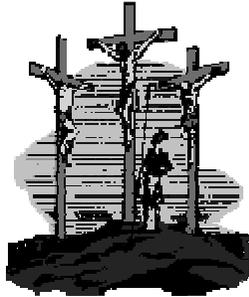


The Faith and Work Page

A resource for working Christians from ICF-UK



There were many people who found themselves drawn into the picture on that most significant of days when Jesus was crucified. Religious leaders saw it as part of their expected duty to make an example of this imposter; friends and disciples stood shattered as they watched their leader in apparent defeat, passers by joined in the mockery in blind dis-interest. Yet it took a soldier, dragged to centre stage by simply fulfilling his workplace duties to recognise and utter those immortal words that "surely this man was the Son of God".

Our working lives will involve us in a whole variety of tasks and situations. We might often struggle to equate these with the purposes of God, and like the soldier at the cross might even imagine that our working lives pull us in a quite opposite direction. Yet we never know when and how God might break in - being a Christian of work is not about living out our faith despite the job we do, but because of it.

The work of our armed forces is very much in the public eye at present as debate rages about the legitimacy of the conflicts in which our nation finds itself involved. We are deeply troubled by the young lives that have been lost and share something of the pain and anguish of their families and loved ones. here are no easy answers, there are no pain-free solutions - it is hard to imagine how God might break in, but then who could have imagined that it would be the leader of the execution party that would become the one individual to recognise the true identity of the crucified God.

From Monday to Friday, our lives will engage with the realities of our troubled world. When we gather as God's people, we do so not to escape from that world but to help us better engage in it.

God who calls us to be a people of commitment and service, use for Your Glory every aspect of the lives that we live - reassure us with Your presence in the places that we seek You; surprise us with that presence in the places we do not.
AMEN



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ICF - Faith on Monday morning