



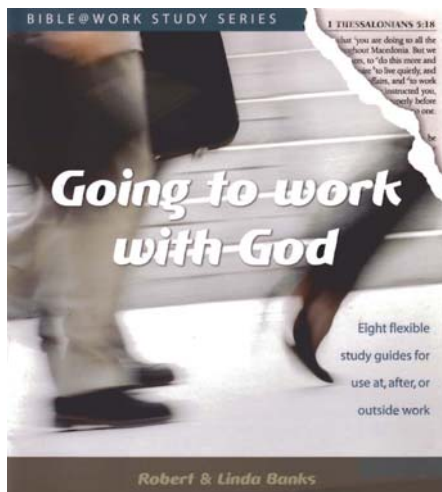
Marketplace Moments

Bibliophoria

Going to Work with God.

Looking for a good study guide for your church small group, your office or workplace fellowship or just on your own. You cannot afford to give this a miss. Grounded firmly in scriptures and theological reflections, this guide is anything but boring. One begins to see in practical terms how much does the Bible have to say about work anyway. This is the first of the new BIBLE@WORK Study Series by Robert and Linda Banks. In this *Going to Work with God*, there are 8 studies. The materials have been written with four distinctive in mind; Interactive, Inductive, Integrative and In-depth.

Both Robert and Linda are veterans in their field. Robert Banks has taught in theological colleges and universities in Australia and overseas, including as Professor of Lay Ministry at Fuller Theological Seminary. He is currently Senior Research and Development Fellow at the Macquarie Christian Studies Institute. Linda has a background in teaching and Christian education, and was



also a staff worker for the Australian Fellowship of Evangelical Students on several University campuses. She has also been an Associate Pastor of a Baptist Church in NSW and Baptist Chaplain at Macquarie University.

Pastor Timothy Lim and his church is using this study guide as bible study material for all the small groups. Here is what he has to say:

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Bibliophoria

Marketplace Ministry

Most Christians today may not have heard of the Lausanne Movement, particularly us 'younger' chaps. However, we have perhaps lived and felt the influence of Lausanne in one way or another. About thirty years ago, July

1974, International Congress of World Evangelization, convened in Lausanne, Switzerland (where the Lausanne movement acquired its' namesake). It was convened by Dr. Billy Graham and other evangelical notables like John Stott and Rene Padilla. The focus of Lausanne was committed to energizing "The Whole Church to take the Whole Gospel to the

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Biblophoria (cont)

Whole World. The landmark outcome of the Lausanne I congress was the **Lausanne Covenant** supported by 2430 participants from 150 nations. It was said at the forum that this gave us people groups. The second was in 1989 in Manila. Out of which came the **Manila Manifesto** and the '10/40' window. The last one was recently in 2004 in Thailand. Out of 33 issues group came, Lausanne Occasional Papers (LOP), of which Marketplace Ministry, LOP 40 is one, LOP for Marketplace Ministry provides a foundation for understanding marketplace ministry from an evangeli-

'workplace' ministers and missionaries, armed with biblically based understanding that God has called 'ALL' Christians into Full-Time ministry and mission. Our work IS also our ministry. See and find out how a truly Trinitarian perspective will correct much of the errors we face today.

The working group for the paper conducted an online discussion for 6 months and 30 some members met at the 2004 forum. The group comprises both lay (professionals from various fields of work) and clergy (pastors, theologians, full time church and para-church workers). And from various con-

cal perspective.

Using the concept of Mind the Gap, the paper explores the gap between Sunday and Monday, Sacred and Secular, Clergy and Laity and attempts to provide biblical basis for bridging the gap. Up till now, we have done relatively well in the whole gospel portion,, less so in the whole world (but still effectively reducing the unreached people groups by a big margin. However, we have done poorly in the whole church portion, not equipping the people of God to do ministry and missions in daily living. Much of this can be attributed to the gaps men-

tioned above.

The boundaries of new tribes and nations are being redrawn. The battle line has now moved from the rural to the urban context, from villages to offices, shops and factories. Philip Jenkins in his book 'The New Christendom' estimates that 'Today, around 45 percent of the world's people live in urban areas, but that proportion should rise to 60 percent by 2025 and to over 66 percent by 2050.' These growth will be concentrated in the mega-cities of the globalized economy. The church has to re-think its' strategy by sending their

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tinents (North America, Europe, Asia, Africa, Oceania). At the forum presentation, the Marketplace Ministry Issues Group asked the forum for the '9 to 5' window.

Contact Simon from GCF office for a hard copy at S\$10 each. 63144910. All papers are available for free download at www.lausanne.org.

By Timothy Liu

Google Plus

Grace@Work Web-Site

This is a web-site that will not catches the eye or attention of internet savvy, macromedia flashing, post-modern Gen Xers and Yers. I would probably also give it a miss if I have not known of our dear friend Soo Inn. So many of us in this day and age miss out so much because we have taken form over essence, persona over character, glamour over content.

It is equally true that though we the people of God who truth holds, we sometimes do not present it in a manner that is worthy of the content. However, there are some truths that cannot be conveyed by graphics and sound bites.

Here's the catch, once you start digging in, you are hooked like D24 durians, or the best kway chap or the tastiest bah chor mee you have come across. For Soo Inn, it's may be the

Penang char kway teow.

If you are trying to find grapple (to grapple with) or traction in trying to ground our Christian faith and spirituality in everyday life, then let the reflections of Soo Inn's writing bring you through that journey. Most of his e-commentaries deals with his own journey of faith and lives encountered. How does one make sense of faith in the face of joy, pain, anger, disappointments, movies, civil rights, death; all the interest-

Google Plus (cont)

ing or boring (depending on your life's perspective and understanding of the God you worship). Read some of his reflections for example, Googling for God's will, I am Yoda and Lord's Supper at Pizza Hut.

Here is an excerpt from 'Lord's Supper at Pizza Hut' where he writes of his conversation with his 2 sons over a meal.

Dad then reached out for the last bread stick, gave thanks to God for Christ's body broken for us, broke the bread stick into three and distributed it. We ate the bread stick in remembrance of Christ and His ultimate sacri-

fice on our behalf.

I am sure that I had broken the church rules of any number of denominations. But I couldn't help but think that maybe this is how the Lord's Supper really ought to be done --- in the context of a real meal, in the midst of real life.

www.graceatwork.org.

Sign up for the weekly e-commentary FOC. (Singaporeans favorite acronym). Ministry is supported by faithful friends and partners who value the work of the ministry.



It's a jaundiced portrait of maleness in crisis — a crisis extending not only to the sexual identities of the two central characters, but also to the validity of manhood as exemplified by every other male character in the film.

Of the Heart and Mind

Over the radio, I was listening in on a Chinese language station with a commentary that goes something like this:

The fast food giant McDonalds was actually started by 2 brothers; Richard and Maurice McDonalds in California. One brother wanted to grow the company but that would mean extensive traveling. The other brother was not keen but rather live life as it were, favoring the country house and the woods. The other brother went off to expand the business into the franchise restaurant throughout US and world-wide..

The conclusion was that the brother who went on to develop the business made a 'right' or 'better' choice.

After some search on the internet, I found several stories that differ from the above. But that is not

the point.

The assumption of the conclusion is what really bugs me. Conventional wisdom says that the more successful of the two brothers is the one who went forth to build the business. In the globalized market, conventional wisdom also calls for Singapore workers and professionals to go regional. It's the economy 'stupid'.

For us Christians, who are people of faith, should know better that there are more than just economics. The 'Quality' life is not only gauged by an reasonable level of livelihood, but more importantly, it is about relationships. It is about being in a loving community, whether in the family or in the church. It is about seeing our children laugh and grow, a hearty meal with our parents or friends.

More than that, it is about finding meaning and fulfillment in our

lives, our daily work and chores, through our understanding of God's purpose for our lives.

Being a professional that spends more time on airplanes than MRT and buses, going regional is not as glamorous as it seems. I feel for the brother who wants a 'quieter' life, For me, it comes at a great sacrifice of time away to see my children grow and particularly hard when they are sick. It is also hard to see my wife bear the responsibility of a single parent when I am on the road and helpless on the other side of the phone, hundreds of miles away. If not for the understanding that my work is my call and ministry, it will be unbearable.

Economic growth, regionalization and globalization has its' price. It's my prayer that our next generation will not have to pay for it.

By Timothy Liu

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► Kingdom Building at
the Workplace

What are participants
saying about Reality Café?



Biblephoria

(From pg 1)

This is my first workbook on the topic of God, our work and balance between work and relaxation. Very insightful to the Christian's understanding of work. I found the applications "Working it out" deep in thought and demanding to think and apply. The Bible passages are well chosen, diverse and applicable in different situations. However the questions are very challenging to understand and therefore it is advisable to have a small group studying the material rather than an individual's approach to the book.— Rev Timothy Lim

Available from

Bible Society of Singapore
7 Armenian Street

#01-01 Bible House
Singapore 179932
Tel: 6337 3222 ext 19
Fax: 6337 3036

If you have difficulty finding it in Singapore, e-mail info@marketplacechristian.net for assistance.

Published by NSW Australian Bible Society

By Timothy Liu

Coming Events

13 May – Reality Café. Why does it Matter? Why does the material world (matter) matters to God?

03 Jun – Reality Café. No Time, Part Time, Full Time, Overtime.

2pm–5pm at 03-05, Bible House,
7 Armenian Street. Register with
Elaine, info@marketplacechristian.net. Drinks and Snacks provided (RSVP)

For more information check our
web-site.

Reality Cafe was a good time to rest and understand God's will in the workplace for each one of us. Although there are only a few of us attending, it was comfortable to share the struggles we experience daily at work. **Tan Weiqi** (Researcher and Participant of Reality Café)