

My workstation is my worship station

by Ken Costa

Why do we work? There are many biblical reasons for working: economic, to create wealth; financial, to support oneself and a family; persona, to experience fulfilment and significance, social, to avoid being a burden; relational, to support other people through collaborative effort.

God is interested in the good of the whole society. So when I am asked about worship I reply firmly, "my work is my worship station." Worship is the total submission of our whole person to the glory of God as we recognise our dependence on him. My desk should therefore be a place of worship. Indeed the Hebrew word for work and worship is the same - *avodah*. God is our real employer.

In his letter to the Colossians, Paul urges us: "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters" (Colossians 3:23).

I try to pray every morning as I start work because I want to remind myself that I am not dependent on myself or on any economic system, but on God. Work is a ministry, empowered by God, for the benefit of ourselves and others, and ultimately for his glory.

World Events

Use the news as a source of prayer pointers. Pray for:

- The current round of unrest in Israel, which has seen 100 Palestinians killed and rockets being fired from Gaza.
- The violent anti-Government protests in Nicaragua, which have left more than 70 dead.
- The inhabitants of Marawi, in the Philippines who are trying to rebuild their lives one year after their island was taken over by ISIS. Christians suffered particular violence. An Open Doors partner writes, "*We really need rehabilitation and that is our prayer, not only physical rehabilitation. There is a need for people in Marawi to know and accept Jesus Christ.*"

Personal Renewal

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.
(Galatians 5:22,23)

- Pray over this list that describes the Spirit-filled life.
- What evidence is there for the work of the Spirit within you?
- Where do you still long to change?
- What could you do to work with the Spirit, on that change?

praying together at TBC

June 2018

Connect

Frontline Mission - Agriculture

My name is Mike King I have been coming to TBC with my wife Rachel and our two children Amy and Sam for about 18 years. We live on a farm between Rangeworthy and Wickwar where we have 600 dairy cows and another 540 calves and growing cattle that will eventually enter the herd. Our milk is sold to Lidl and is enough to supply approximately 20 of their stores. I am also Chairman of the Royal Association of British Dairy Farmers; we represent all 8760 Dairy Farmers in the UK and make representations to Government and various industry bodies on behalf of them.

I have been running our farm along with my brother for 28 years. The hours are very long starting at 4.30am and it is not uncommon to work in excess of 75 hours a week, but it is also very rewarding working with the animals and in the countryside on sunny mornings. The biggest problem is outside influences, especially following the Brexit vote, and the Government's continuous challenges in the back ground of wanting us to produce ever cheaper food.

I find that my faith keeps me strong and I often question what would the Lord do in this situation.

PLEASE PRAY:

- That I and all working in agriculture would know God's hand and love in our often stressed and long working day.
- Also that the Government will make the correct decisions, that would allow Agriculture and the environment to prosper in a post Brexit world.



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following the way of Jesus

loving God, one another
and the world



Community Mission

On any Sunday Morning some 60 young people and some twelve leaders go to groups for those aged between 0 and school year 12 part way through the service, you may have noticed how the chairs empty! The aim of each group is to meet Jesus, make friends and help to grow faith in an age appropriate way, which is a tough ask for 45 minutes once a week for 40 weeks a year.



Please pray for:

- Those young people who are due to change groups over the Summer, for a smooth and loving transition as they make new friends.
- Leaders to be refreshed as they continue to show love and care towards their groups.
- Faith to blossom in each precious life that will stay and grow in every young person.
- Parents as they continue to be the primary 'disciple-makers' throughout the week.

Local/UK Mission Partners

Thornbury Foodbank (TFB), a Thornbury Churches Together initiative has been open for 5 years this month. We have fed 1,409 adults, 956 children and received donations of over 20 tonnes of food. TFB, an affiliate of the Trussell Trust network of Foodbanks and a satellite of Yate Foodbank, is open every Friday from 2-4pm here at TBC. Clients come to us for various reasons – low income, benefit delays/changes, illness or unexpected change of circumstance. The need is likely to increase as Universal Credit has yet to be rolled out in this area.

Vouchers issued by one of over 30 local partner organisations provide food to cover a short time crisis. Clients are also signposted to other organisations which can provide further help.

Please pray:

- Give thanks for all who faithfully give of their time and donate food.
- For those who come to feel welcome, encouraged and cared for.
- For more help on the Management Team.
- For lives to be changed - physically, mentally and spiritually.

Mission Partners

CRED Foundation is a registered UK charity and company. Believing in and committed to transformation of lives, it works with 15 partners in 10 low-income countries, all of which are grassroots organizations, based on Christian principles, and working with the poorest of the poor within their communities. CRED works with its partners to tackle poverty and inequality through challenging the injustices that cause it.

Please pray:

- For Helen Harrison, the operations and partner liaison manager, as she looks to provide satisfactory support for all the partners and their needs.
- For the partners, striving to bring transformation to their communities, and to improve and empower the lives of the people who they serve.
- For those partners who are serving in countries where Christianity is being outlawed and persecuted.
- For all the partners as they seek to carry out their project work in a world that is increasingly affected by climate change.

Use the weekly notice sheet and e-news to pray for **healing needs** in the church.

Children & Youth

Please pray for:

- Preparations for Fun Factory and Kids Club this Summer, especially for people to help run this mission.
- SNG (school year 10 to Age 19) as they prayer walk Thornbury on 17th June.
- The plans for a Severn Vale Youth Cluster of churches working together in youth ministry.

All of our mission partners are listed under the 'mission' tab on our church website, so do search there for more information. Many also have their own websites, and you will find those links in their listing on the church website.

Talking of Jesus

Talking about Jesus should be natural to us as Christians, and yet many of us find it hard.

Pray for:

- God-given opportunities to speak about Jesus.
- Sensitivity to the Spirit, so that you only say what he gives you to say.
- Courage to speak out.

Continue to pray for:

- individuals that you meet regularly on your frontline.
- members of your family.
- those who attend our community projects here at TBC.