

## Talk at New Wine Ministries “Sing for Joy Gala Evening”

Nephew **MARK** – Bristol, *Smiles, Zest*, Brave, and cheer. Family and friends. Website – Requiem mass & album

**HOPE & HELP** – Despair & forsaken

**UNHCR** – 90% *South Asians*, 50% *Women and children Traumas* – Abuse, persecution, torture

**LIFE** – not Length but Excellence

*Mark* – died aged **33** – buried on a lonely hill beside a tree in Australia, but forever a *foundation of hope* for his family and friends

*Mozart* (1756-1791) - Greatest pieces composed near his death - *Marriage of Figaro* (K492), *Magic Flute*, *Clarinet Quintet* (K581)  
Died aged **35**, in *great poverty*, buried in an *unmarked grave*  
His music remains a *source of inspiration* for all future generations, including pregnant mothers-to-be.

**FAME & RICHES - CECIL RHODES** – famous colonialist

Diamonds and *De Beers* and *Rhodesia* (Zimbabwe)

Fame and fabulous wealth – On deathbed, he lamented, “*I can’t bring anything away*. My life was empty.”

**MODERN TIMES - SEARCH FOR PAPERS** – *Birth* Certificate, *Degree* Certificate, *Marriage* Certificate, *Stocks and shares*, *Title deeds*, *Honours* Certificates, *Gold and jewellery* – *receipts* to prove ownership, *Everything ends with a Death Certificate*

But without all the “Paper chase”, **HOW RICH WE ARE**

*Dale Carnegie* (Public speaker and educationalist x Andrew Carnegie, steel magnate and philanthropist)– “Eyes, legs, hands,

children, family – Count blessings > Rockefellers, Fords and Morgans combined”

**VALUE OF LIFE** - Comparing - Gold/diamonds – Safe, *they won't go away*. When *lost, may be found*. But life is ticking away, *minute by minute, hour by hour*.

**HOW TO MAKE ITS VALUE APPRECIATE** – Investment seminars. Financial returns uncertain. Value up or down. But giving positive and lasting return – *both other people's lives and our own*.

### **JOY and MEANING OF GIVING**

We've heard of *Mother Teresa*. *The Bus Driver* with 7 minutes to spare –final stop with a rubbish patch – *seeds* – beautiful garden

*Rewards* sometimes comes in *unexpected moments* - *General Eisenhower* – Cold and snowy morning, on way to HQ in Versailles – along road to Paris – shuddering old couple, waiting to visit dying daughter – diversion saved his life from an ambush bomb.

**NOAH'S ARK in BIBLE (Genesis Flood, Deluge)** - Kindness to living creatures – to humanity –Not just big acts of charity. **A(CTS) of R(ANDOM) K(INDNESS)** – Most are ARK misers. Often our kindest words or deeds are said and done at farewells or funerals. But why should we wait to put *flowers on a grave* when the person is gone for forever. 9 Why should we save our kind words for the moment when the person is *no longer able to hear*. *Love & compassion is limitless*. The more we give. The more we have. And don't have to wait. It's instantly available.

### **LETTER TO THE CORINTHIANS (9:6-15)**

*He who soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly.*

*He who soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.*

### **SING FOR JOY**

*Life is short and precious. Not length but excellence. Not despair.  
But Hope. Not Empty Dream. But Opportunity for Fulfilment.*