

### Case Study Part 3 - "People"

#### 3.7 Business Endangering Health

In many Asian countries, workers' safety at work is often neglected due to poor laws and weak enforcement. An abundant supply of cheap, often illegal and undocumented workers leads to unscrupulous employers depriving them of their human rights, exposing them to dangerous, unprotected, haphazard work environments. In extreme cases, workers are robbed of their freedom and dignity.

**Proverbs 22:2** "Rich and poor have this in common: The Lord is the Maker of them all." (NIV)

**Hebrews 13:18** "Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a clear conscience, desiring to act honourably in all things." (ESV)

**James 5:3-4** "Your gold and silver are corroded... You have hoarded wealth in the last days. Look! The wages you failed to pay the workers who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord almighty." (NIV)

**Proverbs 4:25-27** Let your eyes look directly forward, and your gaze be straight before you. Ponder the path of your feet; then all your ways will be sure. Do not swerve to the right or to the left; turn your foot away from evil. (ESV)

**Colossians 3:23** "Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men," (ESV)

**Matthew 7:12** "So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets." (ESV)

**James 2:8** If you really fulfil the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself," you are doing well. (ESV)

## BAM Singapore - Case Study

### Case Study

Janice, the 24-year-old daughter of Mr. Kim, died of leukaemia. She had worked for one of the world's biggest mobile phone manufacturers and chipmakers. Several of her colleagues had also suffered from other types of cancer, rare illnesses, miscarriages, and some of their children had congenital diseases. More than a hundred people died over the years.

For a period of 10 years, these families had battled the company, which culminated in an apology by the company for failing to properly manage health risks at their plants. Each case will be compensated by the company.

### Discussion

1. Consider the way we run our business. Do we have any practices that may endanger the health of our workers?
2. As Christian business owners, what can we do to minimise or prevent such risks to our workers? How can we show love to them?

### **Resources for Business Owners in Singapore (and as a reference for those overseas)**

In Singapore, workplace safety regarding hazardous substances is governed by the Workplace Safety and Health (WSH) Act and its related regulations. The Ministry of Manpower (MOM) regulates exposure to chemicals at workplaces, and the [National Environment Agency \(NEA\)](https://www.nea.gov.sg/our-services/pollution-control/chemical-safety/hazardous-substances) manages hazardous substances from import to export.

<https://www.mom.gov.sg/workplace-safety-and-health/workplace-safety-and-health-act/hazardous-substances>

<https://www.nea.gov.sg/our-services/pollution-control/chemical-safety/hazardous-substances>