



27th March 2006

Welcome to

# Wake Up Call

your weekly email support from WorkNet

## Strangers

### Special announcement WorkTalk DVD Filming Dates and Venue See News below

They're everywhere. You may have met several today already. You'll be very likely to speak with some today. Others you may encounter but never converse with. Some you may speak to once and never to speak to them again.

I am talking about strangers. In the course of a working day you may deal with people who answer the phone, show you in, handle your enquiry or deliver your items. They may have worked on a product or a service for you without you ever realising what they do as you speak to them.

Much has been written about how Christians should treat their colleagues, seniors or juniors. The importance of the development of long term good relationships has been explored and a considerable amount of advice has been given concerning integrity, witness and good practice.

There is less but still no shortage of material about how we benefit from the kindness of strangers. Each of us lives by the grace of others.

But what about the thousands of brief encounters, the unguarded moments or short term negotiations? As you get to know someone you may also like them and find it easy to show a "Christian" attitude.

What about those who we will never know. What about those who experience you for a few moments and you're gone?

Perhaps no-one typifies this as much as the call centre operator. Some time ago I did some anger management work for a group of tele workers who needed help in managing complaints. It reminded me of how many times I have been the one complaining or enquiring in frustration having been a victim of a telephone system which stops me speaking to people. When I eventually get to the person I am ready to explode. But it is a person - a stranger who may try to help and for a few moments we may make or break each other's day.

The challenge is that you just don't know. You and I have no idea what is happening in a stranger's life. You know nothing of their frustrations or weariness. Have they had a good day or a bad one?

The old testament law had quite a lot to say about a group of people who were called "aliens". These were strangers who found themselves, for whatever reason, mixing with the tribes of Israel. They were not from the same culture but had dealings with the Israelites nonetheless. The rules of practice spelt out, not only advice but the God's attitude to such people. "Do not ill treat him" says Moses. The Israelites were told to treat the stranger as one of their own, even loving them as themselves. The reason given is that the Israelites were to remember that they were once in such a position.

*DVD news*



*see below*

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It's a good principle. It finds its echo in Jesus teaching, on treating people as you want to be treated. But deeper than that it provides the opportunity to be good news in tiny messages. The stranger may never know that you are trying to be good news because you want to honour your God. All the stranger might realise is that some people want to pass on a better atmosphere than the tense, angry clouds which so regularly characterise our working days.

A while ago I rung our local post depot because I wanted to thank them for the high quality of service we received from our local postman. The supervisor was so shocked he held the phone away and shouted across the office "Somebody is ringing to thank us!".

Sometimes people don't notice. The supervisor did and God always does.

Work Well,

Geoff Shattock

Remember WorkTalk is an ideal study series for lent as it focuses on the cross of Christ. Why not use it as a personal programme this year?-see news for how to obtain your copy.

©Geoff Shattock, 27th March 2006

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

## **Leviticus 19 v 33 and 34**

33 " 'When an alien lives with you in your land, do not mistreat him. 34 The alien living with you must be treated as one of your native-born. Love him as yourself, for you were aliens in Egypt. I am the LORD your God.

# Wake Up News

Online News

Prayer

Retreats

Group Register

- **'Worktalk Is going to be filmed in June if you want to be in the audience [click here](#)'**
- **Thank you to all who helped make "Doing the work you were born to do" on March 4th a great conference more news will follow.**
- **In case you were wondering we did not send wake up call last week apologies for any inconvenience**
- The [WorkTalk](#) course is based on the seven sayings of our Lord from the cross. 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.

- **WAKE UP CALL [ARCHIVES](#) HAS BEEN UPDATED THERE ARE NOW OVER 160 PAST EDITIONS**
  
- **Wake Up Call tips**-please don't reply to your Wake Up Call we do not monitor that address. If you want to contact WorkNet follow the contact link in your Wake Up Call. If you want to unsubscribe or change your profile (email or other details)-follow those links on the left hand side of your Wake Up Call -we are generally unable to update your profile for you but have made it very easy for you do it online . Thank you.

Also remember to have a look at the Bible sections for the biblical background to your Wake Up Call

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