

# Finding joy and blessing at work!

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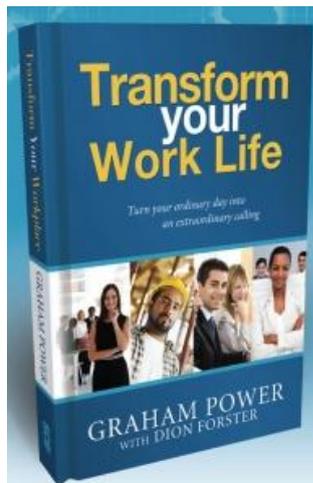
I'm sure that you may have heard about the 'least reached' portion of the world called the 10/40 window? This is a geographical region where there are no Christians, or very few Christians. For many years churches and Christian ministries have focussed their energy and attention on getting missionaries into those areas to spread the Gospel of Christ. I'm sure that you may have heard about the 'least reached' portion of the world called the 10/40 window? This is a geographical region where there are no Christians, or very few Christians. For many years churches and Christian ministries have focussed their energy and attention on getting missionaries into those areas to spread the Gospel of Christ.

You may be surprised to discover that there is a region much closer to where you are every day that is also classified as an 'unreached' group for the Gospel! I call it the 9 to 5 window! Of course I am referring to the place where you work each day – the reality is that the work place is one of the least reached and transformed regions of the world. Of course there are many reasons for this. Some people have come to believe that Christianity is something that belongs to a particular building (your church) or a particular time (Sunday morning). However, what do you think Jesus meant when he prayed '...let your Kingdom come, let your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven' (Matthew 6:10)? Of course Jesus wasn't just praying that God's Kingdom would be established in a particular place, or at particular times! Jesus longs to be Lord of both the Church and the Marketplace! So, the question is, who takes responsibility for the establishment of God's Kingdom where you spend most of your day? Who is God calling to transform your work place to reflect the values of His Kingdom? Part of the answer can be found in the following verse: 'go and make disciples of all nations...' (Matthew 28:20).

Being a disciple of Jesus means that one is disciplined in the ways of Jesus. Believing in Jesus as saviour is only the beginning (sure it is the most important start that any person could ever make, however it is just the beginning of what God longs for!) You know I read this verse for many years and never realised

that Jesus commands his disciples, and also commands you and me, to go and make disciples of all nations.

I was a Pastor of various Churches for almost 17 years. As I think back on the teaching, preaching, and courses that I ran in those churches I came to realise that we spent quite a lot of time trying to help people to become disciples of Jesus. However, we spent very little time trying to disciple those elements that make up a nation! Have you ever considered that God may be calling you to be a minister in the marketplace? It may just be that God has placed you in the office where you work, among the people that you encounter (co-workers, clients etc.) in order to disciple them, and the systems within which you work, in order to establish His Kingdom on that little bit of earth!



If you were to think about the people and things that you face regularly during your work week, what would God want to change? Perhaps there is a particular policy in your company that is unethical. Maybe there is some relationship between your boss and another co-worker that does not reflect Christ's love. Maybe there are some decisions that are being made that are unlawful, or hurtful, to your community. I think God may be calling you to take responsibility for establishing His Kingdom in that place!

Doing this may not be as difficult as you imagine. In the company where I serve, the Power Group of Companies, transformation began when one employee (a lady named Eleanor) decided to start praying for her bosses and her co-workers. That was all she did! Then eventually she got some others to join her in prayer, and from there some key influences and decision makers started changing small little things in the company during meetings and gatherings.

They prayed that God would bless and use their company to transform the industry and reach the nation. This simple act, by a secretary, eventually led to the conversion of the CEO, Graham Power, who went on to start the largest prayer movement in all recorded history – the Global Day of Prayer. Eleanor took responsibility for her work life and her work place, and through her God was able to reach into and transform one of the least reached places on earth, the 9 to 5 window!

Where is God calling you to take responsibility?