



Job creation project: Prayer fuel pack

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The UK is in an unemployment crisis.

There is currently an unemployment rate of 5.1 per cent - meaning 1.72 million people are out of work. The church has always responded with compassion and conviction to help those in greatest need. As long term unemployment affects so many, this is a powerful time for the church to step in – to pray and to act to see new jobs created, and hope given to many.

➔ Why work matters

“Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

(Genesis 1:26 – 2:3)

Work was created before the fall and was part of God’s good creation. God worked to create the world, and as He graciously made humans in His image, we are created to work as well. Good work is therefore intrinsic to the dignity and worth of what it means to be human, because it is part of who God designed us to be.

“If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.” (1 John 3:17 – 18)

In this employment crisis, Christians should consider responding with prayer and action, because this is how God has called us to love one another when in need. It is how we bear witness to the love of God.

Additionally, in Mark 12:31, Jesus gives us the command: “Love your neighbour as you do yourself.” People who are chronically unemployed are more likely to abuse substances, become depressed or commit domestic violence. One of the most impactful ways Christians can step in and love our neighbours at this time is to tackle the job shortage.

When Jesus healed the sick it often helped the watching crowds to understand who He truly was. In the same way, we hope that as Christians respond to this crisis, both those who directly benefit and the watching world may come to know God as we share His love in this way.



➔ The situation we are praying into

- The most recent UK unemployment rate - for November to January 2021 - was 5 per cent. That means that 1.7 million people were unemployed.
- The redundancy rate, in the three months to January 2021, was estimated at 11.0 people per thousand employees.
- 693,000 fewer people were in payrolled employment in February 2021, when compared with February 2020.
- As of December 2020, 2.6 million people were claiming benefits. This includes both those working with low income or hours and those who are not working.
- There were an estimated 601,000 vacancies in the UK in December 2020 to February 2021; this is 220,000 fewer than a year ago and the rate of increase in vacancies has slowed strongly in recent months.

This is the situation as it stands, but the Office for Budget Responsibility expects the rate of unemployment to more than double from pre-pandemic levels to 7.5 per cent after furlough ends, meaning 2.6 million people will be out of work.



Pray for...



➔ The most overlooked

Pray for:

- black, Bangladeshi and Pakistani people, who have had the highest unemployment rate out of all ethnic groups (8 per cent);
- the 18-24 age group, who have seen the largest drop in employees on payroll;
- those in zero-hour contracts or fragile work who can't currently find enough work;
- those with disabilities and special needs – finding work that supports their needs will be harder.

➔ Your church family

Pray for those in your church family or known to you who are seeking employment:

- that they would be reminded of God's steadfast love and that their worth comes from Him alone;
- that God would provide a job for them.

Pray for employers in your church family:

- that they would be the same person at work as they are at church – always lead by their Christian faith;
- that they would be salt and light in the workplace and share their faith courageously;
- that they would have wisdom to discern if they are in a position where they could create jobs.

➔ The work already being done

Mind Your Own Business and **Spirit of Enterprise** are projects run by Christians, to equip people to create their own small business. **Cinnamon Network UK** are working together with **Christians Against Poverty (CAP)** to help churches create effective job clubs to get people into employment. The Government's **Kickstart Scheme** provides funding to employers to create job placements for 16 to 24 year olds on Universal Credit.

Pray:

- for those in positions of power in business, that God would give them wisdom to know if they can offer employment, and that their every action would be motivated by a desire to love and serve Him;
- that the Government would make wise decisions and show compassion to the vulnerable. Pray that they would be creative as they seek ways to generate more jobs.

➔ The most affected industries

Pray for the following industries:

- Hospitality
- Retail
- Entertainment
- The arts

Typically, these industries are populated by those in the 'most overlooked' group.

Pray for:

- these industries to recover;
- those in these industries who don't know Jesus, that in the difficulties they would find the ultimate security found in Him.

➔ Those in positions of power

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➔ Give thanks for...

- The number of people in employment has increased in the last couple of months;
- The number of vacancies has also increased;
- The Government have said they will support jobs for the rest of the pandemic;
- Christians in business who are already seeking to create more jobs.



To find out more about this ongoing work, please find the **Job Creation** page on:

eauk.org



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