friends. One time I was helping some friends move into their new home and felt like God said, ‘Are you willing to be the answer to other people’s prayers?’ Sometimes it’s easy to be caught up in the busyness of life and not make time to do the things that are important to God and to help other people.

I try to be optimistic when I think about the future. I would of course love to be back in a secure job (which I don’t think I’d take for granted ever again!) and I have to trust that even though I can’t see where the job will come from or when, God will provide. I’ve definitely learnt that this is a situation I can’t control myself so I’m trying to keep myself fully surrendered to God and trust that he knows how it will all work out. I can’t do this alone but I can do everything through him who gives me strength (Philippians 4:13).

Ideas for equipping, empowering and affirming your church in their daily ministry

There are loads of ways churches can celebrate the various workplaces of their congregation, supporting them on a Sunday (or in their small group) in their Monday-to-Friday missional work. The following ideas reflect how a rich engagement with work can express itself in a local church’s gathered meeting. They explore how we can help create a healthy community consciousness of the primacy of daily work as missional service amongst our communities. Many of the ideas don’t take very long, and cost absolutely nothing, but could make a real difference in how supported and encouraged people feel in their work.

Connecting Work and Harvest in Non-Rural Churches

Since most people don’t make their living by farming, traditional displays of bringing food into the church as offerings may remind us of God’s provision of our daily bread, but they don’t visually connect to the way that God has chosen to meet our people’s material needs. A suburban child does not look at a display of potatoes and make the connection to their father’s job in IT.

A contemporary harvest display might involve a range of objects that represent how people are engaged in work such as a hard hat, a baby’s bottle, a set of keys, a spade, a computer or a syringe. In one church, the whole congregation were invited to bring an object that represented their work and then were invited to lay it on the altar as a symbolic dedication of their work, their co-workers and their workplaces to God. Children were involved and brought text books or pencils and one unemployed person laid their UB40 form on the altar – a moving reminder of their lack of paid work but also of God’s provision through the wider community.

Another church asked people to bring in pictures of themselves in their workplaces and displayed them around the church, as a way for the community to get to know and appreciate the variety of places God has given them work.