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Chennai Corporate Fellowship

In Touch

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Make known His deeds among the peoples! Psalm 105:1

NEW FELLOWSHIPS near OMR (Old Mahabalipuram Road)

- A new fellowship has been started in Perungudi, once a week. People working in and around that place can reach out to this fellowship.
- There is also fellowship in Thoraipakkam – Pallavaram bypass road.
- For further information, please visit – **Join a Fellowship** section in CCF website and submit your details – www.ccf.org.in

PRAISE REPORT

Website User: Praise God! Our God is awesome and He reigns. My Uncle is much better and the Doctors are very happy that he is showing a speedy recovery; and his faith has also increased. Few weeks back, he was a person who could drink only porridge; the cancer nodules in his throat would never allow food to enter into the stomach, but now he is able to eat a loaf of bread. Praise God for His amazing miracle! Thank you so much for your prayer. May our righteous God bless CCF.

Thoraipakkam Fellowship 29-Dec-06 Prayer Request:

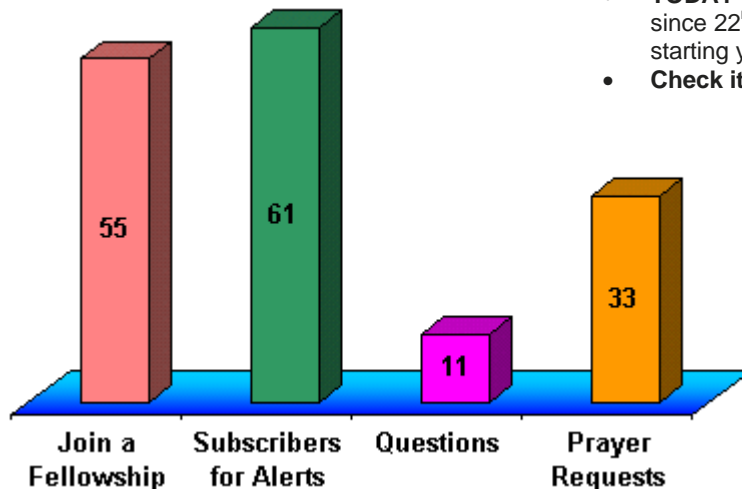
Today, we were informed that we need to look for another place to gather weekly. Please pray that God will lead us and provide a place for our weekly fellowship meetings.

09-Jan-07 update: God provided two alternate places and lead us to the right one. Thanks.

K. Tirzah:

I thank God for providing my friend Sudha with a job. I had asked to pray for her during Shareathon. It's purely by God's grace that she got a job in Mahindra & Mahindra. All glory be to Jesus!

WEBSITE STATISTICS

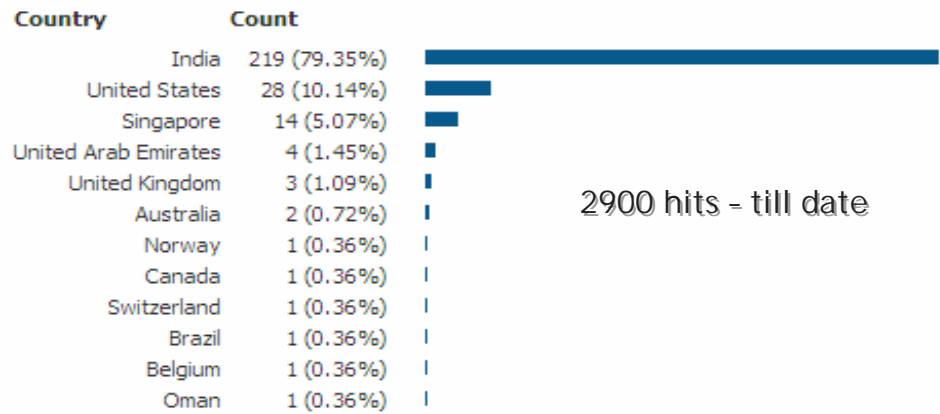


- **TODAY'S THOUGHT** – Live in CCF website - since 22nd Jan 2007 – a small daily thought, before starting your work for the day!!
- **Check it out!!!**

2900 hits

2900 hits

- Country wise hit count since 16th Jan 2007 à à à



A THOUGHT by V.Chacko Jacob

5 Keys to Spiritual Influence at Work

Influence can generally be defined as “the power or capacity to produce a desired result, to impact, or to cause some change to take place”.

Look at 5 simple keys suggested to spiritually influence people at the work place after all that is the essence of a Christian Professional i.e.: To influence people around us to the “Jesus Way Of Life”

Key 1 - Spiritual Influence Requires Competence

People are often surprised at this proposition, but the foundational requirement for spiritual influence is competence. By excellence and competence we don’t mean to imply that you have to be better than everyone else. It does mean, however, that you are serious about doing your best.

Consider the impact the Old Testament character Daniel had on the kings he served. Had Daniel performed in a mediocre manner, it’s doubtful we would know of him today, no matter how godly he might have been. Look at what Nebuchadnezzar noted when he interviewed Daniel and his friends at the end of their education: “In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom” (Daniel 1:29). Seventy years later, King Darius discovered the same extraordinary competence: “Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the administrators and the satraps by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom” (Daniel 6:3).

Here is the fundamental principle: If we want people to pay attention to our faith, we must first pay attention to our work. Before we introduce co-workers to God, we must introduce God into our work.

Key 2 - Spiritual Influence Requires Character

Competence is only part of the influence equation. It’s not enough to be good at what you do. Great character must govern great giftedness if we want to maintain any influence gained by competent work.

The experience of a physician friend illustrates this point. John is an excellent internist whose character was put on public display. While dealing with the normal public stresses on a young doctor, John and his wife had their first child, a son born with spina bifida. John’s colleagues were well aware of the strain as he managed his workload while making frequent trips to Texas Children’s Hospital.

John may have had reason to be irritable, but he rarely was. One day during rounds, he discovered that a nurse had made a serious mistake that endangered a patient’s life. John reprimanded the nurse firmly but respectfully. She walked away with her self-respect intact—an unusual result when compared with similar encounters with unhappy doctors. John was unaware that a colleague had overheard his reprimand. “John,” his colleague said, “I overheard how you handled that situation. If you were a preacher, I’d go to your church.”

The fact is, John is a preacher. You are, too. The things we say have a power equal to or greater than any sermon preached from a pulpit. There is a distance between pulpit and pew that does not exist in the workplace.

Key 3 - Spiritual Influence Requires Consideration

Nothing reveals more about your character than how you treat people. It may be a cliché, but it is one packed with truth: People don’t care how much we know until they know how much we care. Communication and conduct, these two relational components must go together. The way in which we respond to circumstances—the way we live—tells people we either care more about ourselves and our own selfish agendas or we care more about others.

One of the current leaders of the NLAG Corporate Fellowship Group was won over initially just because I showed him some consideration at the work place. I listened to him while others did not.

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility, consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others (Philippians 2:1-4, NIV).

Key 4 - Spiritual Influence Requires Wise Communication

We often meet people who tell us they're uncomfortable talking about their faith in the workplace. Others have decided they can witness without ever saying a word. I believe, however, that deeds without words are usually just as ineffective as words without deeds.

When is it appropriate to share your faith? Here is what I suggest:

1. *It's fitting to talk about your faith when it arises out of the relationships naturally built around your work with another person.* As you discuss work and life with your co-workers, informal mention of spiritual truth will happen naturally, just as other topics of personal importance pop into your conversations.

2. *It's appropriate to share your faith when it naturally fits into the topic of conversation.* Your conversation should be organic, not mechanical—not contrived, not crafted or calculated to divert discussion into another totally unrelated area. You may have observed people who drop the evangelical “diagnostic question” out of the blue after a lunch with a colleague: “If you died tonight and stood before the gates of heaven, and God asked you why he should let you in, what would you say?” This can have a chilling effect on a conversation—as well as on a budding relationship.

3. *It's always appropriate to talk about your faith when you are asked.* A question is an open door to address a person's spiritual concern. It is not, however, an invitation to dump all of your spiritual knowledge on someone in one sitting. Give enough information to answer a person's question, but also be sure to look for ways to create more curiosity and questions that can be addressed as time goes on.

Key 5 - Spiritual Influence Requires Courage

Following Jesus is anything but a safe venture. You will meet opportunities and face obstacles that will challenge you to the edge of your faith. Remember that true safety is in following Jesus wherever he leads. But playing it safe is the most dangerous thing you can do if Jesus is leading you out of your comfort zone.

There is a direct relationship between courage and the Scriptures. God's Word fortifies us with the truth. It gives us the mental ammunition to do battle with the lies of Satan that threaten to make us fall back in fear. Knowing that God is with us wherever we go gives us the courage to resist the fear and discouragement that Satan will undoubtedly throw in our path as we pursue God's will and walk the path of competence, character, compassion, and courage. Ultimately these steps of courage, when rooted in an abiding knowledge of the Word of God, result in true, satisfying, and abundant freedom to become all that God made us to be.

To conclude I must say, I don't know exactly how God has designed you or what your destiny in his plan may be. I don't know what God has put on and in your heart, but I challenge you to reach for it. No matter how improbable or impossible it appears, if it is noble, right, pure, and in line with God's kingdom, you must stretch yourself to reach it. To do less would be tragic for you, your customers, clients, and co-workers, for your profession, and for our generation—but most of all for the kingdom.

I end this article in a similar fashion to my last by saying “Get into action”. Let's walk the talk and get on track to spiritually influencing people towards the Kingdom. God Bless You.

- **Please share your ideas and thoughts. Do also provide your feedback.**
- **Do you want someone else to receive this newsletter? Do let us know.**
- **Feel free to forward this newsletter to all your fellowship members and friends.**

NOTE: Previous Issues of Newsletters can be seen on the CCF website @
- HAPPENINGS à CCF Newsletters



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