

# INTENTIONALITY WITH OTHERS

Monthly Spiritual Disciplines

JUNE

# Intentionality with Others

This month we will focus on being intentionally, missionally engaged with people at work who do not know Christ. We are not being paid to be a Christian witness at our jobs, and in many cases, proselytization is considered inappropriate at our work. But we are also reminded that "We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us" (2 Cor. 5:20). This includes being known as people who follow Jesus, as experienced by others through our words, attitudes, actions, and values. Prayerfully engage the following practices this month as ways to represent Christ in our workplaces and with our coworkers, hopefully leading to opportunities to share Christ in word and deed.

## NAMING THE BARRIERS

The 5280 Fellows read a chapter on Christian mission from John Stott's "Christian Mission in the Modern World." They discuss this reading reflection question from that chapter:

**"WHAT BARRIERS PREVENT YOU FROM BEING MORE ENGAGED IN BOTH ASPECTS OF GOD'S MISSION—EVANGELISM AND SERVING THE NEEDS OF OTHERS?"**

Return to this question and focus specifically on your workplace. Think of the relationships you have (or don't have), the type of time you spend with people, the nature of your conversations, their attitudes and beliefs, etc. Name those things which are preventing you from more deeply engaging specific coworkers with the gospel. Reflect on your personal barriers (e.g. fear, lack of priority, bad past experiences, etc.) as well as those external to you with workplace and coworkers.

Bring these barriers before God in prayer. Pray about one barrier that you want to see change this month, and begin taking steps in that direction.

## PRAYER

Identify three coworkers that you will pray for this month. Do not treat them as "targets" or "projects" for evangelism; treat them as people you care for and want to love well. Pray for their work projects, their families, and their concerns/needs. Consider telling them that you often pray for friends and family, asking if you could pray for them and, if so, how?

As you pray for these coworkers, ask God to bless your relationship with them and to give you the opportunity to discuss spiritual matters. Pray that he would be drawing them unto himself. You might consider regularly praying this wonderful prayer from The Book of Common Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. Amen.

## SPENDING TIME TOGETHER

A common barrier for many in sharing Christ at work is being too busy or having relationships focused only on work issues. This is understandable since our jobs are what we share in common.

But this month, find appropriate ways to make more space for deeper relationships with others at work. If people eat lunch together or go to happy hour, join them. Ask someone to grab lunch with you. Consider having a coworker over for dinner or making other plans with them outside of work. Create intentional conversations that get to know people well—their stories, what they value, what they struggle with.

## RECOGNIZING AND SERVING OUR COWORKERS

Look for tangible ways to recognize others and serve them at work this month:

- Make more eye contact with people and smile more
- Thank people, with sincerity
- Even if you are busy, pause to listen to people well
- Think of some concrete needs of coworkers (work related and personal) and offer to help
- Find ways to recognize and verbally encourage people, which may be one of the most distinct and Christian things we could be known for with others
- To start becoming people of a different character toward others, consider practicing anonymous acts of kindness.