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A script for a short talk about the work of Acts 435 - to accompany the introduction to Acts 435 powerpoint

You can find accompanying videos on Youtube and the powerpoint slides on our website, or email kgreene@acts435.org.uk for a copy.

(As a church/charity we have been partnered with Acts 435 for X years - helping those in need in our local community through this unique way of giving. So you may already know a bit about what they do. But if not, we would like to let you know what they're all about).

Firstly, I would like to show you an inspiring video about how Acts 435 provides a valuable resource to churches and charities in the UK.

(Slide 1) Acts 435 is based on the book of Acts in the bible - Chapter 4 verse 35 where we see the early church 'giving to each as they had need'. Acts 435 takes that from a local setting to connect people more widely through the internet, to provide fast, financial help for people in UK poverty and desperate or crisis situations.

(Slide 2) Acts 435 is a resource for churches and charities all over the UK serving those in need in their local community, perhaps through ministries the church runs such as a food bank or debt centre, or through the contacts the church has, such as with the local school for example.

Acts 435 is a website connecting those in need with those who want to help whilst protecting donor anonymity and applicant confidentiality. It is an opportunity to provide practical help for specific items in a simple way.

(Slide 3) Acts 435 was the idea of a businessman in 2009 who recognised that there was a lot of donor fatigue in charity giving, where individuals weren't sure where their giving was exactly going.

The Acts 435 website enables people to give directly to a specific need and know they are making a difference. Acts 435 believes that a small gift can have a big impact, especially to those who are in a moment of crisis or who are in poverty.

Acts 435 also helps donors to provide more unusual items that will also have a big impact on someone's life - such as a tandem bike for a blind lady, or a sensory lamp for a young boy with Attention Deficit Disorder (insert your own request needs).

(Slide 4) Since Acts 435 was officially launched in July 2010 by its Patron, Dr John Sentamu, the former Archbishop of York, over 65,000 people have been helped and over £8,000,000 has gone directly to help people in need. There are now over 620 participating churches and charities partnering with Acts 435.

(Slide 5) (You may have a story or two about how someone in your local community has been helped by Acts 435. If you do not have a story then you can read the one below).

Often, for an Acts 435 Recipient, it isn't just about the item but also about being shown love and care at a hard time.

When this mum first got in touch with the local Advocate she was suffering from depression due to her husband leaving her a year ago. She had been off work for a while but had recently had to go back part-time. She was finding it hard to manage childcare costs due to the delay in support from Universal Credit - as they have a large waiting time. She knew she needed at least £80 to cover childcare costs, and also the fuel to get to work.

The request was met, and the money given to the Advocate, who could inform her the need had been met:

"This lady was so overwhelmed when I called to let her know she had got the help with childcare, the same morning that her childcare bills had just come through! She just couldn't believe it because normally her bill is about £80 but this one was £150, exactly the amount we had asked for. She was blown away. She also said she had just finished the Alpha Course but she was finding it hard to see God as she hasn't had an experience. Then this happened, and she was just blown away! Thank you so much."

This is just one story of over 65,000 others where a small gift has made a big difference to someone's life. That difference might be emotionally, physically or mentally.

How does it practically work?

(Slide 6) The Advocate hears of the need from the applicant, and they post the request to our website. Donors are then anonymously able to go on and donate any amount towards the request from £5 to the whole amount - just like crowdfunding.

Requests can be for any amount up to £200, and once the request is met the money is transferred to the church to purchase the item so desperately needed.

(Slide 7) This is a screenshot of how the website works, and you can easily view the requests, filter by region or category and choose which to donate to.

(Slide 8) Some churches have received over £10,000 a year through Acts 435 to help individuals in their community. These are funds they could not have raised themselves, and Acts 435 is a resource that can run alongside a church's other ministries to go that extra mile for people in need.

(Slide 9) The Advocate plays a key role in meeting with the person in need and posting that need on the Acts 435 website as well as sourcing items for recipients. [I am the Advocate for [church name] but do have a chat with me if you would also like to be involved.]

(Slide 10) Of course donors could be anyone in the country or indeed the world, and are often people who like to give directly to meet a need with no administration or overhead costs taken away. If you give £80 for John's cooker in Liverpool, the full £80 will go to John for his cooker; all administration costs are covered by Gift Aid donations. Donors choose which requests strike a cord with them and give accordingly. Today we would like to invite you to consider supporting people in UK poverty through Acts 435, do take a look at their website.

(Slide 11) - Take a look at their website www.acts435.org.uk