

Business matters, a service into the world of work in city-centre Edinburgh

Six Christian friends have found each other and become dedicatedly intentional about following Jesus' injunction to love one's neighbours. The six would like to make themselves available to colleagues, friends and contacts during the working day, but hold down pretty demanding jobs that barely allow them a lunch-hour. Their answer? They have set up the Business Matters Trust.

We offer a two-tracked service. On the one hand, we approach as many offices as we can and through key contacts advertise free lunchtime talks by professionals on subjects of interest to working people: how do you help your colleague suffering from depression? how do you attain a good life-work balance? etc. Several hundred people have benefited from these talks, usually given on companies' premises but open to any and all within walking distance.

On the other hand, we seek out, support and encourage Christians in their offices. We encourage them to be salt, light and the very aroma of Christ in their work-places.

Once a year, we put on the Business Alpha course, a variant of Alpha that we have pioneered and developed in Edinburgh. Counting admittedly hosts and invitees, we have served about 300 people to date. The course has a good reputation: it takes place in an elegant hotel and the likes of lawyers, IT people and accountants give the talks.

In short, we try to identify with and come alongside people of faith and of no faith, and over time we seek to lift their eyes to behold the greatest worker ever.

Of late, we have sensed that our growing community of **business matters** people are called by God to influence not just their offices but also the city as a whole. We've heard of "critical mass"; how about "critical yeast"? The Lord is showing us at this time what He showed the exiles in Babylon: inspired by Jeremiah's letter to that minority, we too are feeling impelled to "seek the peace and prosperity of the city" where God has placed us. We are beginning by praying for the welfare of our city.

It is an exciting adventure.

Iain Archibald

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