Message for Lighthouse 14th July 2013 (by Pastor Richard Warner)

# Foundations Foundations Foundations!

Ezr 6:1=6 ***Then Darius the king made a decree, and search was made in the house of the rolls, where the treasures were laid up in Babylon. And there was found at Achmetha, in the palace that is in the province of the Medes, a roll, and therein was a record thus written: In the first year of Cyrus the king the same Cyrus the king made a decree concerning the house of God at Jerusalem, Let the house be builded, the place where they offered sacrifices, and let the foundations thereof be strongly laid; the height thereof threescore cubits, and the breadth thereof threescore cubits; With three rows of great stones, and a row of new timber: and let the expenses be given out of the king's house: And also let the golden and silver vessels of the house of God, which Nebuchadnezzar took forth out of the temple which is at Jerusalem, and brought unto Babylon, be restored, and brought again unto the temple which is at Jerusalem, every one to his place, and place them in the house of God.***

Isa 54:1=11 *Sing, O barren, thou that didst not bear; break forth into singing, and cry aloud, thou that didst not travail with child: for more are the children of the desolate than the children of the married wife, saith the LORD. Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations: spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes; For thou shalt break forth on the right hand and on the left; and thy seed shall inherit the Gentiles, and make the desolate cities to be inhabited. Fear not; for thou shalt not be ashamed: neither be thou confounded; for thou shalt not be put to shame: for thou shalt forget the shame of thy youth, and shalt not remember the reproach of thy widowhood any more.For thy Maker is thine husband; the LORD of hosts is his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called. For the LORD hath called thee as a woman forsaken and grieved in spirit, and a wife of youth, when thou wast refused, saith thy God. For a small moment have I forsaken thee; but with great mercies will I gather thee. In a little wrath I hid my face from thee for a moment; but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the LORD thy Redeemer.For this is as the waters of Noah unto me: for as I have sworn that the waters of Noah should no more go over the earth; so have I sworn that I would not be wroth with thee, nor rebuke thee. For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the LORD that hath mercy on thee. O thou afflicted, tossed with tempest, and not comforted, behold, I will lay thy stones with fair colours,* ***and lay thy foundations with sapphires.***

Isa 58:11-12 *And the LORD shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not.And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places:* ***thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations****; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in.*

**Heb 11:10** *For he looked for a city* ***which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.***

Most things that fail throughout life – are because of poor foundations

Whether Mission/Projects, Buildings, or lives!

## 3 Examples

1. A Building – Leaning tower of Pisa
2. A Life for God
3. A Mission/Project

The best example of this is The Leaning Tower of Pisa (in Italy)



# Interesting Facts About the Leaning Tower of Pisa

* **The leaning tower of Pisa weighs 14,500 tonnes -** Although it took quite a long time for construction to be completed, the official estimated weight of the tower is just shy of 14,500 tonnes. No wonder the clay foundation couldn't handle the weight!
* **The tower took over 800 years to completely finish -** With the final modifications to the tower made in the early 21 st century, the entire process took over 800 years. During this time it witness two great wars, civil war, change in religious governments, and a change in use. It was "completed" in 1350 (over 200 years after its initial construction), but has undergone constant additions and modifications since that date.
* **The leaning tower of Pisa is only 55.86 meters tall -** With its low height, it's the smallest "tower" achieve worldwide recognition.
* **Europe 's most famous monument was the result of a slight miscalculation -** Although many factors have contributed to the lean, ***the decision of where to build the tower resulted in the original tilt of the tower***.
* **It is a symbol of national pride -** What is the first thing that comes to mind when you hear the word Pisa ?
* **It is located in the Piazza Dei Miracoli -** The "field of miracles" is where the tower is located, along with a few other famous structures, such as the Duomo, the Camposanto, and the Baptistery.
* **It was upright for five years upon completion of its initial construction -** Having only two floors, no one was aware of any problem with the tower. Upon the addition of the third floor the tower began to lean, and the result was thousands of confused people and hundreds of years of quick-fixes.
* **Construction was halted for 100 years -** Once the tower began to lean the construction was halted for 100 years. During this time, engineers hopes that the clay beneath the tower would settle and harden enough to permit further construction.
* **A new architect resume construction -** Giovanni di Simone continued where the tower had left off, adding four additional floors to the tower. Fortunately, and despite his efforts, he was unable to correct the lean.
* **A bad idea made the lean worse -** Alessandro Della Gherardesca tried to show the world the intricately decorated base of the tower by digging a walkway around the base. You can imagine the resulting disaster when his workers struck water, flooding the ditches.
* **Mussolini tried to fix the tower -** Embarrassed of the tower, and calling it a disgrace to national pride, he attempted to fix the tower by way of a cement counterweight drilled into the base of the tower. It didn't work.
* **The tower has 294 steps -** How fast can you make it up?
* **The tower was almost torn down -** American soldiers, under the orders to destroy all buildings that may act as a potential nest for enemy snipers, nearly destroyed the famous tower during World War Two.



## When poor foundations occur:

* **we lean in the wrong direction**
* **we do not fulfil the purpose we were designed to**
* **we attract people for the wrong reason**
* **we cannot carry the large bell that we were designed to**
* **our 'lean' gets worse and worse through time**
* **we exist precariously – on the brink of collapse and shame**
* **the only answer is a radical re-visit to the foundations, excavate, re-fill and strengthen etc.**

Psa 11:3 ***If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?***

## Poor foundations caused by

### Either

### Poor earth in which to build

### Or

### Poor materials for the actual foundations

Both caused by

### Poor planning and design

### Foundations Required:

#### e.g Jesus

1. Vision for His life (given through prophecy to Mary and Joseph)
2. Good parenting (mentors) - examples
3. Discipline and training
4. Protection from foreign and dangerous contamination
5. Learnt the word of God (Torah)
6. Developed relationship with the Father
7. Life of prayer
8. Obedience to the Father and His word
9. The practice of Godly habits – honouring God’s house, respecting elders, etc.
10. Proven/Tested in all things small and great

## These are Foundations for your life – as a disciple of Jesus!

* Vision for your life
* Good parenting (mentors) - examples
* Discipline and training
* Protection from foreign and dangerous contamination
* Learn the word of God
* Develop relationship with the Father
* Life of prayer
* Obedience to the Father and His word
* The practice of Godly habits – honouring God’s house, respecting elders, disciplines, etc.

## A Life for God

[The House on the Rock](http://biblehub.com/matthew/7.htm)  
Matt. 7:[24](http://biblehub.com/matthew/7-24.htm)***Therefore whoever hears these sayings of mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man, which built his house on a rock:*** [***25***](http://biblehub.com/matthew/7-25.htm)***And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat on that house; and it fell not: for it was founded on a rock.*** [***26***](http://biblehub.com/matthew/7-26.htm)***And every one that hears these sayings of mine, and does them not, shall be likened to a foolish man, which built his house on the sand:***

## The Church is built on Solid Foundation – Jesus!

Eph 2:19-22 *Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets,* ***Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone****; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.*

## Everything Stands or Falls on Foundations!

## About the Mission/Project that God Has Given Us (at Lighthouse)

 

We are not just holding the fort, continuing a tradition, or just doing a good thing –

We are called to execute the vision and purposes of God in our generation!

## God’s Vision for Lighthouse

* **To be a Great Force for God in this Community**
  + Showing the way of salvation
  + Making Disciples as Jesus Taught
  + Displaying a people of God who are blessed
  + Shining the Light of God through Good Works
  + A Bride ready for Jesus’ Return
* **To be a Great Mission to Australia and the Ends of the Earth**
  + Reaching the poor and oppressed
  + Establishing new churches and outreaches
  + Breaking new ground - to those who’ve never heard

## To Achieve this Vision – we need Good Foundations!

* Leadership with God’s Vision
* Leadership with Godly Example
* The training of True Disciples of Jesus

# Questions for Discussion:

* Can you think of some situations with poor foundations – either building, lives, or projects/missions? What were the results of these?
* What determines the types of foundations that are laid?
* What is God’s vision for your life, your mission in life?
* Are there some aspects of your performance in life so far, that can be attributed to por foundations?
* What are some things you can immediately do to correct these things?
* What results would take place if you implemented these corrections?