

News Release:

Christian charity wins national award for leadership

Christian debt counselling charity Christians Against Poverty (CAP) have fought off competition from over 500 other companies to win the Best Leader award at the Sunday Times 'Best Small Companies' award ceremony. Building on previous recognition for excellence, the charity's Chief Executive, Matt Barlow, and Founder and International Director, John Kirkby, have co-won the prestigious award.

Now in their tenth year, the 'Best Companies' awards have come to be recognised as the benchmark for all that is outstanding in terms of working environment. With employees anonymously answering wide-ranging surveys about their company, the results provide a vital insight into the inner-workings of many organisations across the country in an unbiased way.

CAP, which operates through a national network of 125 church-based debt counselling centres across the UK, was singled out for its exceptional leadership. An unbeaten 99% of employees voted Matt Barlow and John Kirkby as inspiring leaders and 94% felt that senior managers listen to them. In addition, 99% of employees believed that CAP operated on sound moral principles and also believe CAP makes a positive difference to the world.

Matt Barlow said: "We are delighted to receive this award. We hope that it demonstrates both how dynamic and in touch Christian organisations can be and the example they can set for other organisations. Whilst this award is a prestigious accolade, we're not going to get complacent. With 60 more debt counselling centres opening this year alone across the country, there's plenty left to do to tackle the most pressing social problem affecting the UK today."

The charity, which has its headquarters in Bradford, has undergone a period of expansion over the past three years and now boasts an annual turnover of around £5 million. Through CAP's unique approach to debt counselling, many become Christians and its specialist service has received widespread praise from both secular and Christian circles for its quality.

To find out more about the work of CAP call 01274 760720 or visit www.capuk.org.

ENDS –

Notes to editors:

For more information about Christians Against Poverty, please contact Sharon Thresher at the press office on 01274 760726 or sharonthresher@capuk.org

Further information

About Christians Against Poverty

CAP aims to show God's love in action by providing sustainable poverty relief through debt counselling, advice and practical help. CAP's unique 'hands on' approach empowers people to help themselves out of poverty and be released from the fear, oppression and worry generated by overwhelming debts. Vital financial and budgeting life skills are developed through our services, thus ensuring poverty relief is sustainable.

The charity operates through a growing network of centres based around the UK, all opened in partnership with a local church. Over the last fourteen years, the charity has grown from one man working from his home with a donation of £10, to a national charity with 125 centres across the country and an annual turnover of £5 million.

CAP's vision is to answer the national problem of debt in the UK by having at least one CAP centre operating in every major town and city by the end of 2014.