

Workplace Grace: Becoming A Spiritual Influence at Work
By Bill Peel & Walt Larimore

Zondervan, 2003, 2010. 216 pp.

Reviewed by David W. Gill

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Workplace Grace is truly a great little book. It is brimming with wise, practical, biblical insight and advice. There are dozens of books out there on evangelism and sharing the faith. This is by far the best one I have read since Robert Coleman's classic *Master Plan of Evangelism*. It should be in everyone's library.

Walt Larimore is a family physician. Bill Peel is director of the center for faith and work at LeTourneau University in Texas. Peel and Larimore collaborated earlier in developing the "Saline Solution" – a way for medical doctors to share their faith with patients and colleagues. *Workplace Grace* re-focuses this basic approach on the workplace in general. The workplace is the natural, logical, biblical place where faith gets shared and people come to know God but few of us have much knowledge or confidence for doing this well. Mechanical or forced techniques of proselytizing or witnessing don't work – in fact they may harden people against the faith.

Peel and Larimore draw on biblical teaching and a wealth of stories and examples to make their case for an organic approach to evangelism. Evangelism is a process not a one-time mechanical event; it is a succession of small steps and events from analyzing and preparing the soil to planting, watering, and harvesting (sounds like something Jesus taught!). Their book has chapters about stirring up interest and fostering curiosity, about earning the right to be heard, and about facing objections, among other topics. They are great in helping readers not to panic or overreact if one's co-workers need some time to get interested or have a succession of negative things to say.

I love how Peel and Larimore stress that evangelism is about our cooperating in a spiritual work that God is already doing in someone's life. We are not starting a fire but nurturing a flame that God has already lit. The pressure is off of us because it is about God's work in someone's life. It is about God's timing, not our artificial goals.

Peel and Larimore are masters of communication with great advice on how to formulate effective, meaningful sentences and nurture conversations forward. The book is a goldmine of practical guidance. I would urge business and church groups alike to make this book the basis of a multi-session study. That's how good and important it is. A+