

## Hope into Actions Theology of Sharing

### SHARING OUR EQUITY WILL LEAD TO A MORE EQUITABLE SOCIETY

Hope into Action are trying to use investment capital more directly for purposes of the kingdom of God and in so doing promote a new form of Christian wealth management. We would love to see Christian investment, currently dammed up, flowing into social action that builds up the church.

The Bible uses words like ‘give to’ but it also uses words like ‘share.’ The current paradigm and culture in our country is to give away 10% of our earnings to a good cause and save or spend the rest elsewhere. Hope into Action are saying that as part of your investment portfolio why not ‘share’ your money with the poor by investing in a house.

Jesus told a parable about a man who stored his wealth in barns. He said to the person who did so ‘you fool.’ Currently Christians have £billions ‘stored up in barns (banks, stocks, shares)’. The church also has £billions stored up in barns. Would Jesus think this wise? We want to encourage Christians to ‘share’ their money with the poor.

The parable of the talents immediately precedes the verses about ‘when I was hungry you fed me, in prison you visited me etc.’ (Matt 25). Jesus linked money and values. We are giving people a way they can do the same.

So what we are doing is saying that as part of your investment portfolio please invest also in the poor. This model fulfils so much of what Jesus spoke about money: We are giving people a way they can ‘fulfil the parable of the talents’, ‘serve the poor’, ‘build up the church’, ‘build up their riches in heaven’, ‘provide the poor wanderer with shelter’, ‘not store money in barns’ all in one stroke.

Doing so will lead to a more just society: when you put money into stocks and shares you are sharing you money with the wealthy - how many poor stock brokers do you know? – in so doing you are enabling the rich to get richer. In part this leads to a greater stretch between rich and poor and a more divided society. By putting money into homes for the homeless the poor benefit from your wealth. Not only that but they feel that society cares for them. One tenant said to me: ‘having lived in hostels run by the state for the last 8 years - I can not believe that someone in my community would want to buy a house for me.’ Another said ‘you have done more for me than my parents ever did.’

We started 4 years ago with one house in partnership with Bretton Baptist church in Peterborough. We now have 27 houses open in 7 cities and a further 4 in the pipeline. We have diverted over £3 million of investment capital to the poor. We have enabled rich Christians to wisely link their values with their money. And also recently opened a house where [12 people have invested £10,000](#), and another where 16 have invested in a £200,000 house - an exciting 21<sup>st</sup> century model of ‘sharing’ based on the apostles precedent as

described in Acts 2 and 4. Most importantly for us, however, each house is in partnership with a church who provide pastoral support in partnership with our professional workers. In such a way we are able to provide a holistic, professional, long-term relational approach to the poorest in our cities without having to dilute the gospel. As a result we are seeing people give up crime, come off drugs, get jobs and turn their lives around. If you want to be part of work which holistically works with some of the poorest in our society then get in touch.

Just imagine how much money is saved by Christians in your area then think what God might be able to do with that wealth if it was undammed? If we can successfully access this seam of money, held by Christians, stored up in barns, then we might be able to see the churches, once again at the fore-front of social reform in the area of homelessness offering a more community based response to homelessness.