



7 March 2005

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Wake Up Call

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Insider Dealing

In common with many Christians you probably want to be a Christian influence in your work. There is a risk of becoming disillusioned with your position if you feel that you are in a minority of one in your organisation and rather daunted by the task. There is a spiritual dynamic, however, which needs to be understood which may help you find a different perspective.

For the so-called (and mis-named) full-time Christian worker, the biggest single challenge is to get into a position in order to deliver a message. Gaining an entrée is the hardest part of the spiritual menu. You, however, are already there. You are 'in'. You, by virtue of the position you hold, are in a position of influence. This is a cause for celebration and gratitude to God for in spiritual terms change always works from the inside. On an individual level you already know this because becoming a Christian involves the power of God working from the inside of your life to make you new. On an organisational level, your Christian presence is the source to bring change throughout your network from the inside.

There is a risk amongst those who are not Christians that they can assume that changing conditions and practices is good enough. Flexible hours, good physical environment, favourable terms and conditions, whilst vital, are not enough. There is a spiritual dynamic which also applies. For real change to take place the power of God needs to be introduced from the outside. Self-help may help but we need outside help.

These apparently paradoxical dynamics find their resolution in a couple of sentences from Jesus of Nazareth. "The Kingdom of God", he explained, "is like yeast." Yeast has to work from the inside out. Its power and effectiveness works its way through the dough. In the same way, the power of God changes you personally and enables you to bring change from the inside out. But the yeast itself has to be introduced from outside. We cannot just change ourselves, God's power is other and external and needs to come into our lives for the change to take place.

This is a real challenge. Our call to live as people of the Kingdom involves letting God work in us and through us but also requires us to point out that the changes needed are brought about by the introduction of God into our lives. It's not just an adjustment of working conditions which is the Kingdom challenge at work, it is admission of need leading to acceptance of the King Himself. This message is uncomfortable, complex and potentially unpopular and it will definitely take someone on the inside to get it across.

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WORK WELL

Geoff Shattock, National Director

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Here is some biblical background for this week's Wake Up Call

Luke 13: 20-21

²⁰Again he asked, "What shall I compare the kingdom of God to? ²¹It is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into a large amount of flour until it worked all through the dough."

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- 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.
- 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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