

PRESS RELEASE

13th June 2011

Jonathan Dimpleby speaks at Five Talents Fundraising Dinner

Africa is *“filled with an extraordinary combination of energy and resilience”*.

Jonathan Dimpleby was the guest speaker at a fundraising dinner in aid of Five Talents on 9th June in London. The host was Philip N. Green, member of Five Talents' Council of Reference and former CEO of United Utilities, a FTSE100 company.

Jonathan spoke passionately about understanding Africa, not from a viewpoint of victim and mismanagement, but towards a recognition of its diversity, wealth and talent.

He gave specific examples of people he has met covering Zambia, Congo, Kenya and Ethiopia saying that *“what really struck me was their skill and talent against all the odds”* and noticing that *“a little bit of money helps them start it off.”*

The evening was attended by 25 people including financiers, lawyers and entrepreneurs who wished to learn more about Five Talents' microfinance programmes. One of the charity's supporters, Mr David Doulton, who runs the Fair Investment Company, explained what attracted him to support Five Talents was *“investing in people who are connected to the communities and making a massive impact with a small amount of money”*.

Jonathan summed up the evening by saying, *“I've seen it working in Africa, in India, South America and elsewhere - the ability to harness people's talents to the potential to make a difference. They can't go to the banking system, the bank doesn't want to know. They're too small. But, if you can give some sort of micro-finance scheme to those people, they have a future, their families have a future and the consequence to their nations, these fifty nations has a future. It could not be a more useful and significant way of saying “I really care about that continent and those people.”*



Philip N.Green with Jonathan Dimpleby

A full transcript of Jonathan's speech can be found [here](#).

END.

“Master,” he said, “you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.” (Matt. 25:20)

Notes to Editors

Jonathan Dimbleby

Jonathan is a well-known BBC journalist, hosting the weekly programme “Any Questions” on Radio 4 and recently presenting “An African Journey with Jonathan Dimbleby” on BBC2 television.

Five Talents

Five Talents is the microfinance initiative of the worldwide Anglican Church, working with local microfinance partners to reach poor and marginal communities.

The UK charity has a Council of Reference chaired by Lord Griffiths of Fforestfach and including Philip N. Green; Margaret Sentamu; Baroness Cox; Annette Brooke MP amongst others.

Five Talents funds micro-credit and micro-savings programmes which provide training in business skills, including basic book-keeping, planning, appraisal, marketing and stewardship. The charity currently supports 14 microfinance programmes in 12 developing countries reaching over 30,000 direct beneficiaries.

Micro-loans start from as little at £25 per person and can impact as many as 10 people once family members and employees are taken into account. Women form, on average, 60% of loan group members. Repayment rates by project are in the range of 90-100%.

Five Talents was founded at the Lambeth Conference of Anglican church leaders in 1998, created as a long term response to help the poor in developing countries based on need not creed. Five Talents works with the local church in communities to gather, train and financially equip entrepreneurs. The charity’s name is taken from the parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30) in which the “good and faithful servant” takes the Master’s five talents and through effort and initiative gains five more.

Five Talents UK is a registered charity in England and Wales (No. 1113969) and a registered non-profit organisation in the USA.

Five Talents’ Patron is the Archbishop of Canterbury.

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