



**Make a difference  
wherever YOU are**

**Equipping Whole Life Disciples**

## Suppose for a moment that God really is interested in every aspect of your life...

...in the dish-washing and the dog-walking and the day job and the drudgery of some of the stuff you just have to do; interested in the staff in your local supermarket as well as the homeless in the local shelter; in your boss as well as your vicar; in you helping a shopper find the ketchup as well as brewing the tea for your home group; in the wellbeing of your town and the wellbeing of your neighbour...

Well, he is. He's your heavenly father and you're his daughter or his son. He's made you a new creature in Christ and empowered you by his Spirit to do his will. So, of course, God is interested in everything about you. And that changes everything. He wants you to know the joy of his presence wherever you are, whatever you do, whoever you're with.

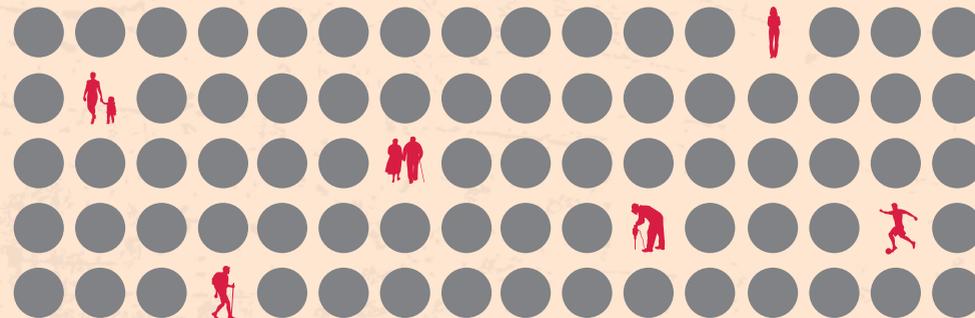
So you don't have to go to Hanoi or Haiti or Hong Kong or anywhere faraway to be fruitful for Christ, you can serve him right where you are. Henbury or Hartcliffe or Henleaze will do just fine.

## Red dots in a grey world...

We are all God's ambassadors. In our normal everyday lives, we are the valued representatives of a great King and another kingdom. We – the young, the old and all those in-between – have been called to follow Jesus and sent out into God's world with his authority to live out, show and share the message of Christ, the love of Christ, and the power of Christ in our everyday lives and in our ordinary encounters with the people we meet.

Like red dots scattered in the world, we bring the love of Jesus to offices, neighbourhoods, coffeeshops, gyms, schools... and wherever we might find ourselves. God's plan is to use ordinary people (that's all there are) like us, to radiate his loving presence in the ordinary places we find ourselves each day - our frontlines.

**Your Frontline:** *wherever you spend significant time with non-Christians*



**Pause to Think:** Where is YOUR Frontline?

## Be an everyday disciple... learning to live the way of Jesus in your context at *this* moment

My role is very varied  
and no two days are the same.  
I am often with people at the very  
worst time in their lives. Whilst I am  
unable to directly speak about my faith  
to members of the public I am able to  
demonstrate the love of Christ by showing  
compassion, kindness, patience,  
grace and understanding.

My colleagues know I am a Christian  
and they sometimes ask me  
interesting and challenging  
questions!



KATE  
POLICE OFFICER

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3:17

## Who turned out the light?

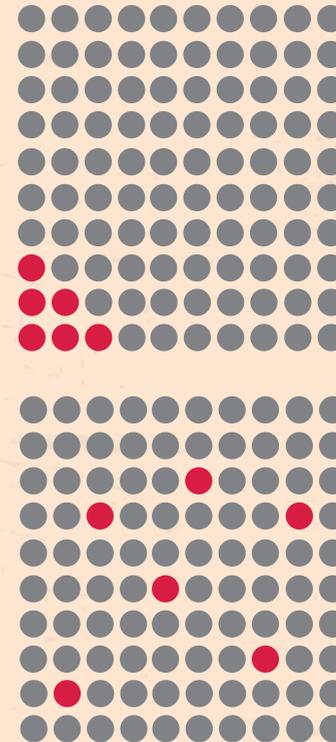
If you think about it for a minute, God's plan makes perfect sense (as we might expect!). In the UK about 6%-7% of people regularly attend church. They are the red dots, gathered together in the corner. They enjoy being together - and it is a good thing that they meet to worship, pray and learn about following Jesus.

Here's the challenge: 93%-94% of people in the UK - the grey dots - do not attend church on a regular basis. And there are not many indications that they intend to start any time soon.

So where will they encounter the Good News of the God who loves them, the Saviour who has died for them and the Spirit who waits to enliven new life in them?

The answer is, 'Nowhere'.

UNLESS Christians share God's love in their everyday lives, the world is left a grey place.



You are the light of the world... let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. Matthew 3:14-16

## Not as scary as you think!

What does sharing God's love in everyday life look like? It can sound scary and bring to mind visions of awkward evangelistic encounters in which an embarrassed Christian attempts to forcefeed an uninterested friend (or stranger) with a set of Biblical truths.

But it's not like that at all.

Sharing God's love in everyday life is about how we live out our relationship with Jesus, not only about how we talk about it. It means making God's love and His Kingdom visible in everyday life. It will mean that we

**Model Godly Character** - being a distinctive presence as the Spirit of God ripens his fruit in our lives.

**Make Good Work** - doing all that we do (whether paid or voluntary) as though we were doing it just for Jesus.

**Minister Grace and Love** - being willing to go the extra mile to serve those around us - even our enemies!

**Mould Culture** - attempting to shape the bits of life where we have influence, as though God was in charge there.

Are **Mouthpieces for Truth and Justice** - speaking (and acting) to defend the oppressed and marginalised, snuffing out gossip and combating lies.

Are **Messengers of the Gospel** - and yes, being willing to explain why we do what we do, and the difference Jesus has made - and continues to make - to our lives.

## Working Together for Change

On your frontline, you may be the only Christian in your office or your class, the only one who catches the 282 bus at 7.52 or who goes along to that lunch club... but that doesn't mean you should go without support. We're not meant to.

We should go with the prayer and wisdom and encouragement of other Christians. And be there for our Christians friends, to support them too.

It's important to reflect on your week with others, to talk about some of the people you meet, to share the situations you face, and to pray about what God might want to do right where you are.

Of course, the natural place to equip and encourage one another for frontline service is your local church. After all, our churches aren't just meant to be places for worship and pastoral care, but communities that empower us to be God's people out in His world, day by day.

### The Everyday Disciples Prayer

Father God, help me to look at every face I see this day with the eyes of Christ, tender and loving

Creator God, help me to do everything I do this day in the power of your Spirit, Gracious and joyful.

Speaking God, help me to say everything I say this day In the ways of your Son, kind and true.

Lord God, Redeemer and Ruler of all, help me this day to carry your fragrance, show your love and share your invitation, wherever I go, whatever I do, whoever I am with.

In the power of your Spirit, to the glory of your name. Amen.

# Time to make a difference wherever YOU are

## Resources to help you

**Fruitfulness on the Frontline book** - An interesting and stimulating read helping you to explore the ways you can be fruitful on your frontline.

## Resources to help church leaders

**Grove booklet** - A short introduction to the practice of culture change to become a church that equips frontline disciples.

**Imagine Church** - How can an ordinary church become a community of people who help one another live out their whole life as followers of Jesus in his mission to the world?

## DVD Resources for Small Groups

**Life on the Frontline** - Group discussion material to help you discover your frontline.

**Fruitfulness on the Frontline** - Group discussion material to help you live fruitfully on your frontline.

## Equipping Churches

**Workshops for churches** - This series of LICC workshops provide an opportunity for church leaders and leadership teams to explore how church ministry can inspire worshippers to fruitfulness in the whole of their lives. Details can be found at [www.bristol.anglican.org/whole-life-workshops](http://www.bristol.anglican.org/whole-life-workshops)

