

Further comments about BLESSED ARE THE POOR? by Laurie Green

You have in your hands a rare and special document. Here unearthed for you are deep stories of hope and possibility as well as stories of hardship and dismay. These stories belong to the often forgotten residents of Britain's housing estates. Laurie Green bears witness to how God is very present and how theology and church can become alive because of the mysterious part that those who are marginalised often play in the purposes of God.

Ann Morisy Ann is a freelance community theologian, lecturer and author. Her best-selling books include Beyond the Good Samaritan and Journeying Out.

This is an excellent book. If you are engaged in urban ministry, in housing estates, you will find a huge amount to help you understand the context, to challenge your thinking and to make your practice better. This book should also be read by all who have power in the church.

Andy Delmege – convenor of the Estate Churches Group, Birmingham.

This carefully researched but highly readable book combines detailed reflection on biblical resources with historical and sociological perspectives on housing estates and issues of urban poverty and, most significantly, the experience and stories of poor people themselves. Rejecting platitudes and romanticism, it is a powerful demonstration of the practice of contextual theology and offers a persuasive and provocative interpretation of what Jesus meant when he pronounced the poor 'blessed'.

Stuart Murray Williams Stuart is a theologian and author, the founder of Urban Expression, and an experienced urban minister. He currently teaches mission and is Director of the Centre for Anabaptist studies.

Lots of people have written books on urban ministry, but every now and then one appears that's head-and-shoulders above the rest. This is one such book. Laurie Green writes with a hugely authentic and prophetic voice reflecting many years of ministry in urban communities ranging from gangland New York and Birmingham, to East London and the Essex of Basildon, Canvey Island and the Thames estuary. This isn't a cheap, read-and-throw-away book, but it's worth the investment and needs to be shared. So - as has already been said - if you can afford it, why not buy two copies and give away the second to someone you know who will benefit from it?

Elwin Cockett. Archdeacon of West Ham

Bishop Laurie Green gives us a power pack of experience, with fresh insights into Jesus' declaration "Blessed are you who are poor" by breaking open space for the poor to speak for themselves from within their communities. Based on a life-long immersion in the lives of the poor, it is a Gospel-centric account saturated with fresh Gospel insights from the perspectives of the world of the poor, to enable us authentically to challenge the present ordering of society and Church. A reflection-action "work book" challenging us all as Christians and Church to really be with the poor, who are full of inspiring stories from the underside of our society.

John Battle John is a highly respected politician. He was a Minister of State in the UK Government and has been honoured by the Vatican for his life-long community activism and his political achievements.