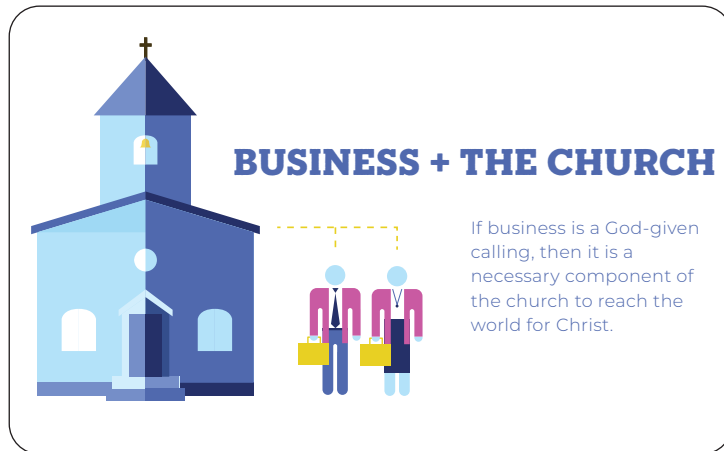


# PRAYING FOR THE WORLD

WEEK 39, SEPTEMBER 25 - OCTOBER 1

## Mission and the workplace



**T**he workplace is at the heart of Christian witness, discipleship and service. Yet most Christians do not have a clear understanding of how their work and their faith are partners to each other. Churches rarely teach about the workplace.

### The workplace and service

Integral to the working world is serving others. Every job we take is an opportunity to serve our fellow humans and the common good. It is also an opportunity to glorify God by being good in our work, just like Joseph was good in his work and through this, 'His master saw that the Lord was with him' (Gen 39:3).

### The workplace and witness

The workplace is where we mingle with the world God loves, outside of our church bubble, sharing the same stresses and difficulties, taking part in the jostle of ideas and conversation, seeking to live out our Chris-

tian faith. Our workplaces are where we spend the most time, make the most mistakes, invest the most energy, live through bad days and difficult colleagues and enjoy good days and great teams. The workplace is not perhaps a place for mass evangelism but it is supremely the place for us all to live out Christ's calling: 'You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, Samaria, and to the ends of the Earth' (Acts 1:8).

God's call on his people is to be a 'priesthood'. Pray that we will help bridge the gap between God and our fellow-workers, as ambassadors and go-betweens for Christ.

Pray that each of us will glorify God in our workplace and that through the workplace the whole world will glimpse something of Christ.

## THE NATIONS

### PAPUA NEW GUINEA

This giant Pacific archipelago is home to 8.6 million people who between them speak 853 languages - more languages and more ethnic groups than any other country. Most people live off the land in small groups in mountain valleys or islands. Half of these language groups are smaller than 2,000 people. They can be as different from each other as English is from Chinese.

Papua New Guinea has a long Christian heritage. Yet under the surface are problems of violence, revenge killings and corruption. It is one of the worst places in the world for violence against women.

Pray for a new generation of young women and men to rise up as Christian leaders. Pray for revival in the churches.



### PAKISTAN

Bordered by India, Afghanistan and Iran, Pakistan is home to 205 million people. Most Pakistanis remain poor (apart from a rich elite). The treatment of women can be oppressive. A weak state, a stagnant economy, an expensive and dominant military and a history of violence and instability slow progress towards a better day.

Pakistan is over 95% Muslim. The Christian community is less than 3% of the population, and the Christians mostly come from the poorest and most despised groups. Islamist militants bomb churches, as well as other Muslim groups they deem heretical. Repressive blasphemy laws are being used to bring false accusations against personal enemies. Discrimination against Christians is, according to the agency Open Doors, 'institutionalized.' Pakistan is ranked as the fifth most dangerous country in the world to live as a Christian.

Few countries present more of an unfinished task to the global Church. Because Pakistan is divided by caste, language and ethnicity, hundreds of groups remain with no local, culturally relevant expression of the faith.

Pray that the gospel will be sown, watered, nurtured and brought to harvest all across Pakistan in coming decades.



*Praying for the World* is a free weekly prayer guide to inspire and inform the whole church to pray for the whole world. Visit [www.lausanne.org/pray](http://www.lausanne.org/pray) to start any week. Created through the partnership of Operation World and the Lausanne Movement.