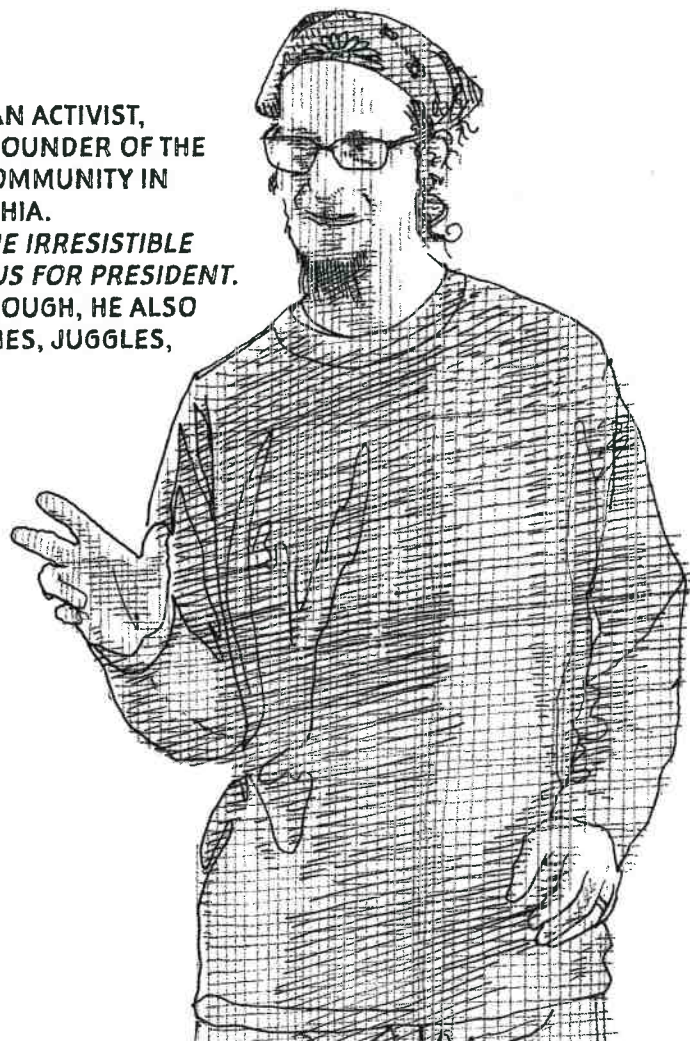


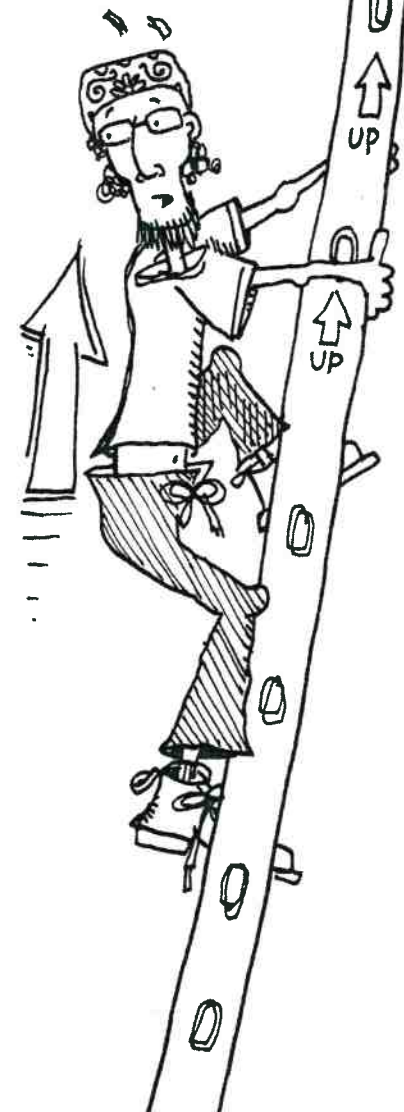
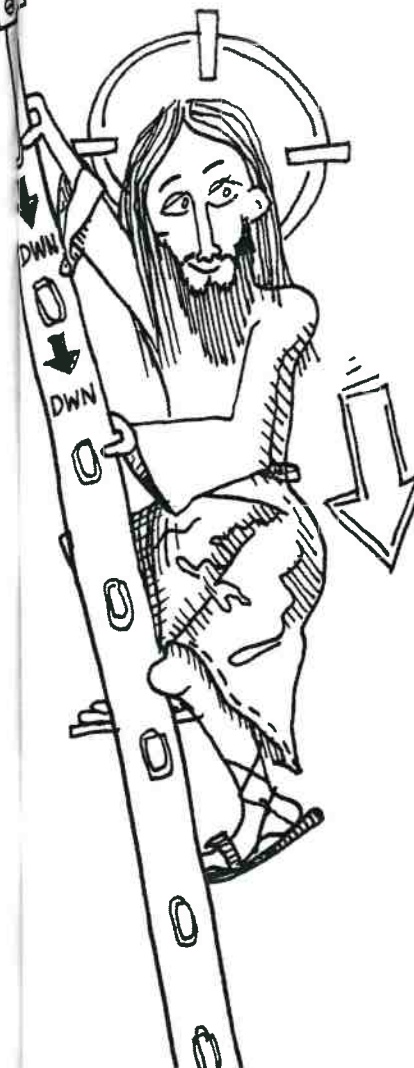
Shane

CLAIBORNE

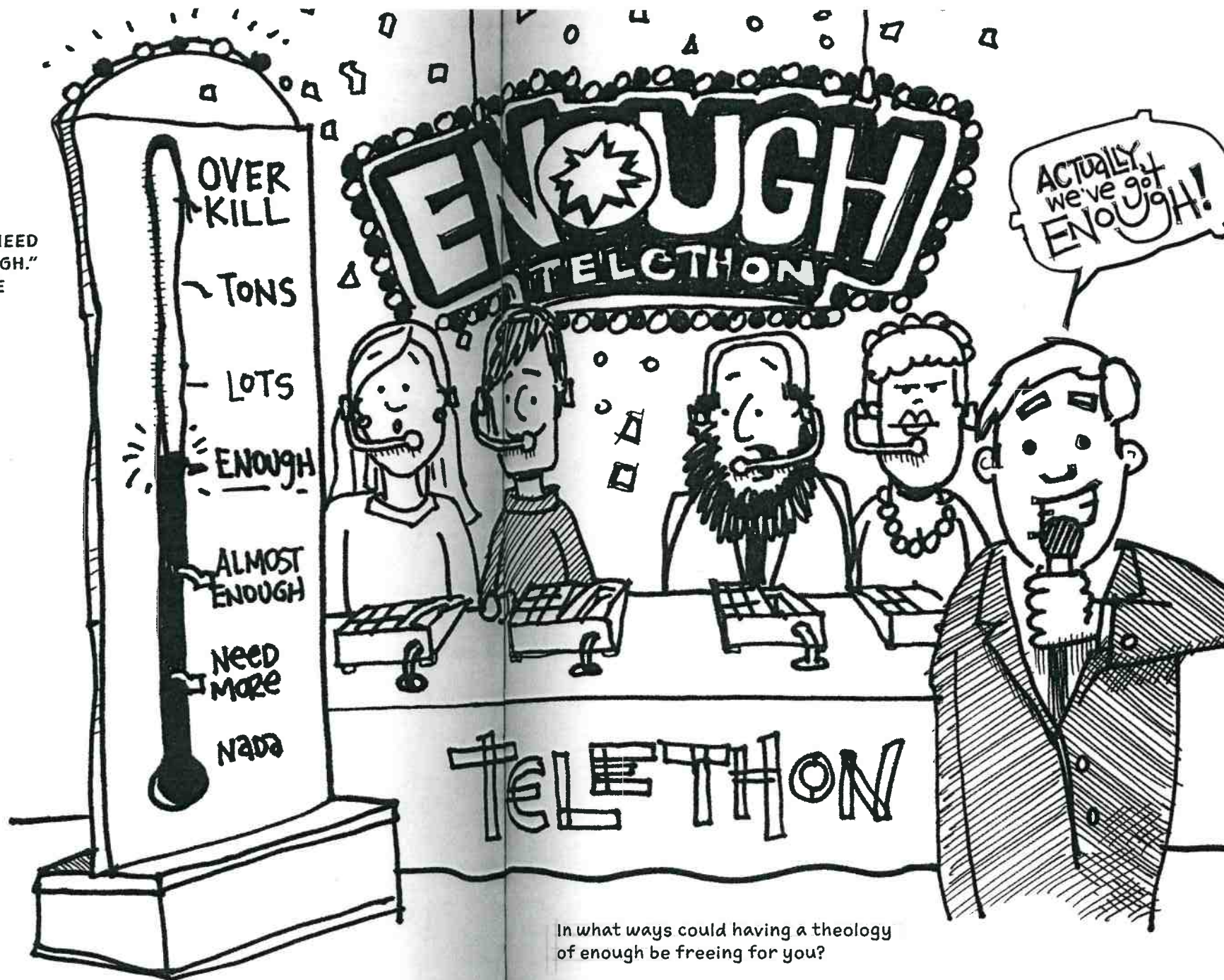
SHANE CLAIBORNE IS AN ACTIVIST, AN AUTHOR, AND THE FOUNDER OF THE SIMPLE WAY, A FAITH COMMUNITY IN INNER-CITY PHILADELPHIA. HIS BOOKS INCLUDE *THE IRRESISTIBLE REVOLUTION* AND *JESUS FOR PRESIDENT*. AS IF THAT WEREN'T ENOUGH, HE ALSO MAKES HIS OWN CLOTHES, JUGGLES, AND BREATHES FIRE.



Shane asks us to think about something most of us would rather not think about—our often insatiable need to be successful, to have money and other material possession, and to gain a sense of power in the world. What makes this subject hard to talk about?



SHANE SUGGESTS WE NEED
A "THEOLOGY OF ENOUGH."
WHAT DO YOU THINK HE
MEANS BY THAT?



In what ways could having a theology
of enough be freeing for you?

At what point in your life
did you start to worry
about having "enough"?
Where does that anxiety
come from?

This is what

WE ALL HAVE HURDLES THAT KEEP US FROM SHARING WHAT WE HAVE—
WE DON'T KNOW HOW TO ASK FOR HELP, WE HAVE A HARD TIME
GIVING SOMETHING AWAY, WE WORRY WE'LL COME UP SHORT IF WE
GIVE TOO MUCH. WHAT MIGHT BE STOPPING YOU FROM SHARING?



Shane says we are made for love, compassion, and community. How do you see these "built-in" traits playing out in your life?

love looks like

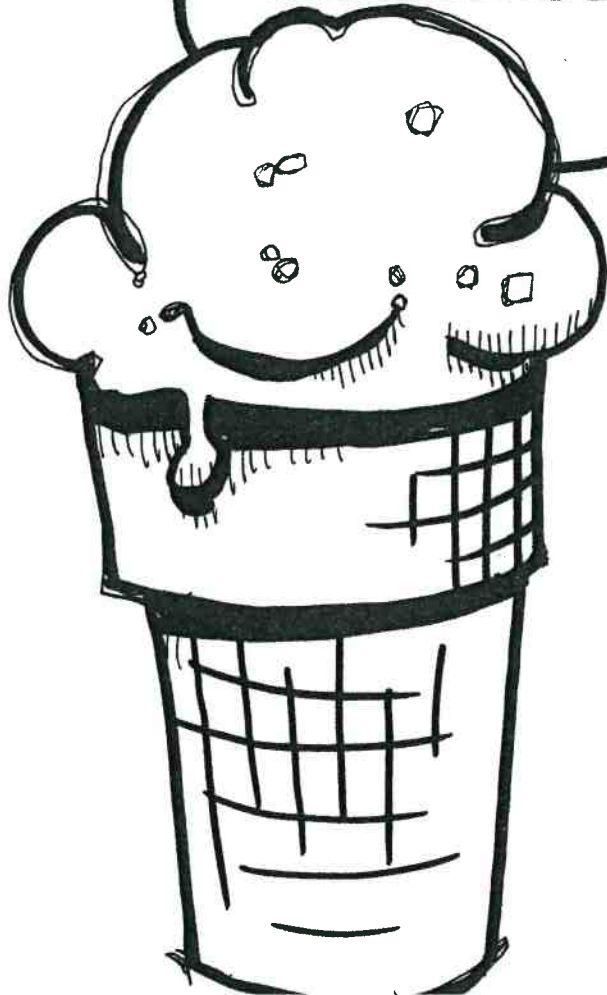


« **ALL** WHO BELIEVED WERE TOGETHER AND HAD ALL THINGS IN COMMON; THEY WOULD SELL THEIR POSSESSIONS AND GOODS AND DISTRIBUTE THE PROCEEDS TO ALL, AS ANY HAD NEED. DAY BY DAY, AS THEY SPENT MUCH TIME TOGETHER IN THE TEMPLE, THEY BROKE BREAD AND ATE THEIR FOOD WITH GLAD AND GENEROUS HEARTS. » -ACTS 2:44-46

THE BEST THING
TO DO WITH

THE BEST THINGS
IN LIFE IS TO

GIVE them AWAY.



How can you practice generosity today?

DAY 1



This week, you'll begin a practice meant to build your sharing muscles, particularly as they apply to money. If you don't already have a system for tracking your spending, grab a notebook, open an Excel document, or just find an old envelope, and use it to write down every cent you spend this week. It seems sort of obsessive/compulsive, but it's the best way to see where your money goes. And that's the key to figuring out where you want your money to go. Before you start, write down your guesses about what you spend the most money on each week.

DAY 2



Now that you're tracking your spending, take some time today to consider how you could share some of what you have. Brainstorm some possible ways to share your financial resources with others. It might be as simple as a donation to an organization that's meaningful to you or as long-term as starting a fund to send a child to camp or college. Write down some ideas here.

"A BONE TO THE DOG IS NOT CHARITY.
CHARITY IS THE BONE SHARED WITH THE DOG,
WHEN YOU ARE JUST AS HUNGRY AS THE DOG."
— Jack London

"YOU forgive ARE FOR YOUR Happiness AND SUCCESSES ONLY IF YOU
Generously CONSENT TO SHARE THEM"
— ALBERT CAMUS

DAY 3



Generosity, particularly when it involves money, is often easier to practice when you're doing so with other people. So today, invite a friend or two to join in your efforts to share a bit of what you have. What new options for sharing become possible when you pool your resources with those of other people?

DAY 4



Today, start dreaming a little bigger. As you think about personal acts of generosity, what ideas come to mind about more communal efforts? What could your family do? Your neighborhood? Your faith community? Write down some ideas here.

"for pleasure has no relish unless we share it."
 ○○○○○ VIRGINIA WOOLF.

*"YOU HAVE NOT
 LIVED TODAY → UNTIL
 YOU HAVE DONE SOMETHING
 FOR SOMEONE WHO CAN
 NEVER REPAY YOU."*
 — John Bunyan

DAY 5



The focus of this practice has been on money, but there are other ways to live into the "theology of enough" that go beyond finances. Today, think about what it means for you to have enough. Take an inventory of your house, your closet, your relationships. What does it mean to have "enough" in these areas? Why does contentment so often feel out of reach?

therefore,
I TELL YOU, DO NOT
WORRY
ABOUT YOUR *Life*,
WHAT YOU WILL *eat*
OR DRINK, OR ABOUT
YOUR *BODY*, WHAT YOU WILL *wear*.
IS NOT *Life* MORE
THAN *food*, AND THE
THAN *clothing*?
LOOK AT
THE BIRDS OF THE AIR.
THEY NEITHER SOW,
NOR REAP, NOR GATHER
INTO BARN, AND
YET YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER
FEEDS THEM.
ARE YOU NOT OF MORE
VALUE THAN THEY?
AND CAN ANY
OF YOU, BY WORRYING,
ADD A SINGLE HOUR
TO YOUR SPAN OF LIFE?
—MATTHEW
6:25-27

DAY 6



Now that you've identified where your money really goes each week, as well as a way to share some of what you have, think about how much you could realistically share on a regular basis. Write down your "pledge" here along with some thoughts on what it might cost you to share your financial resources with others. What are you going to have to give up?

"WHEN WE STRUGGLE
FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS
FOR FREEDOM,
FOR DIGNITY,
when we feel that it is a
MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH
TO CONCERN ITSELF WITH
THOSE WHO ARE HUNGRY,
FOR THOSE WHO HAVE SCHOOLS,
for those who are DEPRIVED,
we are NOT DEPARTING
FROM GOD'S PROMISE.
HE COMES TO FREE US
FROM SIN, AND THE
CHURCH KNOWS THAT
SIN'S CONSEQUENCES
are all such INJUSTICES
AND ABUSES.
THE CHURCH KNOWS IT IS
SAVING THE WORLD
WHEN IT UNDERTAKES TO
SPEAK ALSO OF
SUCH THINGS."
—OSCAR A. ROMERO