, as churches and as Christians, we hold back from organising campaigns

because the task seems too mammoth. Thankfully there is a simple and effective initiative called 'The Week of Bounty' that breaks down the mammoth task into an easy one. This programme (initiated by myself and World Mission Centre) is a call to all local churches to work together, mobilise church members to give (over the period of one specific week on 24-31 May 2009) and thus impact their communities greatly.

Basically the Week of Bounty is: looking with purpose around you; finding all kinds of things that you don't use or hardly ever use; making a deliberate decision to give to the needy; taking the goods to the church during a chosen Week of Bounty and distributing the goods to those in need in the shortest time possible.

### CHURCHES WORKING TOGETHER

It is not about giving money, but rather for individuals and churches to give clothes, canned food, old equipment, fridges, stoves, mattresses etc. As the saying goes, "One man's junk is another man's treasure."

Anyone is able to participate and a handy step-by-step guide is available free of charge for all pastors and church leaders. This manual breaks down all that is required to organise a Week of Bounty in one's congregation.

The Week of Bounty encourages churches and leaders to work together for God's glory and to meet the needs of their members and the needs of society. Every church leader should be part of the overall plan by encouraging and mobilising church members to participate in the Week of Bounty. Apart from encouraging every member to bring their material goods to the church for redistribution, the pastor or his designee must also recruit a team of people

who can organise the Week of Bounty. The more members involved, the greater the impact will be on the community through the Week of Bounty.

### ONE WEEK; A MASSIVE IMPACT

In 1980 a cyclone devastated the KwaZulu-Natal province; thousands of people were homeless and many lost everything they had. I spoke with a local pastor at the time and could hear the anguish in his voice.

Putting down the phone, I wondered what we could do. It was then that I contacted several friends and pastors that I had worked with and asked them to encourage their members to give whatever they could to help these people.

What unfolded was more than a week-long initiative - the goods just kept coming and coming as Christians emptied their homes and hearts with compassion. Though I cannot go into all the detail here, the end result was that thousands of people were positively affected and comforted by the practical outworking of the Gospel. The Lord has impressed on my heart to do this again, hence the Week of Bounty in May.

### YOU HAVE A ROLE TO PLAY!

Having read the previous article and this one, I encourage you to pray and see how you can get involved. If you feel moved to participate in the Week of Bounty this year from 24-31 May, please contact us. We will assist in every way possible. ■

**PS WILLIE CREW** is the head of World Mission Centre and author of *Week of Bounty Handbook*. See band below for more contact info.



See [www.weekofbounty.org](http://www.weekofbounty.org) or call 012 343 1165 for info