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Title: Integrated mission in Acts 2:44-47: a model of inclusive development amid income inequality in South Africa

Main research question: How can an integrated mission in Acts 2:44-47 assist in creating an inclusive development amid income inequality in South Africa

FIVE KEYWORDS: Integrated mission, inclusive development, inequality, income, South Africa

Abstract

The concentration of wealth in South Africa is still in the hands of the minority. Few people own the wealth of the country while the majority ravage in poverty and other socio-economic factors like unemployment. The reality is that even among the majority of the so called black middle class in South Africa, there is a huge income gap in what is termed income inequality. The phenomenon of income inequality is not unique to South Africa but a global phenomenon. In South Africa, there is a need for the sharing of wealth to the poor not only as a philanthropic exercise but also as willingness to empower other people especially the marginalised. Integrated mission in Acts 2:44-47 serves as a model for that kind of sharing to happen in South Africa. A theological study of Acts 2:44-47 demonstrates that the people in the early church were together in unity and did things together. They went further to share material possessions equally among themselves. A contextual study of Acts 2:44-47 shows that an integrated mission bridges the gap between the rich and poor, has a Communal identity, is non-denominational, reaches out to community and is selfless. Therefore, an integrated mission in Acts 2:44-47 serves as a model of inclusive development amid income inequality in South Africa.