# ARE WE WASTING OUR TIME?

*Posted on August 1, 2009 by Eddie*

**Category:** Christian Life

This is something I wrote for my Wycliffe UK colleagues this month. I thought it might be ofÂ interest to a wider audience.

> *There is no doubt in my mind that Wycliffe people work hard, putting a lot of time and effort into what they are doing, whatever their role. Over the years, I've received enough emails sent at two in the morning (and not because of time changes) and seen people going the extra three or four miles to be completely convinced that we are a group of people who put our heart and soul into all we do.*
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> *But what if all our work was actually a waste of time? What an uncomfortable question. And it sounds slightly theologically dubious.*
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> *Let me explain what I mean. It is all too easy to get carried away with work. We set our targets, we develop our strategies and we work ever so hard to make sure that everything gets done - even if it means missing out on rest time. But it is important to stop from time to time, and make sure that what we are doing, and the way we are doing it, is what God actually wants of us. Perhaps the biggest temptation in Christian work is to get carried away by the work itself or distracted by the people we are seeking to help, and as a result completely lose sight of the God we are serving. When we lose sight of God, we tend to lose sight of His desire to provide us the resources we need and of His creation principle that we should have regular times of rest and refreshment. What is worse, when we concentrate purely on our work and on meeting our goals, we may fail to achieve what God wanted to do through all that effort. The tragedy of hours of hard work, lots of goals achieved and yet God's purposes being completely missed.*
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> *And it's not just individuals who should guard against that temptation. As organisations, we must be continually open to God's voice and leading. With so many needs out there, our organisations can easily concentrate on 'doing stuff' and lose sight of our call to follow where God is leading us.*
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> *After I send this email off, I'm going to take a few minutes to pray through the rest of my day and just check that I'm aligned with what God wants for me. Can I suggest that everyone reading this does the same?*