

OVERCOMING THE ODDS

Walking in the Word Service
Sat, 7.30pm
Sun, 8.30am

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October 7, 2006

\$31b gift between friends

Second richest man in the world, Warren Buffett, announced on Monday that he will give the bulk of his US\$44 billion fortune to a foundation set up by the richest man in the world, Bill Gates and his wife, Melinda. At a press conference, the three spoke on the importance of the super-rich giving back to society. Below is an edited transcript of the press conference.

Question: Some people would consider you are crazy to give away the money instead of giving it to your children. So, what message would you give to other countries that are not so much into this mode of philanthropy? Also did you think about giving the money to the United States government?

Warren Buffett: You really have a few choices. You can leave a significant portion - you can leave all of it - to the government if you elect to do that. You can elect a method of distributing your estate that leaves a significant portion to the government and a significant portion to other people, or you can elect to leave it through a philanthropic organisation.


Question: In terms of the 40-odd billion US dollars my Berkshire shares are worth now, I think Bill and Melinda Gates - and also the people involved in the other four foundations - will do a far better job in terms of using the good that comes out of that money, than would happen if it were dropped into the Federal Reserve.

Warren Buffett: We think philanthropy is a choice people make, but we want to show people it can be a lot of good and have a lot of impact. So we think, whatever country it is, we'd like to encourage more philanthropy.

Question: It's not to get back to your children, Mr Buffett. Seriously, what did they do wrong? Did they break



BILL & MELINDA
GATES foundation



1. Lead by Example

Problems #1:

- The people did not have enough grain to eat (Neh 5:2)
 - the people could not do other work to support their families because of the rebuilding



1. Lead by Example

Problems #2:

- A famine had caused people to mortgage their fields, vineyards and homes to get grain (Neh 5:3)



1. Lead by Example

Problems #3:

- The people borrowed money from the rich to pay the king's taxes (Neh 5:4)
 - sold their children as slaves in exchange for money
 - their daughters became prostitutes



1. Lead by Example

- In his anger, Nehemiah pondered over the situation in his mind before confronting the nobles and the officials



1. Lead by Example

Ephesians 4:26 (NIV)

"In your anger do not sin"

- When we are angry, we need to have time alone to ponder over the matter
- Nehemiah's confrontation was to correct and align the people to God's Word



1. Lead by Example

Exodus 22:25 (NIV)

If you lend money to one of my people among you who is needy, do not be like a moneylender; charge him no interest



1. Lead by Example

- The Israelites were not allowed to charge interest to fellow Israelites
- The nobles and officials were doing the very thing forbidden by the Lord



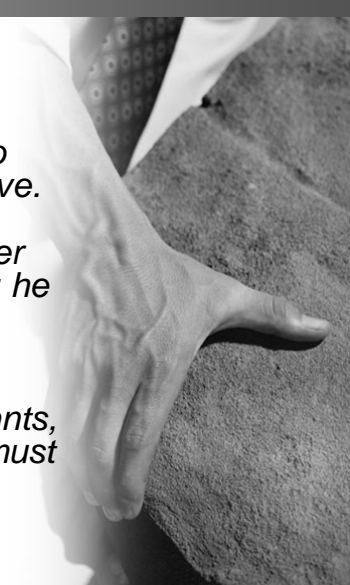
1. Lead by Example

Leviticus 25:39-43 (NIV)

³⁹ *If one of your countrymen becomes poor among you and sells himself to you, do not make him work as a slave.*

⁴⁰ *He is to be treated as a hired worker or a temporary resident among you; he is to work for you until the Year of Jubilee.*

⁴² *Because the Israelites are my servants, whom I brought out of Egypt, they must not be sold as slaves.*



1. Lead by Example

- Nehemiah's authority and basis of confrontation was from God's Word
- Godly leadership does not confront to condemn but confront to allow the conviction of the Holy Spirit to take place



1. Lead by Example

Proverbs 27:5 (NIV)

Better is open rebuke than hidden love.



1. Lead by Example

- Confrontation is unavoidable.
- It must done in love, in truth and in a redemptive manner
- Nehemiah was so effective in his confrontation because of the integrity in his leadership
- The nobles and officials could not refute him because Nehemiah was not committing their wrongdoings



1. Lead by Example

- The fear of God refers to the honour and reverence for God that enable us to be in relationship with Him
- The fear of God comes out of a deep love and worship for Him within us



1. Lead by Example

- We cultivate it by constantly being aware of God's presence in our lives
- This is done through our spiritual disciplines
 - Praying
 - Reading the bible
 - Fellowshiping with believers



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March 26, 2006

Secret lives of S'pore teens

Having sex is no big deal, 20 teens tell Sunday Times. Half do it before 16, most don't use protection - and none has told parents about it

By Jeremy Au Yong and Melissa Sim

CLAIRE is an outstanding academic performer, who went to a top secondary school and junior college and just scored five distinctions in her A-level exams.

But the 18-year-old is also hiding an intimate secret.

Since she was 15, Claire has been sexually active. Every weekend, she heads to her boyfriend's house, where they have sex in his bedroom.

She has had two different partners and admits that there have been times when she did not practise safe sex.

Her story is indicative of a hidden but apparently widespread culture among Singapore teens, one recently put into the spotlight by the case of 'Tammy', the 17-year-old Nanyang Polytechnic student whose explicit cellphone sex video found its way onto the Internet.

The clues had been there for some time, in the form of explicit blogs or Internet journals and rising numbers of teens with sexually transmitted diseases. But the Tammy saga finally blew the lid off the myth that local youth are repressed, prudish bookworms.

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Aug 17, 2006
Rise in sex infections hastens need to educate the young
Threefold increase in cases among those aged 10-19; over 40 have HIV

SINGAPORE youths continue to be vulnerable to sexually transmitted infections (STIs), with more than 40 Singaporeans aged 19 and below being diagnosed HIV-positive by the end of last year.

Over the last 20 years, more than 470 people have tested positive for HIV - the virus that causes Aids - when they were in the 20 to 29 age group.

And with a threefold increase in STIs such as gonorrhoea, genital herpes and warts between 2002 and 2004 among those aged 10 to 19, it has become even more urgent to step up HIV/Aids awareness efforts among youths here.

Last year, about seven in 10 secondary schools - totalling almost 43,000 students - took up the [Health Promotion Board's STI/HIV programme](#).

Close to 50 schools from secondary to tertiary level have joined Standard Chartered Bank's 'Be Aware, Be Safe' programme since its 2004 launch.

Students who have taken part in these programmes say they have helped to dispel many myths about HIV/Aids.

Said Temasek Secondary School student Tan Wei Sheng, 15: 'I used to believe that sharing a drink with someone with HIV/Aids would infect me too. I know better now.'

Describing the rising trend of STI cases among youths here as 'alarming', Senior Minister of State

2. Facing More Oppositions

- When Israel's enemies heard that the wall was almost completed, they wanted to kill Nehemiah to stop the process
- The enemies knew that they could not harm Nehemiah physically in Jerusalem



2. Facing More Oppositions

- They resorted to discredit his leadership
- Tobiah and Sanballat sent false prophets to Nehemiah to intimidate him



2. Facing More Oppositions

- If Nehemiah were to hid inside the temple, he would sin against God by intruding into the holy areas
- This would allow the enemies to discredit Nehemiah's leadership and bring about his downfall



Conclusion

- **With all the insurmountable odds against him, Nehemiah led the people to finish rebuilding the wall**
- **Nehemiah accomplished something that no one had done for the last 140 years**
- **He completed his assignment in 52 days**

Conclusion

- **As a result of this, Israel enemies were shaken and became afraid of Israel instead**
- **From being the threat, the enemies became threatened**