



Challenge Newsletter

Being Christ in the Workplace

Galatians 2:20

January, 2012

Christ in the Workplace

This Is For You

by: Terry Cassell

Brothers and Sisters,

Happy New Year to all of you! Thank you for a wonderful 2011 and your devotion to Christians in Commerce. May 2012 bring you peace, joy and fulfillment in our Lord Jesus.

Teddy Roosevelt once said, "Do what you can, with what you have, where you are". We are at a pivotal point in our ministry and must do what we can, with what we have, where we are.

As brothers and sisters in CIC we all shoulder the trust to use our time, talents and treasures to build the kingdom. This starts with building and serving in our own chapters. Therefore this requires a constant mindset of servanthood. It also requires an "attitude of gratitude" for those who have spent an enormous amount of their time and talents serving in our respective chapters.

"The single biggest way to impact an organization is to focus on leadership development. There is almost no limit to the potential of an organization that recruits good people, raises them up as leaders and continually develops them." — John C. Maxwell: The 17 Irrefutable Laws of Teamwork (2001, 185)

There are various types of leadership and leaders within Christians in Commerce. Leadership is an exercise of stewardship, where **everyone** shoulders the trust given to the organization. Continuous personal growth and formation is key, not only for ourselves but for our chapters. When we personally allow the Lord to use us as we are, we all benefit. I once read, "You shouldn't ask of others what you are not willing to do yourself". Leadership is practiced in attitude and action.

This is one of the reasons we feel so blessed by our Leadership Institute, which is the cornerstone of our Ten Year Plan, and the fruit that it has already

born. Leadership for CIC is the development of our personal growth. The three major core themes for our institute are:

- Faith
- Integrity
- Excellence

The Leadership Institute is designed to form and equip leaders in making a difference in the world. It supports our vision and mission statement and is the most vital component of our ministry at this time. Until the institute comes your way, I encourage you to have the heart and mindset of the apostle Paul, who viewed himself not as a professional or executive, but as a servant leader.

When the world talks about leadership you often hear terms like: Power, Influence, Leverage, and Cut-throat. Jesus speaks of leaders with words like: Service, Humility, Patience, Generosity, and Character.

This is the kind of leadership Jesus desires; servant leadership with faith, integrity and excellence. Paul wanted to *present everyone perfect in Christ* (Colossians 1:28). His goal was to reach people with the gospel and then develop them in their Christian life. We want to develop people, not just produce events. We want to continue to transform the world one by one through brothers and sisters like you within CIC.

It is important for you to be included in the work of CIC. Some can do more than others. I encourage you to make an effort in your personal growth and formation by serving to the extent you are able and by making a commitment to support your local chapter.

Leaders for Jesus are servants first, and we are all called to be servants.

Father, may we all have an appetite for your word, your son, and to serve the body of Christians in Commerce.

Terry Cassell is President of Christians in Commerce. He may be reached at cassell@cicintl.org.

Upcoming Events

Men's Weekends

Salinas

February 3-5, 2012

San Jose

February 24-26, 2012

Northern Virginia

March 9-10, 2012

Twin Cities

March 9-11, 2012

San Jose

June 8-9, 2012

Women's Weekends

WCIC-Central Coast

March 23-25, 2012

WCIC-Santa Cruz

April 28-29, 2012

WCIC-Phoenix

Christians in Commerce News

Santa Cruz
"Special Meetings"

Phoenix Men's
Weekend

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Life Pleasing to God

week 1

Finding Mentors

by: Steve Crocker

When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs." (John 21:15-16)

In my first year of college around Easter, I was baptized in a mountain lake by Ron Snyder, a slightly older man. It was cold out that day. There was a small amount of snow on the ground. Ron was standing waist high in the water. I was, however, on fire for Jesus, giving my expanding testimony to 50 young people before stepping into the lake. Slowly, Ron began turning blue. His teeth were chattering. "Please," he said. "Can we do this now?"

That was 43 years ago. He's balder now, and in his seventies, but this same man who baptized me then, is, after all these years, still my mentor. We talk on the phone, e-mail and go on retreat together, despite being in different states. To be honest, I don't know anyone quite like him. He's a deeply spiritual and prophetically gifted Christian who has shared things like, "When I was out praying the other day, I saw a door opened up in the heavens" or, "I have a word from the Lord for you."

In some ways, these kinds of spiritual experiences have become partly mine as well, but I have had to run hard to keep up. Having someone who is so given to Christ is one of the great inspirations in my life. Because of Ron, I have come to believe that intimacy with God continually brings us to new places and ever-increasing challenges.

We need mentoring. And we need mentors. In the greater realm of the Spirit, we need people to look up to and who lead the way. Most importantly, we need people who respond to the call to shepherd others. One of the greatest strengths of CIC is the way we have mentors in our midst; men who faithfully feed the lambs, just as Peter was instructed to do when he was restored to the Lord and made whole.

My Chapter President sends text messages and leaves voicemails that encourage me throughout the week. In our morning meetings, brothers come up and tell me they have been praying for people and situations that I shared about weeks before. Years ago on a Challenge Weekend, after laying hands on a brother who was beginning a leadership role in CIC, I sensed and knew God had given him a shepherd's heart, not just for the coming year as president, but forever. At some point in our lives, all of us, just like these men, go from being lambs to becoming shepherds and mentors. We come to an understanding that to love the Lord is to care for the young ones and all those that the Lord has given into our care. We search them out, behold them, and begin to gather them into our hearts.

Within CIC is a culture of deeply honoring one another. We are encouraged to invest in the lives of those around us and to acknowledge the experience and maturity of those in our midst. In return, we begin to perceive the gifts that God has given to all of us, both spiritual gifts, such as faith, discernment, intercession, and healing, and those that contribute to the marketplace, such as servant leadership, peacemaking and encouragement.

I'm still amazed, years later, that after attending my very first meeting, I knew I'd been genuinely welcomed by a group of men who revealed the same caring spirit as the one, true shepherd.

Steve Crocker is a member of the Santa Cruz Chapter. He and his wife Carolyn live in Aptos, California. Steve can be reached at steve@cdmre.com.

Pray: Lord, show me how to love you as one willing to become a shepherd, accepting the care for others and feeding your lambs, just as you have cared for me.

Reflect: Who are the mentors God has given to me throughout my life?

Discuss: How, and in what ways can I be a mentor to others? What does it mean to be to be a shepherd rather than a sheep?

Men's January Reflections

week 2

Personal Sacrifice

by: Chris Bunn

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God-this is your spiritual act of worship. (Romans 12:1)

Some say Romans is one of the more difficult books of the Bible to understand. However, when one reads that Christ calls us to be a living sacrifice, what could be clearer? Jesus wants ALL of us - our time, resources, talents and even our very bodies. Our response usually is, "Who wants to sacrifice anything?!"

As husbands, fathers, and grandfathers, we are called to be Christ in the marketplace. Where does that leave us at home? Sometimes we are so busy being Christ at work, doing our jobs with integrity and reaching out in order to bring others to Christ, we forget about our families. I am fortunate to have two of my sons working with me and also living on our farming operations. Almost daily I pass by their homes and see their children at play.

For months I would hear one of my grandsons call out my name whenever I passed by. I would always acknowledge him but rarely stopped. I was too busy. After a while I was convicted that what my grandson wanted was some time with me. I finally made a commitment to spend an afternoon with him once a week, something I have never regretted.

So now I am trying to work on being Christ in my family as well as in the marketplace. Sometimes, when I am passing by my son's farmhouse and see my grandson on a day we aren't scheduled to get together, I stop and then hide from him. Dashing into his yard, we wrestle amid grunts of manly communication. Sometimes my body is truly sacrificed as I limp away!

Pray: Lord Jesus, remind me of the sacrifice you made on the cross for me and help me to be open to whatever sacrifice you call me to.

Reflect: Consider the times you have made a living sacrifice, a spiritual act of worship. How did it qualify as a spiritual act of worship?

Discuss: What sacrifices have you made recently and how have they blessed others as well as yourself?

week 3

Making a Difference in the Workplace

by: Chris Bunn

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. (Romans 12:3)

The community of workers that supports our valley's agricultural economy consists of almost 100% Hispanics. They are very diligent and committed laborers and do quality work. I call them professionals. Even though they do not receive six digit salaries, they are pros in their field and irreplaceable. Many of these hard working people have very sound moral principles and a great sense of pride.

As the boss or "patron" of our family farming business, one can easily get inflated, especially in a good lettuce market when everything is going well. You really think you have done something clever to make this good profit when, in reality, it all comes through God's provision and the hard work of many farm workers. I am humbled to think of all the effort that they put into the final outcome of our products and how little I really do.

I am blessed to be able to converse in Spanish. Thus, I sometimes find myself vulnerable to being approached by many of our workers with personal problems or issues. My first response is to want to avoid such relationships and possible entanglements. However, the Holy Spirit has shown me that I must respond.

To be Christ in the marketplace requires that we use our gifts for him. Over the years I have learned that when I do, I am blessed to be able to encourage someone and, at times, give wise Christian counsel. I am continually amazed how often I learn more from them than from what I have to offer.

Pray: Dear God, help me to see my subordinates as well as superiors in my workplace as you have created them for your purposes.

Reflect: Recall recent incidences where you have looked down on those you work with in the marketplace. What made you respond pridefully?

Discuss: When have you looked down on employees or employers? What triggered your pride? Recall a particular incident in which the Holy Spirit reminded you of your judgmental attitude and you repented.

Men's January Reflections

(continued)

week 4

Holding Each Other Accountable

by: Chris Bunn

Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. (Romans 12:4-5)

As a member of the Salinas Valley Chapter for many years, I have been privileged to see into many men's lives. My involvement in the various activities of our chapter, especially Challenge Weekends, has taught me much about myself, as well as about other men in our groups. What impresses me most about each member of the body is the variety of gifts God gives to us.

In our early morning Challenge Group, one of our members invariably comes up with an encouragement, helpful suggestion, and sometimes an answer for another's issue. I'll never forget many years ago when I asked counsel from my small group concerning the possible marriage of our middle son. He had become very fond of a woman my wife and I believed was too young for our "immature" son. When I responded to my Challenge Group's questions as to the couple's goals and missions in life as well as finances, they seemed satisfied with the answers and advised me to approve their plans. However, they did not agree with my opinion of the couple's being too young and immature!

Fortunately, I did not quit my Challenge Group when they unanimously gave me an answer I did not want to hear. I went home and discussed my frustration with my wife. After praying and allowing the Holy Spirit to convict us, we gave our son and his girlfriend our blessings. Today, after a quarter century of marriage, many years on the mission field, and five children, this once seemingly young and immature couple has blessed us beyond measure, and I have learned to listen better to the counsel of my Challenge Group. Not bad advice from members of the body!

Chris Bunn has lived in Monterey County, California and farmed vegetables for most of his life. He is married with three sons and various foster children. As a member of the Salinas Valley Chapter, Chris delights in ministering in order to bring other men into a fuller relationship with Jesus Christ through the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. He can be reached at bunnybrand@mac.com.

Make Your 2012 Pledge Online!

Thanks to our new website, we have been able to automate our 2012 commitment process and give you the option of making a pledge online. This enhancement is part of our latest efforts to reduce expenses, leverage technology, and enhance productivity. To fill out a commitment form, go to www.christiansincommerce.org/2012-member-commitment-form. You can make a one-time credit card donation at any time by going to www.christiansincommerce.org/support-christians-commerce.

Pray: Holy Spirit, quicken in me a response of acceptance when a CIC brother gives me a word of encouragement or advice. Help me to receive it with a thankful heart.

Reflect: Recall a time when a CIC brother gave you wise counsel and you felt insulted or belittled. Later you realized it was wisdom from above. How did you respond then?

Discuss: Share some jewels of wisdom and encouragement you have received from your brothers in CIC.

Women's January Reflections

week 2

Personal Sacrifice

by: Moira McGuinness

For everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one that believes that Jesus is the Son of God. (1 John 5: 4-5)

I have a small purse and a habit of losing or misplacing it. I always find it again, but I do not presume that God will always be so easy on me. On my way to the annual CIC conference this fall, I left my purse with all my identification on the airplane. I prayed and filed a report with the airline and the police, but I still worried throughout much of the conference.

I beat myself up mentally. Why did I not ask the person behind me to check under my seat when the thought popped into my head? Why had I not made copies of my driver's license and other cards in my wallet? Why was I carrying all of my identification in one place? Slowly, though, the praise and worship and the inspiring talks about the Father's love for each of us as sons and daughters began to sink in.

Midway through the conference, I had a thought. I told a sister that I thought the Father kept allowing me to lose my identification because he wanted to remind me that my true identity was in Christ. I resolved to reclaim my identity and my attitude began to change. By the end of the conference, I had total trust that I would be reunited with my purse and all my identification on my way home, and I was! I came home with a renewed sense of identity and a stronger faith in the Father's personal love for me.

Pray: Father, teach us how to overcome the world by faith in your son Jesus.

Reflect: Where have I overcome the world through faith in Jesus? Are there areas of my life in which I have let the world overcome me?

Discuss: What does it mean to overcome the world? Where have you had a victory in overcoming the world? What have been the fruits of that victory?

week 3

Redeeming Our Father's Creation

by: Moira McGuinness

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sin against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. (2 Corinthians 5: 17-19)

I have a cousin who is like a sister to me. We are close in age and have lived close to each other most of our lives. I was in her wedding and am godmother to her two kids. I was heartbroken when she separated from her husband this past year.

At first, it was tempting to make rash judgments, but God has given me a heart to love her and her husband unconditionally. I make an effort to be supportive of both of them. If one speaks negatively of the other, I say, "That must be really hard for you," without taking sides. This trial has actually strengthened my relationship with each of them, and I have prayed with both for wisdom, strength, and trust in God.

Recently, one of them received a scripture in prayer that said, *Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth (Timothy 2:25)*. I did not want my response to imply that I was taking one side over the other. I responded with a question: "If you were sure the Lord was going to restore your marriage in his way and in his time, how would you act differently?" I believe that question came from the Lord. My cousin and her husband still have issues that will take a while to resolve, but there are small signs of hope for their family. Recently they took their kids out to a movie together. I am privileged to participate in God's ministry of reconciliation for two people I love as they work out their future together.

Pray: Lord, teach us how to participate in your ministry of reconciliation.

Reflect Is there someone with whom God wants you to reconcile? Is there some way you can support others in their effort to reconcile with each other?

Discuss: How can you promote reconciliation? Tell of a victory you have had while participating in God's ministry of reconciliation.

Women's January Reflections

(Continued)

week 4

The Fruits of Our Relationships as Sisters

by: Moira McGuinness

Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance character, and character hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. (Romans 5: 3-5)

My right side was partially paralyzed in a car accident when I was an infant. Twenty years ago, soon after I was first baptized in the Holy Spirit, I began to get many prophetic words about God's wanting to heal me. Some of these words came from strangers. I began to seek out healing prayer regularly. I was on an emotional roller coaster though, anticipating a healing and then being disappointed. In a moment of frustration I told the Lord, "Heal me, or quit talking about it." He quit talking about it.

Last year I repented anew of my impatience and told the Lord I was open to his healing me in his time. At the end of a retreat I attended shortly thereafter, we gathered in small groups to pray over one another. I asked for healing for an ankle I had recently injured. Suddenly embarrassed that I was expecting so little of the Father's healing, I blurted out, "Oh, just heal everything!" Two of the sisters praying with me have known me for over 20 years and knew exactly what I meant. The third sister is new to our community. All she knew of my physical challenges was what she saw. This sister jumped up and started praying over me from head to toe. As we prayed, one of the others started weeping out of her desire to see me healed. I was touched by each sister's love for me. I was also struck with the thought that their actions were a reflection of the Father's own desire to see me healed. I was convicted that I needed to take my own health more seriously, and pray expectantly for my healing.

Moira McGuinness is a Communications Specialist with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. She has been involved in WCIC since 2006 and is currently president of the Northern Virginia Chapter. She is also a member of the People of Praise community. Moira may be reached at moiramcg@gmail.com.

Newsletter Announcements

The Challenge Newsletter will begin publishing birth and death announcements as submitted by our members. Please limit submissions to 40 words and be sure to indicate the appropriate CIC Chapter. Announcements may be sent to info@cicintl.org.

Pray: Lord, renew our hope in your promises. Reveal to us the areas of our lives in which our hope is waning.

Reflect: Is there something for which you have been praying a long time? Have you given up hope? Have you grown impatient with the Lord?

Discuss: How can the Lord use you to build up hope in someone else? What can your sisters do to build up your hope in the Lord?

Christians in Commerce NEWS

Christians in Commerce Prayer

Santa Cruz "Special Meetings"

On Wednesday, November 30th, the Santa Cruz men's and women's chapters hosted a joint meeting entitled Forgiveness: Special Chapter Meeting featuring Dan and Lynn Wagner, a local Santa Cruz couple.

Ten years ago, the Wagners' only children, Mandie (16) and Carrie (14), were killed by a drunk driver who struck the family's minivan as they drove home from a Christian festival. Later, Dan and Lynn sought out Lisa, the driver of the other car, and forgave her. The three of them now speak publicly together about dealing with loss and the dangers of drunk driving.

Over 50 people showed up to hear Dan, Lynn and Lisa speak. As Santa Cruz Chapter member Mark Penniman said, "Not a bad showing for an early morning (7:00 a.m.) meeting!"

The event took place in lieu of the regular men's chapter meeting. Whenever there is a 5th Wednesday in a month, the Santa Cruz men hold what they call "special meetings" since there are no 5th week newsletter reflections. Last month they invited the local Chief of Police, a Christian, along with some of the chaplains, to come and talk about what they do. Mark said, "We bless them with praise and worship and they bless us with how the Lord is working through them." He concluded, "Thanks to all the folks who put in extra effort to make this happen. But more than my thanks, may the Lord bless and prosper you all!"

Phoenix Men's Challenge Weekend

The Phoenix Chapter hosted a spirit-filled Challenge Weekend from November 11th-13th at the Living Water Retreat Center in Cornville, Arizona. A total of 18 brothers attended the weekend, five of whom were first-time attendees. Praise the Lord!



Father,

You are my Lord and Creator.

You entrust me with a place of stewardship in your creation.

Fill me with your Holy Spirit:

That he may teach me to pray and live in Christ and as Christ;

That he may teach me love for family, friends and all people. A love that is selfless, humble, and wise;

That he may teach me stewardship of the talents, time, money and possessions you have given me. A stewardship that serves, is generous and brings honor to your name;

That he may teach me faithfulness to your call to Christians in Commerce. A call that unites us and builds your Kingdom in the marketplace.

Through Jesus Christ who is Lord.

Amen

Vision

Expanding the Kingdom by being Christ in the workplace.

Mission

We encourage and equip Christians to live the life of Christ by releasing the power of the Holy Spirit that is in them. We challenge them to be Christ to the people and circumstances in their workplaces by bringing his truth, love, healing, justice and excellence to the marketplace.

Values

As Christians in Commerce, we are an ecumenical organization united with the body of Christ to:

- Know, love and serve God and others
- Embrace the beliefs of the Nicene Creed
- Release the power of the Holy Spirit in worship and work
- Share the time, talents and resources God has entrusted to us
- Enrich member participation in prayer, scripture, family and church life.



Christ
ALIVE!

Galatians 2:20
“...I no longer live, but
Christ lives in me.”

www.christiansincommerce.org

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