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环球通讯 GLOBAL EXPRESS



Shepherd's Corner

Equipping Workplace Soldiers of Christ With Integrated TRUTH

The incorrect dichotomy belief, the incomplete views of the Gospel and the non-integrated views of the Biblical Truth.

The Great Commission is more momentous than achieving such a "feat". And the Good News is not to be taken as a ticket to enter the pearly gates into salvation.

The Gospel is given to us with the aim of salvation, which in turn, is aimed at everything to be made anew.

Full-time Pastors | Workplace Priesthood | Prophetic nature | Priesthood | Kingship

LEAD ON, STEER AHEAD!



SPEAKER
Dr. Michelle LIEW

On 28 May 2022, Dr. Michelle LIEW, Executive Chairman of GLOBAL REACHOUT accepted an invitation to speak at the seminar organized by EnArche Institute and shared her perspective and practice of the Christian faith as a female senior manager at the workplace. Her views received positive feedback from the pastoral and workplace leaders and fellow participants at the ZOOM session. Many agreed that the points raised were true, insightful, unique and thought-provoking. We now share the highlights of the key message on "Battle for Truth at Workplace" below.

Reasons for Christian Weaknesses at Workplace

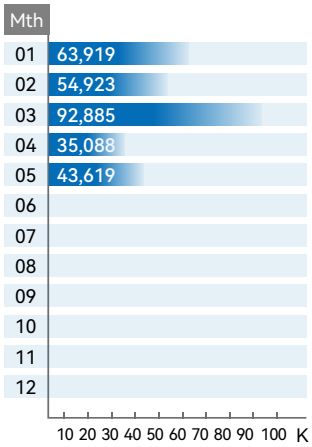
God has called upon one percent of Christians to take up full-time pastoral work and the balance 99% to enter the job market.

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Hit Rate



Financial Report

May 2022 (SGD)

Income	$	12,864
Expenses	$	15,249
Deficit	$	2,385

More often than not, Christian workers face an environment that conflicts with the Biblical Turth. As true believers, we must be willing and able to uphold the Truth as well as to teach others to do likewise, so as to be empowered by the Holy Spirit to transform lives and even the environment that we are in, and eventually bear Fruits as a result (Mathews 28:20).

Today, the reality on the ground is not rosy at all. As pointed out by Dr. Ed Silvoso, the Founder and President of Harvest Evangelism and the leader of the Transform Our World Network, Christians at the workplace may be put into four categories: (1) Christians who do not dedicate themselves to the Lord, but instead, drag out an ignoble existence and cannot be told apart from the rest of the world; (2) Christians whose lives are centred on Christian principles but do not share their faith and witness as a rule. These people are viewed as Goody Two Shoes by others around them; (3) Influential Christians who live by the power of the Holy Spirit; (4) Christians who are able to evangelize and transform the workplace. Surveys point to the fact that most workplace Christians fall under the first two categories; they are neither able to uphold biblical truths nor make a difference to the lives of others.

There is an urgent call on us to accelerate the growth of elite soldiers of Christ within our midst and turn the culture around at the workplace. At this point, it is pertinent to emphasize that transformation of lives stems from the correct and integrated teachings and the power of the Holy Spirit. If our teachings are on the wrong track, the growth of such disciples would be adversely affected, with knock-on effects cropping up in other areas as well.

The primary reasons for such weak Christian showing at workplace are found in **three key deviations from the Truth. These include (i) the incorrect dichotomy belief, (ii) the incomplete views of the Gospel and (iii) the non-integrated views of the Biblical Truth.**

First, the incorrect dichotomy belief. Proponents maintain the belief that the one and only way to become spiritual is to work as pastors, preachers or by joining Christian organizations. As such, they maintain that all efforts by believers at the workplace are secular, chasing after worldly causes and serving no one but Mammon itself. Only by working and taking part in activities organized by churches and Christian organizations can one serve God and be spiritual about it. However, if one were to postulate that everything at a workplace is worldly, isn't he saying that all work by Christians at their respective workplaces are worthless and meaningless too? Since workplace tasks have no meaning in themselves, there is no reason why workplace Christians have to work with due diligence. Now, if one works in a sloppy manner, how is he going to bear good witness?

Many workplace Christians misled by such questionable dichotomy teachings claim that they are only gunning for two major targets at the workplace. One, to make money for use as offerings to the church and, two, to spread the gospel, viz., to bring colleagues to take part in church activities. They pronounce that achieving these two tasks is the hallmark of a good Christian, never mind what the results of the "work efforts" they could achieve in workplace. All too soon, **these people go down the slippery rope towards the worship of Mammon as they run into obstacles in trying to position their own lives, and finally end up in a state of psychiatric dissociative identity disorder** as they put up different personas at the church and the workplace. We see many such believers not able to take up the role of the biblical salt and light at the workplace as they cannot break away from the deep-seated entanglements resultant from trying to play Jekyll and Hyde.

The second factor that affects Christian witnessing at workplace comes from the incomplete views of the gospel within their minds. Trapped in their views that workplace is a platform to make money to provide for the needs of the family as well as a source of monetary contributions to church finances, the "best" one can do is to show up at church with a colleague–indeed, many Christian workers understand this to be the "workplace mission" in action. Needless to say, while acknowledging the primacy of spreading the Gospel, **the Great Commission is more momentous than achieving such a "feat". And the Good News is not to be taken as a ticket to enter the pearly gates into salvation**, either. The gospel is the living Word that must be integrated into and expounded by our daily lives and is linked to our place of work; indeed every day of our lives on this planet has a worth on its own.

Past experiences and figures have proven that if one's view towards the Gospel and its missions is an incomplete one with gaps in the real meaning behind work efforts, it would indeed be rare for a workplace worker to succeed in continually bringing a colleague to church. This is especially so when his own daily activities and behaviour do not line up with Christian teachings. It is one of the underlying reasons for the slow church growth as well.

The third factor is the lack of well-integrated biblical views. Most churches have been meticulously faithful in teaching of the Gospel truths, place heavy emphasis on the abiding relationship between the followers and the Lord, and bearing witness via character building as well as through personal behaviour. Nonetheless, it must be conceded that the church has limitations because of its own experiences. Oftentimes, churches are not able to make out His kingship, strategy and leadership in the Bible, leading us to **favor the teachings of Prophets and the relationship of Priests** when interpreting the Bible, while **ignoring the Kingship strategies**.

For instance, we do hear colleagues comforting someone who has failed in his work with these words, "It's okay; you have shown your loyalty, right?" Doesn't this reaction sound

like some priestly response lifted out from the Good Book? Many Christians echo likewise, too, that these words convey the message of "love". The big question here is this: will the boss at the workplace buy into such talk? Wouldn't the boss take this for a lack in responsibility on the part of the worker? Shouldn't we see it as a clear case of wasting the resources that God has been gifting us? Did we ever spare some time mulling over how we could have done better? To be sure, such Kingly reflections have an indispensable role to play at the workplace. Alas, the fact remains that most Christians lack such contextual sensibility in their thought processes.

Here is another observation: Christians choose to keep silent when they come across situations that do not square up to the Truth, as they feel that "love" should embrace all. As a result, while many of them may feel uncomfortable inside of them, the idea to take charge and initiate cultural transformation at the workplace did not cross their minds either. This is an outcome from the absence of Kingly insight and applications that may, in turn, be traced to the poorly integrated state of the biblical truths within their minds.

Consolidate the Truth; Build up Soldiers of Christ!

We need a thorough understanding of workplace theology to prepare our Christian soldiers for battle. To this end, I am tossing up three key focus for further discussions:

ONE: Identity, Calling and Service of Workplace Christians

Identity: 1 Peter 2: 9 says, "(all born again and saved believers) are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation…" The identity of such a royal priesthood is conferred by God upon His selection, pure and holy. As such, it does not change according to the different workplaces and nature of work that we are doing.

Calling: Psalms 139:13-16 states that He "has created my inmost being…in my mother's womb … (and I had been) fearfully and wonderfully made…" God has already ordained unique pathways for each and every one of us, before we came to be; it is for us to answer His Call. Some of us are assigned to "full-time pastoral service" roles in churches and Christian organizations, while others are called to take up "workplace priesthood" roles.

Service: Romans 12:1 tells us "….to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God: this is your true and proper worship." Thus, true service is neither determined by the location where the work is carried out nor by the contents of the work involved. Instead, it is rooted in our mindset and as well as to whom we are working for.

In short, all services would be accepted as pleasing in the eyes of God if we were to offer ourselves in true willingness of heart, and are doing them for God Himself – be these in church or workplace. Thus, **it's more about different callings, rather than differentiation between the holy and the secular, as in whether we are doing "full-time pastoral work" in the church and other Christian institutions or practising "priesthood" at a workplace.**

TWO: Integration of Workplace, Gospel and Commission

To many Christians, the term "Gospel" equates to salvation and assurance of a place in Heaven. However, the full Gospel commences from the very moment God created the world as recorded in the book of Genesis, right up to the day when "everything will be made anew" (Revelation 21:5). **The Gospel is given to us with the aim of salvation, which in turn, is aimed at everything to be made anew.** Simply put, the Gospel is the beginning, and renewal is the goal. **The renewal of one life after another brings about the renewal of values within worldly culture and ethical behavior, in preparation for welcoming the second coming of Jesus Christ to claim His Kingship across the world.**

Faith integrates workplace in FIVE ways: The disciple has

1. To face any environment as a Christ-centered disciple;

2. To show Godly justice and righteousness where the disciple is emplaced, both within and outside the company.

3. To love our neighbours through work. For instance, as my work is an environmental professional, I will have to protect the existing environment as created by God, so that our staff and neighbours do not have to live in a world threatened by pollutions. This is LOVE in action: our work is meaningful, as it benefits our society and contributes towards the betterment of our community at large.

4. To show care over God's creation at workplace, including the community and environment that we are in. For instance, how can we be ignorant if we are aware that our company oppresses her employees?

5. To replace worldly culture by building up Kingdom Culture at workplace, including core values, leadership concepts and management initiatives. For instance, we should not turn a blind eye when we come across colleagues with fraudulent or immoral behaviour.

THREE: The Integrated Truth

This refers to the integration of Prophetic, Priesthood and Kingship characteristics. Believers are to take after the identity and characteristics of Lord Jesus in all three areas, as He is the greatest Prophet, the highest Priest and the King of Kings. **Prophetic nature is closely related to the Biblical Truth, while Priesthood is the character and witness-bearing that come about from abiding in the Lord. Finally, Kingship refers to the strategic ability conferred upon us from God as illustrated above.**

Our ability in explaining the Bible would be diminished if we fall short in consolidating all three aspects. That would naturally have an adverse impact on how we use the Bible and drag us into helplessness in our working lives. On the other hand, a believer who can meld all three aspects into a single

entity will possess the ability to scrupulously engage all issues, big or small, and apply biblical principles in a vibrant and holistic manner. He is constantly abiding in the Spirit, conducting a life that shines with Christ-like temperament and possessing holiness that builds up and maintains healthy interpersonal relationships. He will handle all matters with fairness, justice and wisdom over all of God-gifted resources, including time, talent and money. In all, **disciples equipped with these characteristics are able to put on the all-encompassing power of Lord Jesus, enabling them to look at everything from a higher, broader and deeper perspective to reap bountiful harvests to any workplace, institution or church where he/she is serving.**

Lastly, we look forward to churches and institutions opening up more areas where we can work together – institutions that would do their utmost to provide quality teaching materials and courses relating to work theology and workplace evangelism. Churches can tap into these resources to provide systematic and sustainable discipleship programmes for workplace disciples to upskill themselves accordingly. May our churches and related institutions work alongside one another to train elite soldiers of Christ for Our Lord!

Thanks to "EnArche Institute" for providing the video link, please click to watch the full content.
https://youtu.be/KeZMPhJF7ck

Audience Feedback

Truly Happy Families

I enjoyed the series "Let us Talk about Dad Together" thoroughly as it meets my needs perfectly.

(Suhandy Yao, Singapore, 26 May 2022)

Book of Matthews

The word AMEN keeps ringing in my ears throughout this programme. I had been rather restless over the past few weeks, and was not keeping to my devotional studies; neither was I praying with due reverence. This broadcast led me to the Word of God and I soon found myself giving God His due honour once more.

(Sis Yang, Singapore, 10 June 2022)

NEW E-BOOK



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New Programmes

14/07/2022 starts (Thu)

Dancing with Emotions

How much do you know about your own emotions and those of people around you? What should I do when I find myself losing control? Are you having problems handling your anger? Join this weekly talk by Mr Leng Chin Fai.



28/07/2022 starts (Wed)

Oasis of God's Grace

Not only do God's blessings help believers like us stay close to Him as we go about our daily businesses, they motivate us to become good examples to people around us, too. Join BICC Director Dr Johnson Lim in his weekly talks.



Home Matters & Intercession

1

We are enlightened by the message delivered by Dr. Michelle LIEW, Executive Chairman of GLOBAL REACHOUT at the seminar organized by EnArche Institute on 28 May 2022, when she shared her perspectives on equipping brothers and sisters to become elite soldiers of Christ at workplaces. Cell groups and fellowships within churches are welcomed to tap into our many webcast series on workplace Christians as disciple training material.

2

Continue to pray for our latest offering – a brand new GR APP developed and launched by our in-house team. May our brothers and sisters from the various churches, institutions, theological colleges and Christian groups download the APP to gain access to these resources.

3

We praise the Lord for the joyful fellowships and exchanges during our separate meet-ups with respectable seniors and pastors in the month of May. We give thanks to Elder Subianto Tjandra and spouse, Elder Agus Surjadi Tjandra, Missionary Richard Yim WQ and spouse as well as Pastor Paul Ng, Pastor-in-Charge of the Singapore Glad Tidings Church.

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