

### **Is a clever financial plan enough to save us?**

We are witnessing one of the most severe economic crises of modern times, and the root causes go beyond poor financial regulations, greedy bankers or people borrowing above their means.

This crisis has made it clear that never-ending economic growth through ever-increasing indebtedness cannot be sustained, especially when financial models become more and more disconnected from the real economy. Furthermore, the core values of our civilisation are threatened when selfish behaviour among financial institutions damages reciprocal trust, which is both the basis of any financial deal and the main foundation of economic and social relationships.

Even a successful bailout plan cannot restore this trust, unless people start looking at reality for what it is and at what they really desire in life.

“There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio,  
than are dreamt of in your philosophy”.

This sentence from Hamlet expresses the evidence that reality and life are bigger than the job that we do, than the money we make. Our life is made to reach complete happiness and fulfilment.

This desire for beauty and happiness is what makes man unique and invaluable. We cannot be reduced to a set of skills that are applied only to make enough money to retire. Producing things, making money, even being good at our jobs are not enough: we need our work to have a meaning. In other words it is necessary for it to be directed toward what is called destiny.

So why is it reasonable to have a great desire and hope for the future?

Our hope for the future is based on our experience of beauty and fulfilment in the living company of the Church. Our eyes have seen facts of solidarity and friendship that we live every day and that sustain our energy in our daily battle to build the future, despite all the controversies and contradictions that we may face.

We want and need to build our future together with all men and women who have the same desire for happiness and justice and who share the experience that life is not just a matter of getting a few plans right.

Communion and Liberation UK