Contemporary Comments on the Adult Sabbath School Lesson

[Title] Corporate Evangelism and Witnessing
[Text] Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; Psalm 37; Philippians 1:5-18; Ephesians 4:15, 16; Colossians 1:28, 29
[Use] May 19, 2012

It’s a relatively new trend in office space that’s happening not only in America but also around the world. The innovative office space alternative is called “co-working.” Its purpose? To bring solopreneurs and telecommuters into a shared workplace with the hope of encouraging worker’s knowledge sharing and professional networks, as well as eliminating the “lonely entrepreneur” syndrome.

Studies have proven that social isolation is one of the main risk factors for depression. And small business owners are often isolated, with no one to share job-related ideas and stresses with. This can lead to feelings of loneliness that may turn into depression. It not only affects the business owner’s job success, but also his or her personal life.

According to Wikipedia, co-working is defined as a “social gathering of a group of people, who are still working independently, but who share values, and who are interested in the synergy that can happen from working with talented people in the same space.” [1]

HiretheWorld Marketing Director, Evan Duxbury believes in this trend: “The material benefits of co-working can include access to business services like printers, copiers, wi-fi internet access, workshops, a receptionist and a conference room for solopreneurs who wouldn’t otherwise have access to such facilities. But the value that the co-working community aims to create lies in the people working alongside you. The community approach has initially attracted the most creative, early adopting, entrepreneurial spirits which makes for a hub of valuable feedback, camaraderie and support.” [2]

If co-working is so successful in the business world, why aren’t we doing more of it within the church? Why is the work of spreading the Gospel often left to pastor, evangelist, and a handful of church members? Ask any pastor or evangelist if they struggle with loneliness at times, and you’ll probably hear a “yes.” Especially if they don’t feel a sense of having co-workers within the church to work along side them.

King Solomon was right when he wrote in Ecclesiastes 4:9 that “Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor.” And when it comes to corporate evangelism within the church, the “good reward” is two-fold. Not only can we get more work done and reach more people for Christ, but we also build a sense of camaraderie that brings us closer together as a church family.

Preferably, the whole church should be involved in evangelism—from the planning stage until completion. According to Ephesians 4:15, 16, we are to work as one body—with Christ as the head. And when the church does gain new members, the work doesn’t stop. They need to be cared for and given their own jobs within the church. Then we will know this reward: in helping others to know Christ, we will become closer not only to each other, but also to Jesus. And we will experience Paul’s challenge in Ephesians 3:19: “to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”

~ nc
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