

"I have always been really encouraged by how much I see God at work among the people I work with. But over the last few months I have seen God intervene in a particular difficulty at work in a way that has really surprised me. By way of background - I am a solicitor, I qualified 3 and a half year ago and I work for one of the big firms. I have always worked almost exclusively for one guy (who is now quite senior in the business) and we have always had a pretty good relationship - the main difficulty I have with my boss is that he is a bit of a workaholic, and because I work so closely with him I have always struggled not to become that myself.

By the end of September last year, I was really struggling with a huge work load and also an inconsistent attitude from my boss - everyone was stressed and overworked. There were various issues, but the result was that I was incredibly unhappy at work, stressed out, not sleeping, tired etc. I wanted to get out but partly because I work as part of such an amazing team of people and partly because I was so stressed and tired, I wasn't in a position to look for a move or make any decisions.

Chris and Clair have always been a fantastic support and encouraged me when I have been struggling before so I got in touch again and they invited me round for a chat after work. I suspect I wasn't particularly coherent and I talked far too much - and it was great just to get it off my chest. We prayed about it and discussed various ways forward, but there was one particular thing Chris said, which God really spoke to me through (or rather shouted to me - you know when you hear something and God really reinforces it so that you can't hear or recall anything but that) . He said that I should try praying for my boss - not just for his attitude to me to change or for him to take the work load away, but to pray that God would support him in his work and the challenges he is facing.

And so that is what I started to do - I prayed that God would gift my boss with abilities to manage the team and the department better, with wisdom in decision making, with efficiency to get through his own work, with sensitivity to clients and staff, etc. Over the next couple of months things changed enormously - it is difficult to pinpoint what has changed, other than to say everything except the work and the people changed. The workload has improved (or at least my attitude to it and ability to cope) and God has taught me loads about how I should be and be changed at work. I saw God very quickly transform a horrible situation into something great - the most obvious area of transformation was in my relationships with my boss and colleagues and within the relationships within our team. I also saw God answer my prayers working in my boss - I now even occasionally ask him what he wants/needs prayer for and he is very happy to say.

Over the last few weeks I haven't been as committed to praying for the people around me and I can see already that things aren't holding together quite as well. On the basis that nothing else has caused a change, I will be re-committing to pray for my boss and team regularly because they need God in their lives and even if they do not acknowledge it yet, God does still intervene in response to our prayers."