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[#roadworkahead](#)

Act 25: Roadwork Ahead

by Carolyn Skinner

God has generous gifts for people outside of the church, for businesses, for those in our workplaces, and for our schools. And the phenomenal thing is he wants to give them through us. So today, live church outside the building. Get out into the streets, and be the encounter between God and those who have never met him.

"Let me tell you why you are here. You're here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavours of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness? ... Here's another way to put it: You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colours in the world."

(Matthew 5:13–14 MSG)

I often say that I love to be in places where people are least likely to expect a God encounter. I've had some of my best faith conversations in some of the most unlikely of places! One of my favourite places to start 'God chats' is at my local gym. There's one instructor who's an independent, confident, feisty type of woman – the perfect person to run a cycling class. The kind of person I was nervous to pray for.

I remember offering to pray for her after a class one day. She looked at me terrified and said, 'I don't know how to pray; I don't know what to do,' to which I ecstatically replied, 'You don't have to do anything! I'm just talking to God.'

I happen to serve at my gym as a chaplain. As I go there prayerfully and intentionally, I find myself taking time to listen to people's stories. It's easy to assume people won't want prayer in a place like that when really we're more scared of offering prayer than people are of receiving it.

We don't need to fear as we step out of our church buildings to share our faith. God is already present in every part of our world; there is no place where he is not. He is waiting for us to join him.

Our job is to help people taste and see the goodness and generosity of God. Our role is to enhance his presence, to bring out a distinctiveness, to make the God-flavours and God-colours even stronger and brighter.

One of the most compassionate things I think we can do is to offer to pray for someone. This opens up a faith dynamic, invites Jesus into the situation, and demonstrates the kindness of God. I've prayed with people in changing rooms and cycling classes, and every time there is a hunger for more.

Think about where you will be today; remind yourself that God is already there. Look for opportunities to listen, love and offer a prayer. Bring out the God-colours and

God-flavours where you are today.



Carolyn is CEO of Third Space Ministries, a charity which seeks to demonstrate the love of God outside of the church. She loves to take the fear out of evangelism and see people embrace the everyday opportunities around them. She can often be found running in Richmond Park, having a natter with friends over a coffee, catching some live music, or sitting in the sun with her flip flops on!

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Choose how to complete this act...



GREEN OPTION:

Ask God to show you the opportunities around you today, and simply be more prayerful and intentional in the places you go to.



YELLOW OPTION:

Pray for a colleague in the workplace. Or, sit in a coffee shop and ask God what he might like to say to someone else in there – then go and tell them.



**RED
OPTION:**

Find a stranger in the street! Ask them, 'Is there anything I can pray about for you?'

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