



helping people work well

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Wake Up Call

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Part six - Abandoned Roads (based on Judges 5:6)

LAST CHANCE to post your TopTip on 'Being Good News'? Click [here](#) for details.

Would you like to post a Birthday Greeting for WorkNet's tenth birthday? See News below

The Roads Best Travelled

Part six - Abandoned Roads

People find ways or routes. Settlers establish roads and explorers discover new territories. With the passing of time a civilised society builds its roads. If there is a Christian heritage our ways, routes and roads should follow the path of The Way Himself and be founded on the principles of the narrow road and the ways of God Himself.

So we discover the way to build families following the ways of marriage. We follow the way of integrity, honesty and justice. We discover the path to the cross with all its lessons on human nature, forgiveness and sacrifice.

As we work we can explore best practice based on the new territories of Divine revelation and Godly wisdom. We can discover the meaning of manhood and womanhood, the guidelines for wealth creation and distribution and a host of wise ways to respond to the challenges of pressure, people, projects and workloads.

It can take a prophet such as Jeremiah, Micah or Wilberforce to call us back to the right paths when we stray. History is littered with such reminding people who give their lives to steer us onto the paths of righteousness.

But there are times when we don't just stray or wander. We don't just accidentally veer off course. There are times when the problem becomes much more serious.

In the middle of a celebratory duet sung by the two leaders of Israel (a woman and a man) they describe a situation where the roads were abandoned altogether. It is a bleak and barren picture and a metaphor for any era where corporate policy is to abandon the ways of God.

You don't need a piece like this to be reminded of the abandonment issues you face. How many abandon the paths of marriage, fidelity and parenting? How many abandon the path of honesty, self-sacrifice and service? On a deeper level, how many abandon the way of the cross altogether proclaiming godless or alternative ways which abandon all Biblical foundational layers.

The duet describes the result of such abandoning of the roads. "Travellers" they conclude, "took to the winding paths". The picture is of an awkward bewildering journey along a confusing route with no certainty of arrival. It is a description of a tortuous, dangerous and lonely existence where hope and meaning are replaced with absurdity and pain.

These are the paths being travelled by many of your staff, colleagues or team members. There is a lostness, confusion and despair coupled with a lack of direction

TopTips

&

Birthday



see News below

and security. We are now in second or third generation abandonment and travellers are taking to the winding paths in greater numbers.

The song lyrics call for leaders to lead and people to willingly offer themselves. The leaders are to lead people back to the Lord and the people to cooperate.

This call might be for you to a path of prayer for your leaders or your own leadership and the people for whom or with whom you work. Stay on the road and call people back from the winding paths. I don't know your circumstances, only you can sing your song.

Work well,

Geoff Shattock

If you would like some help reviewing your life, work or career path, we offer one-to-one coaching sessions for just such purposes. Please email comms@worknetuk.org for details.

©Geoff Shattock, 2nd September 2007

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

Judges 5 v 6

⁶ "In the days of Shamgar son of Anath, in the days of Jael, the roads were abandoned; travellers took to winding paths.

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- **New 'WorkTalk TopTips' pages.** At the end of each month we will be working on a new resource to create a series of WorkTalk TopTips combining WorkNet members' insights with Geoff Shattock's WorkTalk TopTips. Click [here](#) to post your TopTip.
- **LAST CHANCE** to post your TopTip on 'Pressure and Stress'. Thank you for the twenty five of you who have done so, so far. Next month will be on 'Being Good News'
- **WorkNet is ten years old** this year and we would love to hear from you as to how you have received a blessing or encouragement through the ministry over these last ten years. Have you found a particular WakeUpCall helpful? Have you received ministry at a New Wine conference? Have you used WorkTalk individually or in your group? Have you had Sunday ministry in your church? Have you had training as an individual? We would love to hear birthday greetings and news from you about your experiences. Please visit our new [Birthday Greetings](#) page and post your greeting. Don't forget to also visit the [TopTips](#) page and post a tip about 'Pressure and Stress'.
- **WAKE UP CALL [ARCHIVES](#) HAS BEEN UPDATED THERE ARE NOW OVER 230 PAST EDITIONS**
- **Worktalk DVD set - Available NOW - Order your copy of the WorkTalk DVD set now click [here](#) to order**
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<http://www.worktalk.org.uk>

- **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 this contact link](#).

If you want to **unsubscribe** or **change** your profile (email or other details)-follow the **update your profile** 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 do it online. Note it is really important that you update your profile **if you change your email address** otherwise will **not get your weekly support** Thank you.

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

WorkNet, 56 Baldry Gardens, London SW16 3DJ

T: +44 (0)20 8764 8080

<http://www.worknetuk.org/>

comms@worknetuk.org