

## **Monday 29th April**

### **Business done well raises questions**

Patrick Lai, practitioner, mentor and author of the book 'Business for Transformation' writes:

"People are amazed when they see how we deal with corrupt government officials. They are shocked when they see the ways we deal with employees who cheat us or customers who lie to us. They are stunned when they receive bonuses and experience the ways we reward good work. They have no precedent to comprehend how we pray in staff meetings or how we invite Jesus in as our CEO. They are watching. They see our faith first. They experience love, forgiveness and grace. Experiencing God in these ways creates points of reference for later opportunities to verbally explain who Jesus is, which nearly always come if we are patient. We tell business workers, "Don't talk. Don't tell. Show them the good news first." Ultimately, non-believers see so much that they are overwhelmed and as a result they finally ask, "Why? Tell me why? I want to know more."

Watch a 3-minute video on BAM [here](#)

- Pray for Frontiers workers doing business as mission, that they would live in a conspicuously spiritual way so that those around them ask questions about their faith in Jesus.
- Pray the communities that businesses are operating in would be welcome and open to hearing the gospel.
- Pray that their businesses would bring lasting economic, social and spiritual change to their areas for the glory of God.

## **Tuesday 30th April**

### **Tea, turbans and a training centre in West Africa**

Sometimes a social enterprise-cum-business can be used to reach people with the gospel. A few months ago, we heard from a Frontiers couple about a project in West Africa that they are setting up along these lines.

Steve and his wife Leah have a vision; to manufacture products from local materials to help farmers, while training local men not only to make the products, but to start their own businesses making and selling them. To do this, they are currently building a Business Training Centre.

When finished, the work of the centre will be two-fold; to address poverty in the area by empowering local people to work and to be a springboard/sending platform for local believers who in time can go out into the region as trainers and church planters. The centre will be sustained from proceeds of the sale of the products that are made.

They are currently building the centre and it is not far from being finished. Steve is managing the project, working with a team of local men. One of the purposes of the project is to have lots of contact with local people. As he speaks the local language, Steve has had many opportunities to be a witness for Christ on-site and to deepen relationships with his co-workers, often during a break while drinking mint tea.

Steve felt God wanted him to plant seeds; seeds of truth, love, justice, mercy, hope, forgiveness, kindness and of the gospel. All this can be done through the Business Training Centre as he works to bless others, their families and the local community and beyond.

- Pray for physical and spiritual strength for Steve and Leah as they build this business and plant seeds of life and hope to bless others.
- Pray for good relationships to develop and opportunities to share the life of Jesus through work and chatting during breaks.
- This business, together with others, requires further investment to grow. Pray for the investment needed for this business and others in the region.

*"And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up."*  
Galatians 6:9

### **Wednesday 1st May**

**In Central Asia in the former Soviet Union, another Frontiers couple is running a social enterprise-business model that can be used to reach people with the gospel. This is their story.**

We work with an NGO (charity, non-profit) which was originally established by workers to provide English resources and teaching, alongside other community-focussed projects. Today the English Centre and the English courses generate the majority of revenue on which the organisation depends, making it more of a business or social enterprise than a normal charity dependent upon donations. This enables it to run projects working with young people, students, people with disabilities and other NGO leaders; it's all part of an integrated whole.

These days, it employs almost 30 local staff; of which around half are non-believers. Whilst historically it was a foreigner-run organisation, these days the locals are leading and the two of us are the sole remaining foreigners, working in more of a consultative coaching and advisory capacity alongside the local leadership. We're essentially discipling people in the workplace each day, seeking to grow in them more of a love and vision for their people and their city, and waiting to see how God might use them not just in a professional capacity and meeting physical needs, but in seeing hearts transformed.

We are excited about how the organisation is gradually developing mature leaders with 'kingdom' values within this post-Soviet context that is so badly in need of such people – those who will care for and raise up those around them, rather than oppressing others to promote themselves, for example. One of our local staff in particular is a natural evangelist, and has seen a number of colleagues come to faith over the years, so we're keen to help people like this understand the potential of multiplication and how to have that goal in mind.

With more than 350 people coming three times a week to take English courses, there are lots of potential ways in to reach people with the gospel! Because of the nature of things, we have to build relationship on-site and take the conversation into spiritual topics off-site, but there are opportunities for finding key people there - many people who come to our site comment on how the atmosphere is so different to most places in the city, so it's not hard to start a conversation about why!

Growing an organisation like this is hard work and results don't come quickly. But in designing systems and structures that value everyone, encouraging them to realise their potential and recognise their unique contribution, we are not only working alongside a fairly successful social business that is gradually changing attitudes and influencing the city, we are testifying to the realities of the kingdom of God at work and giving it a local face which people can relate to.

- Let's pray that God may be glorified through this English Centre and this city and region will be transformed!
- Let's pray for our Frontiers workers as they engage in this social business, that they will be wise, strengthened and encouraged and even if results don't always come quickly, that they will continue to speak into people's lives.
- Let's ask for continued favour on this English Centre; that it will grow and flourish and continue to impact those who work there and those who attend classes, such that attitudes will change and its godly influence will go far and wide.

#### **Thursday 2nd May**

##### **BAM in aquaculture**

Business people can glorify God by having economic, social, environmental and spiritual aims. Here is an inspiring example from a team of church planters in Muslim Asia, where we can clearly see how a business can impact a community on all four levels.

Fishery scientists on this team devised methods to breed stock in an artificial environment, aiming to restore a local fishery destroyed through over-fishing. Currently they are recruiting large numbers of local fish farmers, who are given these young sea creatures to raise to market size in cages in coral lagoons. In exchange they receive a share of the profits from the sale of this premium product.

Not only do local people have work and an income, but increased employment has a positive impact on the whole community. The local environment is also being restored as fish farmers now have a desire to look after it and beautiful coral fish are already returning to the lagoons. Also, the fishery is being restored as the animals in the cages are spawning and spreading to the surrounding areas.

As the gospel workers travel and train fish farmers, they also share the good news. Churches will be started with local believers in this region, the environment improved and society changed. And this is all because of BAM!

- We praise and thank God for this wonderful team of workers and for their vision to reach a local community through their aquaculture business. Let's pray for them and for God to be honoured through their business.
- Let's pray for many people groups in the region to hear about Jesus through the churches that are being planted.
- Let's pray for more entrepreneurs to be inspired to develop relevant businesses that bring blessing in material and spiritual ways.

- Pray for church planters to find ways of being a witness through the businesses they are involved in.

## **Friday 3rd May**

### **Mentors, Coaches, Investors and Business Creators**

If you have a business in the UK, you may wonder how you can reach Muslims across the world.

There are many avenues business people in the UK could consider to build God's Kingdom cross-culturally. The possibilities include coaching and mentoring business entrepreneurs who are led to set up businesses engaging with Muslim communities overseas; current entrepreneurs in the UK who could set up an overseas presence of their business that has a specific aim of engaging these communities (and making a profit), right through to investing in business start-ups.

One business person working in Asia amongst a marginalised Muslim group set up an agricultural business that gives many opportunities to visit rural farmers. The CEO of this business wrote: "The big challenges included finance and upskilling in areas I was not familiar with, as my background is in agriculture, so I valued the input of experienced business coaches."

Normally there would not be a reason for Westerners to travel to the countryside, so visiting villages outside the city is regarded with suspicion. As a business person this CEO has an identity. The business gives wonderful opportunities to visit local farmers and to bless the community through the product, employment and training and through ploughing back the profits the business generates.

At Frontiers, we have business people who are currently preparing to go to the Muslim world with a vision to reach and bless others through their business training.

- Let's pray for our business people as they prepare to go to the field that God would go before them and make a way and they would be able to navigate all that is needed to establish their businesses.
- Pray for more business mentors to come forward.
- Pray for people who would like to invest in businesses whose main aim is to see the kingdom of God grow in the Muslim world.

## **Saturday 4th May**

**The following story is from a Frontiers couple who went to the Muslim world to establish their business as a mission.**

Just before my family and I moved overseas to live among an unengaged Muslim people group and establish a business amongst them, I met Ellen who told us she would pray for our business and ministry on the field. Two months after we arrived in our new country, Ellen came to visit us and was deeply impacted by the Muslim people of our country. She visited on other occasions and she often

prayed for God to lead us to persons of peace—men and women who would open doors for us to share the message of the gospel.



On her last visit, God answered this prayer.

We had just shown Ellen and her team the new location of our business, a therapy centre for those with disabilities. Ellen and another team member took a moment to walk along the street, praying. As they were coming back, a man named Zaydan was returning to his home, a building next to our business. Ellen greeted him and after a few moments of conversation, he invited her and the rest of us into his home.

Zaydan introduced us to his family and served us tea. Then he told us about his long career as head of the police over the entire region. He was well-known and highly respected throughout the state. We talked about culture, religion and faith. When he asked about our business, I described our goal to bless the most vulnerable people in the community.

At that moment, Zaydan pulled out his phone and started calling other people he knew - doctors, nurses and social workers. He told them to come to our business within the next week. Strangers started turning up at our business and offering help. One of Zaydan's friends even organised an inauguration for us. He invited a hundred medical professionals and people of influence who could help promote the services provided through our business.

We rejoice in the divine appointment with Zaydan—which God orchestrated through Ellen's obedient, faithful, and persistent prayers. It's helping the success of our business and has opened so many opportunities to share the gospel.

- Pray that many will discover Jesus Christ as Saviour, thanks to Ellen's faithfulness and this couple's obedience to go and reach Muslims who have never heard the Good News.
- Let's pray for the continued success of this business, as this couple seek to bless vulnerable people in the local community and show them and their families the love of Jesus.
- We thank God for Zaydan and his willingness to support this business enterprise. Just as he has been a blessing, let's ask God to mightily bless him.
- Your prayers are so valuable and make an eternal difference. We pray for you, that God will mightily bless and encourage you and give you the desires of your heart.