

Christian Viewpoint for Men – Getting God 2 Work conference

A personal reflection on the conference held on 7 – 9 November 2003

- **Does God care about making a soldier a more effective killer?**
 - **Does God care what we call an elephant?**
 - **Does God care what we call a perfume?**

Mark Greene, Executive Director of the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity (LICC), put these questions to the 300 delegates at the Christian Viewpoint for Men (CVM) conference in Coventry in early November.

By the end of the conference we realised the answer to all three questions is yes. God values our work. He cares about us. He worked as our Creator, and through the Holy Spirit is in us all and thereby involved in our work.

Are you a full time Christian worker?

During the conference, Mark encouraged us to recognise that we are all full time Christian workers. We may not be paid by the Church to work for the Church or a Christian charity, but we are called to work for Christ full time and to go and make disciples. God is with us in our work and we should view our attitude to our work as part of our witness - being for Him and to His glory. We are called to be serving our managers through our earthly occupations, and in so doing, to serve God, while ministering and caring for those we work with. The outcome: Christians being the subversive salt and piercing light that He has told us to be, in an environment often so dark and unsalted. Surely, then we can shine and bring the God flavours out in those around us. We are all full time Christian workers.

Conclusion

On concluding, Mark challenged us about what we would do differently from the Monday immediately after the conference, when we are back in our places of work. For example, would we:

- **Value the work we do as something that God cares about**
- **Recognise the inherent witness to our colleagues through the way we work**
- **Identify colleagues who God has laid on our hearts, and decide to invest in building relationships with them**
- **Consider starting a workplace Christian fellowship or join an existing one**
- **Encourage prayer for our workplaces and colleagues - does our small group or prayer triplet members know the names of our managers, for instance? Could we regularly invite different workers to share their concerns and be prayed for in church services?**

What would happen if each of us through our workplaces, or equivalent, were to pray and build relationships so that we could invite one colleague to an outreach event each year? God values our work; He believes we are all full time Christian workers. What difference could we make if we saw our work as God does?

Magnus Smyly

9 November 2003.