**Healthy Church Culture: Empowering the Poor**

Having been affirmed in his apostleship by the Jerusalem apostles, All they asked Paul was that he should continue to remember the poor. Paul affirmed that this was ‘the very thing I had been eager to do all along’ (Gal 2:10). This session is a call to incarnate the care of the poor into the very life of the local church, not as some separate ministry.

**Angela Kemm** is originally from Cape Town, South Africa, where she worked for many years in the Townships (segregated areas for Black people) during the Apartheid years and beyond. Having a great love for the Church, she had to learn how to bring a heart for the poor and justice into the church, while standing against Apartheid and pioneering two church plants. She now resides in the UK where she is part of Relational Mission led by Mike Betts and works across the Newfrontiers family of churches moving them on in all God has for them. Angela is married, with three children and eight grandchildren.

1. Why was Paul asked to continue to remember the poor?
2. Jewish people taught this in Torah
3. Common practise among Jewish community
4. Now sent to Gentiles (Gal 2:9)
5. Why was he eager to do this?
6. Studied under Gamaliel – thoroughly trained in Jewish law (Acts 22:3)
7. Acted on it by collecting for Jerusalem church poor (Acts 11:27-29))
8. Barnabas and Saul carried gift to Judea (Acts 11.30)
9. Does God seem to have a bias towards the poor?
10. Scripture seems to imply it (Prov 14:31; Deut 24:14; Ps 9:18…)
11. Jesus’ mission (Luke 4:18-19; Is 61)
12. More than 2000 verses on Poverty and Justice
13. Does this apply to the Church today?
14. The Word of the Lord stands forever (1Peter 1:25; Is 40:6-8)
15. The poor will always be with us (Matt 26:11; Deut 15:11)
16. All Scripture is God breathed (2 Tim 3:16-17)
17. How do we go about it?
18. Foundational training of Church Planters
19. Part of foundational teaching of new church plants
20. A regular part of teaching in established Churches
21. Not just for Practicioners
22. Vital role of the Church – modelling (1Thess 1:7)
23. Not just about money but about mindset change
24. From compassionate heart and mind
25. Always having Salvation in mind
26. Does a care for the poor carry a benefit for the Church?
27. God heard Cornelius, a Gentile, who gave to the poor (Acts 10:2)
28. Closeness of God (Is 58:9)
29. It carries a blessing (Ps 41:1-3)
30. Brings dignity and empowers those on the margins

***Suggested Readings:***

*A Church for the Poor*, Martin Charlesworth & Natalie Williams, 2017, David C Cook, UK

*Irresistible Revolution*, Shane Claiborne, 2006, Zondervan

*Generous Justice,* Timothy Keller, 2012, Hodder & Stoughton

*Global Humility*, Andy McCulloch, 2020, Malcolm Down Publishing Limited

*A Call to Act*, Martin Charlesworth & Natalie Williams, 2020, David C Cook