

June 2009

Dear Friends:

Our major charity event of the year is the *18th Annual Wallet Open Golf Classic*. The purpose is to raise money for children and families in need. Through City In Focus' *Samaritan Fund*, we assist in the following ways - send underprivileged kids to summer camp; after school programs; counseling; basic needs including food, housing, and medical; and support for those in crisis. Whatever your golfing skill level is at, everyone is welcome to come and participate! If you don't golf, please join us for the dinner and auction afterwards. A great time will be had by all for this worthy cause!

Wednesday, June 24, 2009
Country Meadows Golf Course
8482 No. 6 Road, Richmond, BC
Tee Off: 1:00 pm | Shotgun Start
Dinner/Auction 5 – 7 pm

We are also accepting sponsorships, donations and prizes for our Team Prizes and Live Auction. Please contact us if you would like to contribute! Please phone 604-687-7292 or e-mail: events@cityinfocus.ca

Reflections of a Christian in the Marketplace:

What is worship? What does it mean to worship from poverty? For much of my life, my faith has been moderately comfortable. I have enjoyed the luxuries of “Western” Christianity – abundant resources, some degree of social acceptance, and a mild contentment encouraged by the sedative of ease.

I have given to God His required quota – a token of my time, a token from my cheque book, and as I have come to realize, a token of my heart as well. Anything more would probably upset the arrangement and run the risk of snatching away the thing that I find most precious – my comfort.

What I have come to recognize is that such seductive comfort requires a disastrous presumption – that I am self-sufficient. It assumes I can manage on my own and that I am not, in fact, utterly desperate for God. However, comfort is a cataract that slowly spreads until eventually our sight becomes clouded and we lose our vision of God. And when that happens, we lose our ability to truly worship Him. In fact, we lose everything.

As I was studying the passage from *Mark 12:41-44* on the widow's offering, it spoke to me loudly and clearly about my condition. The widow had barely enough to purchase a piece of mouldy bread. Some ahead of her were dropping large sums into the temple treasury from their surplus wealth. What did she have to offer? What difference would her paltry gift make in the grand scheme of God's Kingdom? She must have felt such shame.

Yet, something within her yearned to give, to bow her heart to her God through offering the little - the all she had. She quietly, gingerly, stepped to the front, bowed, dropped her two small coins into the treasury, and then quickly turned to shuffle away. No one even noticed – no one – except Jesus. He saw and He marvelled. In fact, He told His disciples that she gave the most lavish gift of all. Her gift was the most extravagant because she recognized her brokenness – her need. She was giving “out of poverty.”

I have given out of abundance, giving Him only His “appropriate” portion – my time, my talents and my money. I believe I have been managing well, have it all together, and am comfortable – very comfortable.

That is not the worship worthy of God.

Blessings and shalom!

Bill Wong

Upcoming event: Friday, June 5th – City in Focus Breakfast at the Vancouver Club, 915 West Hastings Street. Speaker: **Catherine Delf**, Senior Sales Executive, MICROS Systems Inc, “*Alive after Death: My story of freedom from the chains of addiction.*” If you wish to attend this event, please call 604-687-7292 or e-mail events@cityinfocus.ca

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