Daily Morning Prayer Strengthens Coworkers

For quite a while, Steve Gabriel and two other men at his job in the shipyards in Hampton Roads have occasionally gathered together at work for prayer. Steve, a member of Horizon Community Church in Chesapeake, also serves as team leader on the ministry leadership team at his church.

Earlier this year, his pastor, Rev. Steve Nethery, preached a sermon series on serving as witnesses for Christ at work. Steve felt led to look for such opportunities among his military coworkers.

One day, a young veteran was talking nearby, using lots of foul language. Another coworker advised his fellow employee not to speak too loudly around Steve, because he has a reputation as being the “preacher man” and he would not appreciate such foul language.

The very next day, that same young veteran approached Steve, saying he had heard that Steve goes to church. He told him that
he had been struggling with some internal conflicts and was wondering if they could talk. Steve felt led by God to help him. Steve invited the man to join him and two other men who meet to pray for one another. The man quickly responded, “What time?” Because he and his prayer partners were not meeting regularly, Steve later reflected, “I could have kicked myself. I was not prepared for that question.” However, with conviction, he responded to his coworker, “It starts today. At this time, for now on.”

Because of that one conversation, a prayer group meets together at Steve’s workplace each morning at 6:30 a.m. The group averages eight members, yet sometimes as many as 15 gather together. Steve said, “We have such a beautiful mix of people who come together.”

Steve has witnessed spiritual growth among the group members. His group has evolved from just himself leading the prayers to others praying out loud, including that one young veteran.

Steve’s supervisor is not a follower of Jesus, but he allows the prayer time because he sees it as a “team-building” exercise.

Steve can see the change in that one young veteran too, and he is amazed at how God put this one man in his life so that others might also be led.

For more information about outreach ideas for your church, contact:
Susan McBride
Team Coordinator, Congregational Field Staff
Baptist General Association of Virginia
800.255.2428, ext. 2242
susan.mcbride@bgav.org

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