

FAITH AS A SHELTER - WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO CREATE COMMUNITIES SHAPED BY FAITH?

With Kirstie Cook from HopeWorks

Bernardo Cañas, Jumie George, Eve McCallam, and Meiron Avidan –
Housing Justice



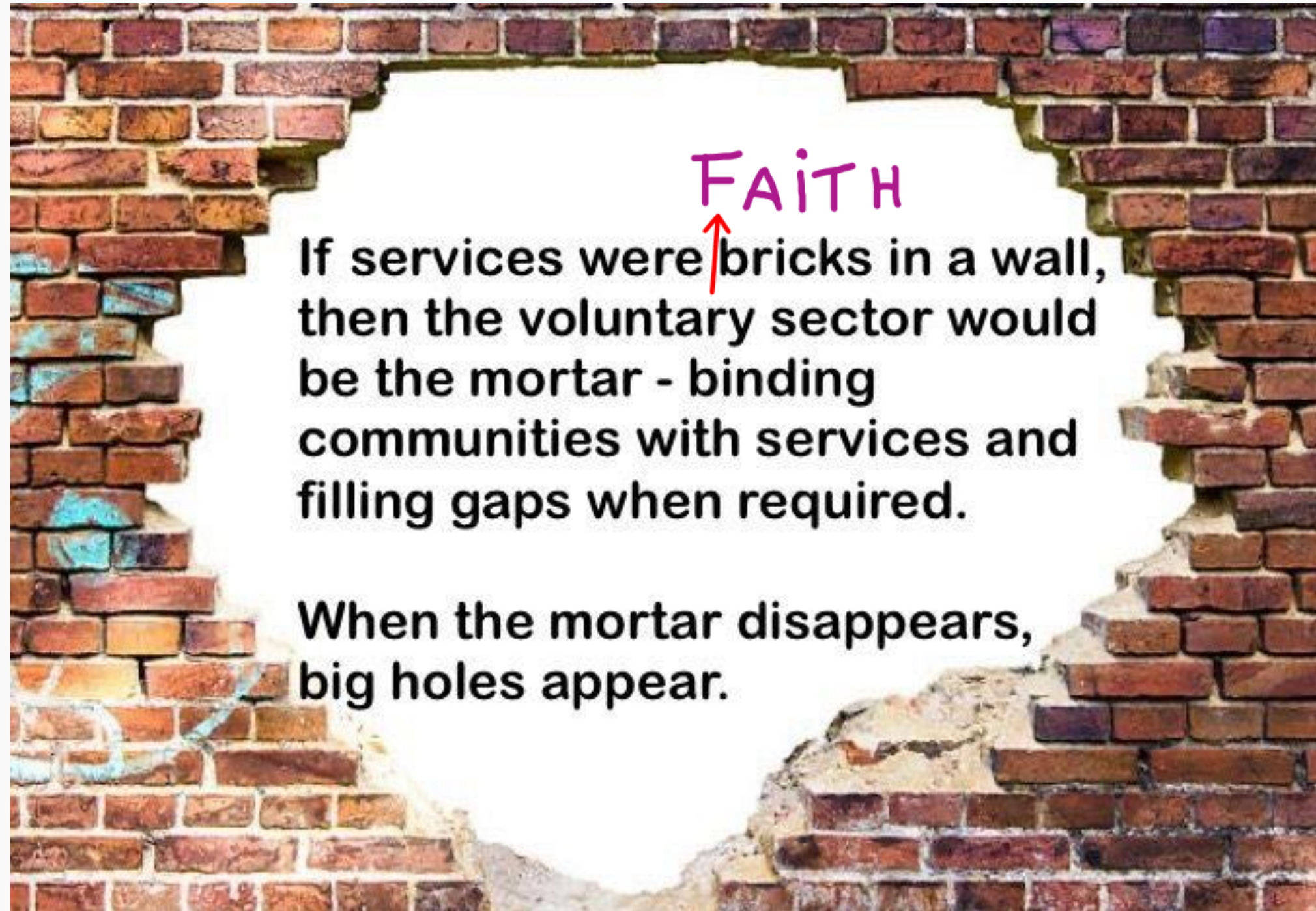
FLOW OF THE SESSION

- We'll start by listening to Kirstie Cook from Hope Works about what it means being a faith-based shelter
- We will then break into three discussion groups:
 - Faith and the people we support (Meiron)
 - Faith and our colleagues and volunteers (Jumie)
 - Faith and funders and external partners (Eve)
- Then sharing back and asking questions to speakers

INTRODUCTION – Bernardo Cañas, Housing Justice

- **Faith in the homelessness sector**
- **Treating homelessness holistically**
- **Ending homelessness in the community – a shift in focus towards faith and community projects**

INTRODUCTION – Bernardo Cañas, Housing Justice



FAITH AS A SHELTER

Kirstie Cook, CEO

From King's Arms Project to HopeWorks



We are HopeWorks



*Restore, rebuild,
reimagine.*

FAITH AS A SHELTER

MODEL A (1):

EA Statement of Faith

1. The one true God who lives eternally in three persons-the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
2. The love, grace and sovereignty of God in creating, sustaining, ruling, redeeming and judging the world.
3. The divine inspiration and supreme authority of the Old and New Testament Scriptures, which are the written Word of God-fully trustworthy for faith and conduct.
4. The dignity of all people, made male and female in God's image to love, be holy and care for creation, yet corrupted by sin, which incurs divine wrath and judgement.
5. The incarnation of God's eternal Son, the Lord Jesus Christ-born of the virgin Mary; truly divine and truly human, yet without sin.
6. The atoning sacrifice of Christ on the cross: dying in our place, paying the price of sin and defeating evil, so reconciling us with God.

FAITH AS A SHELTER

MODEL A (continued):

EA Statement of Faith

7. The bodily resurrection of Christ, the first fruits of our resurrection; his ascension to the Father, and his reign and mediation as the only Saviour of the world.
8. The justification of sinners solely by the grace of God through faith in Christ.
9. The ministry of God the Holy Spirit, who leads us to repentance, unites us with Christ through new birth, empowers our discipleship and enables our witness.
10. The Church, the body of Christ both local and universal, the priesthood of all believers - given life by the Spirit and endowed with the Spirit's gifts to worship God and proclaim the gospel, promoting justice and love.
11. The personal and visible return of Jesus Christ to fulfil the purposes of God, who will raise all people to judgement, bring eternal life to the redeemed and eternal condemnation to the lost, and establish a new heaven and new earth.

FAITH AS A SHELTER

MODEL B (1):

Expression of Faith

We believe in God — Father, Son, and Holy Spirit — who loves the world deeply and calls us to do the same.

We believe Jesus Christ showed us what real love looks like: He fed the hungry, touched the sick, welcomed the forgotten, and gave His life so that everyone could have hope.

We believe the Gospel is good news for the poor and freedom for the broken.

We believe that when we serve “the least of these,” we’re really serving Jesus Himself.

We believe the Church is called to be His hands and feet — to show mercy, seek justice, and walk humbly with God.

FAITH AS A SHELTER

MODEL B (continued):

Expression of Faith

We believe faith isn't just believing in the right things; it's living them out in love.

We believe the Holy Spirit gives us power to bring light into dark places and courage to keep going when it's hard.

We believe God's Kingdom is coming — and every act of compassion is a glimpse of it.

We follow Jesus, we serve the poor, we love people and we trust that in all of it, God is making all things new.

FAITH AS A SHELTER

MODEL C:

Ethos Statement

Our Christian Ethos

Our charity is rooted in the Christian faith. We are inspired by the life and teaching of Jesus, who showed particular concern for the poor, marginalised, and excluded.

We seek to embody values of:

- Compassion – treating all with dignity and care.
- Justice – standing alongside those who face inequality and oppression.
- Integrity – being honest and accountable in all we do.
- Respect – valuing people of all faiths and none, working in partnership across divides.

SMALL GROUPS

THREE GROUPS:

- **Faith in relation to the people we support**
- **Faith in relation to colleagues and volunteers**
- **Faith in relation to funders and external partners**

CREATING COMMUNITIES SHAPED BY FAITH

- **Share feedback from the three groups**
- **Questions for Kirstie Cook**