

## **Multi-faith Seminar – Jeff Steady**

### **What is a 'multi-faith' workplace?**

- Possible definition: a workplace where people of more than one faith work together and may wish to express their faith in a way of their choosing

### **Are opportunities to express faith at work equal?**

- No – Christians are far better placed than other faiths because: the Holy Spirit is with us; we have the weapon of prayer; our love always shows through
- Groups are so important - they release a dynamic which is not present when an individual acts alone
- Other faith groups don't have the same enthusiasm or commitment as a Christian group
- It is not necessary for us to 'chase' non-Christians; they will be drawn as God is lifted up - 'If I am lifted up, I will draw others to me'

### **Is your faith being silenced?**

- Never allow it to be so! The early Roman Christians were certainly not silenced!
- Christianity at work is thriving! We are not 'oppressed' at work. Eg London boroughs, growth of BT network, distribution of bibles in BT
- The diversity agenda is playing into our hands!
- Be part of the employer's environment – exhibit transparency, openness and integrity

### **How can we respect the faith of others without compromising our own faith?**

- It is more effective to respect other religions, than to be negative about them
- All are made in the image of God; others (eg Moslems) often have good spiritual awareness – this can often be an opening for prayer

### **How can we be encouraged to tell our story in an environment which regards religion as private?**

- Christians sometimes regarded as judgemental – be a listener before you are a speaker
- Be sensitive to God; be vulnerable; look for God in other people; take opportunities
- It's God's 'job' to do the conversion, not ours!
- Our priorities at work should be: do a good job, love others around us, pray for others and the organisation, encourage others - it is not primarily to tell others
- BT want to see Christians living out their faith in the workplace
- Jesus did come 'to bring division', so telling others may bring hostility
- No compromise, no fudging; but don't provoke

### **Example case – how should we react? – a convert from Christianity to Islam wishes to pray in an office where 3 Christians work**

- A possible response is 'no – religion is private' – but it is alien to Islam that religion is private
- Another – 'would you like to hear my prayer?'
- Presents an opportunity to relate to a Moslem – love him/her but challenge them
- Another reaction – 'we worship another God' - support his approaching HR, use any allocated room for prayer as well
- More than a certain (fairly small) number of Moslems praying together constitutes a mosque – formation of another mosque may be prohibited if another is already available