

Surefooting Coaching + Workplace Ministry is established to encourage individuals to live out their faith in a workplace setting. It provides coaching for change and challenges. We believe that God is our strength! God makes us as surefooted as a deer, able to walk on the steep mountains.

As ministers of the Body of Christ we have a cultural mandate to transform society but we cannot do it without the foot soldiers, that is, Christians in the workplace. I love the following quotations that speak to the need for us to nurture a workplace ministry within the church:

- "Societal transformation is high on God's agenda and the chief catalytic force to bring it about will be Christians ministering in the marketplace." C. Peter Wagner, Chancellor, Wagner Leadership Institute
- "In today's global community, the greatest channel of distribution for 'salt and light' is the business community... the marketplace." Bill Pollard, Chairman, ServiceMaster
- "The workplace is where a majority of a church congregation, spends a majority of their time, interacting with a majority of the unchurched world. The Church on Monday is evidence that the Church on Sunday is real!" Doug Spada, His Church at Work.org
- "The last 12 to 24 months I have personally noticed a surge of interest. I see an openness from pastors that is very new that I have not seen before. I see a Kingdom mentality. I promise you we are within months of a major move of God." Kent Humphreys, President, Fellowship of Companies for Christ.

Surefooting Coaching + Workplace Ministry believes like you that Christianity is a way of life and as such we cannot separate or compartmentalise our lives into private, public, sacred, secular professional and spiritual lives. Christian values are the core of our being or who we are and it is from this core that we live our lives. The hub of a bicycle wheel is what holds all the spokes together, without the hub the spokes cannot hold the wheel and move the bicycle in desired direction. The spokes are different areas of our lives and the hub is the core of our being.

The spokes are different areas of our lives and the hub is the core of our being. Thus without our Christian values guiding us, our workplaces, our communities and our nations, we lose our sense of direction that should be rooted in God and just go by popular culture of man that changes or goes through cycles. Facts used by science may change but the Word of God is the Truth that never changes.

To become a change agent that transforms workplace and society, a Christian needs to live out the core of the Christian faith at work and in his/her interactions in the society. As ministers of God our calling is to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ (Eph. 4:11-13).

I am in the corporate world and I have the honour of being a minister of the gospel. I have observed over time that many Christians have not allowed the power and influence of the gospel to be seen in effect in public places and affairs of corporate organizations and governments. Doug Sherman, author, Your Work Matters to God stated that "Our surveys reveal that 90-97% of Christians have never heard a sermon relating biblical principles to their work life." This may not be true of the Church where you minister in but in my discussions with many Christians in corporate offices I perceive many are not clear as to how the Bible applies to the corporate world. Some Christians wonder how they can apply being 'salt and light' in practical terms.



I invite you to consider nurturing a workplace ministry within your church. A workplace ministry is important as it focuses efforts on a major barrier to Christianity's growth. One of the major barriers to growth of Christian faith in terms of commitment and numbers is disconnect that people associate with Bible and Christian faith in relation to their work and business outside the church and home.

Here are some options (not in any particular order) that some ministers have considered and put into effect in the churches where they minister to ensure believers effectively connect biblical teachings to workplace life:

- Raise prayer points for corporate work and businesses (or workplace believers and entrepreneurs) during congregational worship or set up a team of intercessors to pray for them.
- Connect your sermon to workplace issues:
  - State practical relevance or touch points of your sermon to workplace issues.
  - Preach on theology of work and specific workplace issues.
  - Preach on priesthood of all believers in Ephesians 4:11-16. Do not encourage the dichotomy of clergy and layman that makes workplace believers and entrepreneurs feel that they have a lower calling. Affirm their calling to minister in a workplace setting and help them understand it.
- Focus your Labour Weekend, Thanksgiving Weekend, first fall and/or first spring season sermon focused on workplace issues. There are touch points between farming or workplace and these weekends and seasons.
- Share the historical role of Church in development of social welfare system put in place by political parties or government
- Survey your membership to find out how the Church can help them apply biblical faith to everyday work life.
- Engage workplace believers and entrepreneurs in teaching and preaching:
  - Promote association of professionals and businesspeople to consider how biblical teachings can be reflected at work without "preaching" at others.
  - Encourage sharing of testimony of application of biblical teachings in workplaces, how people experience God in their workplaces, and transformation examples.

- Encourage business leaders in church to preach or lead bible study groups on topics focused on life in the workplace and faith and work issues.
- Use illustrations from the workplace for sermon.
- Challenge members to read the Bible as if it is a workplace manual and share their understanding.
- Become more knowledgeable about the economic and workplace issues affecting members and speak to them from the pulpit based on the Bible. For example, if the weather is not favourable for farming activities, raise prayer points and speak words of comfort and encouragement.

### **What is in it for me as a minister (WIFM)?**

Your members represent your contact points with the larger community. If they have positive influence and impact in workplaces where decisions are made, the faith community stands to benefit as follows:

- A congregation that understands and accepts relevance of the Bible to their work lives will strive to be ethical and be a good influence in the community.
- More favourable perception of biblical teachings and community of faith. This will make the community more receptive to faith community activities and positions on issues.
- Some community members sitting on the fence may be drawn closer to God. This will lead to increasing influence of God's word in community life.
- Members will tend to live a wholesome faith life – leading to more reliance on and obedience to the Holy Spirit. This will probably lead to less intervention by pastoral staff.
- A Holy Spirit-influenced membership will act more like Aaron and Hur (lifting up the hands of Moses) as they are committed to evangelism, discipleship and support of the church and its programs and services. This will lead to a distribution of the workload and increased capacity and capability of the local church to do the work of ministry (Eph. 4:11-16)

### **What is in it for Surefooting?**

It presents Surefooting with a partnership opportunity with your church to develop and share resources that can be used by the Church to build up her members.

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