



28 February 2005

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Tripping Up

No matter how skilled you are, or how much experience you have, or how simple a task may be, you will at some time in your work, trip up and fall. The Greeks had a word for anyone who thought that would not happen to them - hubris - the pride which precedes a fall. The rest of us, however, know what it is to trip up, for we have done it many times. A few have little experience of it, but are aware enough to know that they will trip up in the future. Such trips are identifiable incidents. They happen sometimes quite suddenly and may take only a moment to occur: a slip of the tongue, a lapse of memory, a wrong piece of advice, a loss of temper. Sometimes the mistake has been brewing for a while and boils over in the moment when you and everyone else realises the nature of the error. The possibilities are almost endless and you will know the pitfalls of your own situation.

The nature of the experience, however, is not determined solely by your quick footwork. There are times when you can feel yourself falling and sense you are in real trouble.

Take your mind out of work for a moment and picture a parent walking along a pavement, holding the hand of a young child. In an instant, the child trips and is about to hit the ground. The parent strengthens the grip on the child's hand and instantly reacts to stabilise the walk of the child. A brief pause and they move on. This mini drama is seen with countless actors - husband and wife, young relative and older person, able-bodied individual alongside the injured or disabled. One holds the other. "The Lord", says David "upholds all those who fall" (Psalm 145 v14). The nature of the experience is related to who is walking by your side.

If falling is a rather instantaneous experience, there is a longer-term draining discouragement which afflicts the souls of some. Borne out of disappointment, struggle, apparent failure or soured relationships, you can see it in the face of the employee who is not appreciated or the individual who keeps losing. The dreamer whose dreams are unlikely to be fulfilled or the bullied, the harassed or the over-worked. There is an air of weariness and a cast-down look about such people. The Lord, according to David's next breath, "lifts up all those who are bowed down". How, you may ask, does the Lord do this? I would suggest in a variety of creative, sometimes unexpected ways. One picture worth remembering, however, is a Samaritan businessman

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who is walking beside another man on his donkey. He has lifted him up and is upholding him as they make their way to the Jericho Arms.

If you are falling, or bowed down, the Lord will uphold you and lift you up. If you are strong, "go and do likewise".

WORK WELL

Geoff Shattock, National Director

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Psalm 145: 14

14The LORD upholds all those who fall and lifts up all those who are bowed down.

Luke 10: 34

34 He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and water. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him.

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Prayer

Retreats

Group Register

- Welcome Langley House Trust Staff members to Wake Up Call
- The [WorkTalk](#) course is based on the seven sayings of our Lord from the cross. As such it is an ideal resource to use for Lent. If you haven't got your copy, you can order it now from our [on-line shop](#) and use it for your personal meditation as well as a learning programme. You can listen to the CDs in the car and prepare yourself for the Easter period by focusing on the cross.
- We are considering organising a two day Retreat in the Spring/Summer. If you are interested, please contact Fiona on info@worknetuk.org for more information.
- All Saints' Church, Ripley, Derbyshire are hosting a **Working Spiritually Conference** on 5 March. The day will be led by Geoff Shattock and will cover issues such as dealing with personal pressure and stress, witnessing at work and balancing work and home life. For tickets or further information please telephone 01773 570011 (9.30am-12.30pm) or e-mail ascs85@dsl.pipex.com If you are interested in finding out how such an event could help your church make vital links between faith and work, contact Fiona on info@worknetuk.org
- Ever wondered how you could use your business skills to make a difference? **Transformational Business Network** are holding a one-day conference in London on Friday 11 March to address the unacceptable scandal of global poverty. Click [here](#) to find out how your business talents can make an impact in the most needy areas of the world.
- Thank you to all those who have already made a commitment to support

WorkNet in prayer - we are greatly encouraged by the continued response. If you would like to become a prayer partner and support WorkNet's ministry through prayer, click on the prayer button on the left for more information.

- If you would like to know more about our Group Registration Service for your group please email Fiona Mearns, our office manager, using the Group Register button.

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