

Endorsement of Joe Kittel
by Brad Slaten – HP R&D Section Manager → Methodist Pastor

“In May 2005, at the conclusion of a planning meeting in Austin, Joe shared with the team that he had made the decision to voluntarily leave HP. I expressed my appreciation for Joe’s work with SAP, saying, *‘You are a peacemaker. You bring a quiet intensity which allows us to progress and reach closure in very difficult situations. How do you do that?’* I did not use the term ‘peacemaker’ lightly. This is the same context in which Jesus said, *‘Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.’* (Matt. 5:9 NRSV).

Peacemaking is not for cowards. It is not passively sitting by while others disagree. No true peacemaker has ever said, *‘I don’t want to get involved.’*

What I saw from Joe was active, not passive. He constantly saw the need for *relationship* and put that above all else. He targeted areas of miscommunication and pressed beyond our comfort zone to ensure that we continued discussions that would have otherwise ended without resolution. He would not allow us to ‘check out’ of the meeting and would challenge any lack of participation. Interestingly, Joe accomplished all of this in a professional manner without being offensive. When Joe was *on*, we were *a team*.

I do not know if peacemakers are born or if they are made. I do know that there are precious few of them. I also know that in today’s society, we are more in need of peacemakers than ever before. If these skills can be acquired, I can imagine few investments that would pay off more than to do so.

Peacemakers are invaluable. Seek them out; grow them; reward them; trust them.”

- Brad Slaten – at the time *HP R&D Section Manager* for HP Output Server (HP/SAP alliance); currently *Pastor* for First United Methodist Church, Coleman, TX / Novice, TX