

CABE Network 14 January 2009

Jon Gledhill, Business Development Manager for the Middle East and Asia for Puretech Process Systems within the Pharmaceutical industry, spoke on "**You are God's Change Agent for 2009**"

Jon was a "full time missionary" in church planting and is now a "full time missionary" in business. He believes that Christians in business can "influence the influencers for Christ" and therefore fulfil the Great Commission. He has a special concern for the Islamic world and has noted the openness of Muslims when they meet a Christ honouring businessman.

Below are some notes from Jon's talk...

Jon shared some of his experiences as a Christian in business and the opportunities he has had to pray for people's business and their personal needs. The first thing he needed to do was to recognise the need to change himself and his mindset on faith and work and not limit his faith and his God to Sunday. We need to take our lead from Jesus. He established friendships first and told his disciples to "let your light shine before men that they may see your good works and praise your Father in heaven." (Matt 5:13)

He proposed 3 key principles to being a change agent:

1. **Our work and God's hand in our work.** God gets the attention of influential people as he did the attention of Nebuchadnezzar through Daniel, Pharaoh – Joseph... He believes that God's intention is that non-Christians see the unexplainable events that happen to Christians in the workplace that can only be explained by the fact that God is with them. We should be encouraged that many other Christians are influencing our colleagues too and we should keep persevering.
2. **Integrity – living a whole life.** We need to demonstrate that we are living a life that glorifies and is worthy to God. Invariably we will be given more opportunities and authority to speak out for the gospel. Without integrity we can't influence for the kingdom.
3. **Team and church.** 50% of those named in Acts were influencers: Crispus, Sergius Paulus, Dionysius, Ethiopian Eunuch etc. We sometimes focus in our churches on reaching the poor without realising that there are many business leaders who influence thousands of poor people in the world? The church has less confidence in reaching the influential. Jon shared some of his experiences of the church in Singapore which has overcome this and is focussed on equipping and encouraging influential people in business to impact their work and life - and is growing at a phenomenal rate!

He concluded by talking about the iceberg of resistance to the gospel. When salt works you can't see it work you just watch the iceberg melt. We need to be salt in our workplaces but may not always be able to see the effect of what we are doing – but the ice will melt and people will turn to Christ.

To listen to the talk go to the podcasts section of the CABE website <http://www.cabe-online.org/podcasts.php>.