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In the early 1980s, after 15 years in banking finishing with assisting small business and assessing their financial needs Geoff Kempster started his own small business as a Land Broker. Being entrepreneurial he soon also became involved in running a small general building company for a while as well as doing some consulting work, both in Australia and overseas. This led to some property development projects. He now invests a fair proportion of his time in a voluntary capacity through mentoring people and groups, conducting seminars and training events and is a board member of the Bible College of South Australia.

Geoff has also been involved with CBMC International SA Inc for the past 16 years, carrying out the role of Executive Director for the past 3 years. He is responsible for the oversight of the ministry in South Australia and heads up a small but dedicated team of volunteers responsible for the different aspects of the ministry.

What is CBMC? Geoff explains that it is an international ministry in more than 80 countries and has been in Australia since 1950. It started as a ministry to businessmen, however, as the world of business changed so has CBMC to become more inclusive.

The Mission of the CBMC Network is:

- To present Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord to business and professional people;**
- To develop Christian business and professional people to carry out the Great Commission;**
- To serve business and professional people as followers of Christ.**

The CBMC Network is made up of Ministry Teams who meet regularly to pray for people by name and to develop opportunities to connect with these people, to serve them, and share the good news. There are also CBMCFORUMS where small groups of 6-8 business owners or managers meet monthly to support each other and conduct business on a Biblical basis, and Special Groups which look for opportunities to develop and serve business.

What led Geoff to become involved in CBMC? As a Christian in business I was finding it increasingly difficult to function in a moral and ethical way when so many others around me had another agenda. I needed to be around people who could reassure me and help guide me to be faithful to God in my business life. The support and encouragement from fellow travelers as well as the opportunity to grow in my faith has been an important part of my life since then. Importantly CBMC has given me the opportunity of sharing with others in the marketplace that there is a better way to operate in business and life.

The South Australian Prayer Breakfast a major outreach event - is a core aspect of the CBMC ministry. We invite a prominent business person, who is a Christian, to share their testimony of how faith in Christ has been an integral part of their business success. People are then given an opportunity to indicate on a response card if they would like to know more. CBMC has been involved in the organization of the SA Prayer Breakfast for more than 20 years. This year on the 17th September will be our 28th event and we are expecting more than 600 guests to attend. We encourage Christians to bring along their non-Christian friends to hear a business person speak in a non-threatening environment about the importance of faith in life and business.²

Geoff believes we can all have an impact for Christ in the workplace and he encourages us with some advice on how we might do this.

Be an Ambassador for Christ. People need to know who we represent, that we are not just good people. God has blessed us with talents and abilities in the area of business, not for ourselves alone but so that we can be a blessing to others. We are to share the good news of what Christ has done in our life His story intersecting our story.

Be a Mentor. Come alongside of your subordinates or peers, most of whom come from a dysfunctional family life, and care for them, develop an intentional relationship of trust and enable them to maximize the grace of God in their life.

And be an Encourager. Catch people doing something right. Take them for a coffee and ask how they are, care about their needs and pains and give them words of encouragement. Compliment them. Offer to pray for them.
There are far too few encouragers.

There is a great responsibility involved in letting others know who we represent but, as Geoff emphasises, there is also great blessing.