



Publisher's Day

"Once I am at work, anything goes," says A. Morkehchie Eiwuley (acpbooks@ghana.com), general manager of Africa Christian Press in Accra, Ghana.

The Importance of Balance

Africa Christian Press (ACP) resides on property we own in Accra, Ghana. The building is two stories high and houses all 10 employees. We have one editor, accountant, receptionist, driver, and assistant. There are also two sales and marketing people and two people working in the book shop in addition to my position as the general manager. For safety reasons, we also employ a security person who works at night.

Each morning I wake up at 3:30 a.m. for a private devotional. I use this time to prepare for the day. I pray to stay focused, have the Holy Spirit upon me, and let God direct me.

I try to leave the house by 5:30 a.m. because I have to drop off my wife at work and our kids at school by 7:00 a.m. before I arrive at my office. I live quite far, so it can take between 45 minutes to an hour to get to the office. If I make the mistake of waiting too long, I can sit in traffic for an hour and a half to two hours! So, I leave early to beat the traffic.

I would like to do most of our business online but it is expensive to create a network. If we had a network, our people wouldn't have to be onsite all the time. If I did not have to be at work in the morning, I could avoid the traffic. I could look at our budgets online and work from home. Doing things electronically would save us paper and time. This would speed the decision making process because I could look directly at facts and figures without asking for someone else's help.

Once I am at work, anything goes. I usually start off the morning by going through my e-mails and the previous day's memos. Then I attend a series of meetings with my staff to discuss upcoming projects. We are currently working on publishing a series of devotionals titled *The Word for Today*. We just received licensing from New Zealand to produce the first issue. Our print run for the series from November to December 2004 was 20,000 copies. We started marketing early in September and plan



Eiwuley also serves as an Anglican priest in Accra. "The congregation that I volunteer at is a very small parish, only about 85-90 people."

to add 5,000 more copies if all goes well.

Normally we put out 10 to 12 titles a year including reprints. We may have a manuscript ready long before funds are available for printing. Such was the case with one of the five books that we released at the end of 2004. It had been waiting in line for two years. More popular books often took precedence over it. It was easier to produce this book at the end of the year because by then we

had generated money internally through sales and thus were not focused on outside donations.

I feel that I have adopted a flexible work schedule. Normally we close at 4:00 p.m., but if there is nothing to do, I knock off at 2:30-3:00 p.m. I also work as an Anglican priest at a local church. If I leave the office early, I have more time for my pastoral work. My job at ACP takes precedence over my work at the church. I am in the non-



"In Christian publishing you shouldn't look at money, you should trust God. This doesn't mean that you shouldn't make an effort through sales, but put your focus on God and he will provide in all aspects of your life," advises Eiwuley. "I am not in the business for money, but to serve."

stipend category at church, meaning I am not on the payroll. If something very

important is happening at the church, I will take the day off as vacation time. I

at the church is difficult to fit in, but because God

pastoral duties, I delegate the responsibility of leading the meeting to lay pastors. On most Sundays, I preside over the worship service at an Episcopalian church. I preach the sermon and help serve communion.

Some-times the extra work

only keeps my focus on God but prepares me for my mission work. I often find that I can use examples from the devotionals in my sermons and in the workplace. The materials help me get a blend of ideas.

Both of my jobs are ministry focused. As a priest, I can open doors to sales of our books. At clergy meetings, I get the opportunity to recommend them to priests who can pass the information along to their congregations.

I have been with ACP for three years and in that time I have learned the importance of balance and time management. My purpose has never changed and the Lord has allowed me to split my time between two ministries.

"If anyone tells you that working in Christian publishing makes being faithful easier, they are lying. Nothing is ever easy."



"Adopting a flexible schedule gives me ample time to get things done," says Eiwuley.

try to not let my volunteer work interfere with my work as a publisher.

As an Anglican priest, I assist with the Mass at church every Tuesday and Thursday morning from 6:30-7:15 a.m. On those days of the week, I do not make it into my office until 7:45 in the morning, an hour later than usual. I also lead the prayer meetings on Wednesday from 7:00-8:00 p.m. If work takes me away from my

called me, He gives me the strength to do it. Because I wake up so early in the morning, I try to go to bed at 8:00 p.m. every night.

I find that I usually have ample time to get things done with room left over for leisure. I enjoy reading in my free time and I am currently in the middle of three devotionals, *The Daily Bread*, *A Walk with Jesus* and *The Word for Today*, which is published by ACP. Reading these not

In life you must have principles and let people identify you by them. Even in Christian publishing, temptations are still there. If anyone tells you that working in Christian publishing makes being faithful easier, they are lying. The truth is, nothing is ever easy. It is still very important to be dependent on God in all that you do.❖