

CAN A NATION BE CHANGED?

DATE: SUNDAY, 31ST OF MAY 2020 | SERIES: NATION CHANGERS - PART 3

2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-12

Remember this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.

Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

This service that you perform is ... overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.

NOTE TO LEADERS:

- Please remind your group of the live chat with Rob Hoatson, founder of Thirsti Water, at 7pm on Tuesday the 2nd of June (tonight). The interview will be streamed live on YouTube and Facebook.
- Next Tuesday, the 9th of June, Steve will be chatting with Rus & Glynn Eales who lead a church in Alberta, Canada. They have been involved in a number of church plants, including one in New Delhi, India. You can catch the interview on YouTube and Facebook Live.

START TALKING

1. What did you think of the feedback regarding all the food aid that the church is giving out through CityHope Disaster Relief and Nation Changers (see details in next column)?
2. God is the most creative Being in the universe. Which aspects of His creation inspire you the most?

START THINKING

1. Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-12. What stands out to you from this passage? What do you think of the idea that "God loves a cheerful giver?"
2. Paul speaks of sowing and reaping. Have you found this spiritual principle to be true in your own life?

START SHARING

1. Steve spoke about the transformative power of creativity and generosity. Who in your world exemplifies these characteristics, and why?
2. Share about a time that someone has been generous to you; what result did it produce in your life?
3. What creative ideas is God stirring in your heart at this time? (This could relate to generosity, business, family, reaching out to others etc.)

START PRAYING

Lord, create in us a desire to live creatively and generously. Make us Your change agents, with a heart to impact our community, our city and our nation.

START DOING

When you budget for groceries this week, consider including a Nation Changers relief voucher to help feed the needy. As little as R50 will feed one person for 10 days. Find the Nation Changers banking details and Zapper code [here](#).

NATION CHANGERS FEEDBACK

R215 000 received through NC2020 campaign specifically

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| Total Cash Income to date: | R 3 200 000 |
| Total Goods in Kind to date: | <u>R 2 500 000</u> |
| TOTAL | R 5 700 000 |

(An increase of R1 million in last two weeks)

People impacted to date 70 000

(An increase of 22 000 in the last two weeks)

SUMMARY

OF SUNDAY'S MESSAGE

This Sunday, in part three of our Nation Changers series, Steve asked the question: "Can a Nation be Changed?" Acts 17 says that God determines the places we should live and times we should live. God picked that we would live in this beautiful country, South Africa, at this time. And while we're living here, surely we should be asking God what we should be doing to be part of changing this nation. To try and answer the question, we look at the book of Genesis, and what it tells us about God.

1. God is Creative & Generous

In the opening chapters of the Bible (Genesis 1 and 2), we see the incredible story of creation unfolding. We read of how God creates "man" out of an overflow of His joy. And with His creativity, He is generous and breathes His life into the first man. From Adam, God takes a rib and creates Eve. He is creative and supremely generous! In that act of creating mankind He says:

Then God said, 'Let us make mankind in our image ...

So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, 'Be fruitful and increase in number ... Genesis 1:26-28.

- God is creative and generous and has created us in His image.
- God's creativity flows to us, and then He wants it to flow through us.
- God's generosity flows to us, and then He wants it to flow through us.

We (followers of Christ) are a force to be reckoned with because the most Creative and Generous Being in the universe resides within us!

In response to the question, "can a nation be changed?," the answer is "YES, through the creativity and generosity of God outworking itself through His people!" We are His change agents, placed here in this place and this time by God for His purposes.

2. Creativity & Generosity are TRANSFORMATIVE

The creativity and generosity of God through us are transformative, not only in our lives but in the lives of others around us. In the creation story, we see our Generous and Creative God creating something out of nothing. In the same way, through our salvation, God breathes new, creative, generous spiritual life into us. That creativity and generosity expressed through us into the world around us was designed by God to have transformative power.

Just recently, for example, Toyota (the car manufacturer) started making face shields. They found that it was taking 17-18 minutes per mask to make them by a 3D printer, so they created a mould and gave it to one of their suppliers - a plastic injection moulding company - to mass-produce the shield components which are then assembled at Toyota. They are planning on giving away 100 000 face shields. They will be supplying face shields to all the hospitals in the province of KZN. They are also planning to start supplying the teachers at schools in the province through the education department.

In 2 Corinthians 9:6-12, Paul speaks about the power of generosity:

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This service that you perform is ... overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.

This is illustrated in so many ways around us every day, and we should want more of it because it's our lives that are so richly blessed through God's creativity and generosity at work through us. ... remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Acts 20:35.

Generosity requires big-thinking and creates big thinking. It's not the amount that matters - it can be something small - it is the thinking that matters!

- Generosity builds our faith and increases the faith of those receiving
- Generosity opens supernatural pathways for God to work
- Generosity smashes a poverty mentality
- Generosity is contagious
- Generosity causes us to look outward
- Generosity breaks down barriers and helps us to grow
- Generosity makes us stronger. A 'sparingly' mindset makes us weaker.

ACTION POINTS:

1. Don't shrink back!

Everything going on around us currently seems to indicate that we should shrink back, but Hebrews 10:39 says: But we do not belong to those who shrink back and are destroyed, but to those who have faith and are saved.

Let's not allow a poverty mentality and a 'sparingly' mindset to cause us to shrink back. Let's contend courageously to live creatively and to give generously in a multitude of ways; allowing God to work miracles in our lives and into situations around us.

2. Ask God for His creativity and generosity to flow to you and through you.

God could give you the most creative ideas for new income streams, on how to transform and invest into other people's lives. Sometimes all it takes is a slight change of mindset or a small change of heart.