



Christians in COMMERCE

Challenge Newsletter

Being Christ in the Workplace

Galatians
2:20

November, 2011

Christ in the Workplace

Renew the Earth

by: Dr. Steven Walker

At a recent People of Praise community meeting, a prophetic word encouraged us to take authority over difficult situations in our daily lives. It exhorted us to call on the Holy Spirit and not just rely on ourselves and our own capabilities.

This word was meaningful to me because I knew I was lousy at calling upon God in moments of conflict or difficulty. I would just as soon try and solve the issue on my own. Only later would I reflect and pray about how I handled or didn't handle it properly.

As part of my job as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Air Force Science and Technology, I testify before a congressional hearing on Department of Defense science and technology investments annually. It's usually one of my least favorite parts of my job.

I show up with my equivalents in the Army and Navy. We answer all matter of questions for two and a half hours before the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Counter Terrorism and Emerging Threats. It requires intense preparation, which I am always scrambling to fit into my schedule because you never know what a congressman will ask.

This year, the day for testimony arrived. I prayed that morning for wisdom in my answers and a cool head. There were several new members on the sub-committee and a new chairman. This meant several of the members were unknown and we had little "intel" on their concerns or issues.

As I finished my five minute testimony and listened to my counterparts do the same, I looked out into the eyes of the members sitting on their "thrones". If you have ever seen the inside of a hearing room or watched a congressional hearing on TV, you know what I mean.

The members sit much higher than the witnesses and literally look down upon us.

At that moment, I remembered the word given at our People of Praise meeting: "Ask the Holy Spirit to take authority over your difficult circumstances."

I prayed a prayer I had learned in my childhood as I looked into the eyes of the members:

"Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created, and they shall renew the face of the earth."

A peace covered me after that and much of my anxiety went away. I received mostly "softball" questions and was able to answer them reasonably well. More than that, I had a feeling that all of us — House members both Republican and Democrat, and we the witnesses, were there to renew the earth. Each of us had that responsibility and needed the Spirit to do so. We needed to be recreated so that God's love could burn in our hearts.

I hope that my prayer, spoken that day quietly in the midst of that hearing room, fills our leaders with the Holy Spirit so they can make better decisions for us all. I also know that I learned a valuable lesson about taking authority over difficult situations in real-time, about asking the Holy Spirit to fill hearts immediately and completely, and about the power of God's Spirit to renew the face of this earth.

Steve Walker is Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Science, Technology and Engineering, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition, Washington, D.C. He and his wife, Carrie, have six children and have been members of the Northern Virginia branch of the People of Praise for 14 years. Steve may be reached at Steven.Walker@pentagon.af.mil.

Upcoming Events

Men's Weekends

Santa Cruz

November 11-13, 2011

Salinas

November 18-20, 2011

Orange County

January 13-15, 2012

Salinas

February 3-5, 2012

San Jose

February 24-26, 2012

Women's Weekends

WCIC-Central Coast

March 23-25, 2012

WCIC-Santa Cruz

April 28-29, 2012

Christians in Commerce News

Website Launch Announcement

Gilbert San-Tan & Scottsdale Chapters

Testimonies from Uganda

Please send your stories to:
Terry Cassell
Fax: 703 205-0485
cassell@cicintl.org
2853 Meadow View Road
Falls Church, Va. 22042

Life Pleasing to God

week 1

The Cornerstone of Faith

by: Larry Favor

Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God.
(Ruth 1:16)

Reading the book of Ruth, my heart was moved by her words and actions of true devotion. Ruth repeatedly demonstrates wisdom, understanding and acts of faithful service. Her self-sacrifice sets a standard and an example of devotion that are to be revered. Her devotion is the cornerstone of faith building.

I'm in the building business. My work as a general contractor requires the coordination of the proposed project and the construction of the project from beginning to end.

Without dedication and persistence achieved through tireless commitment, the challenges in the construction field are potentially overwhelming. However, the practice of sincere effort with a strong sense of devotion results in a rewarding experience and the completion of a successful project.

In construction, anyone can start, but the name of the game is to finish. As Christians in commerce we are called to be Christ in the marketplace. Until I became strengthened by the support of my CIC brothers and transformed by the inner working of the Holy Spirit, I was on my own. I hadn't known the gift of devotion or the fellowship of other Christians working in the marketplace.

Some years ago I was remodeling a local shopping center. I was working under financial pressure and a deadline while attempting to maintain good will towards all of the shoppers and store owners.

While rerouting the water service, the plumbing contractor broke a water line above the ceiling in the largest business in the center. Water poured into this section of the building.

While I was frantically engaged having the leak repaired, cleaning up the spill and calming the store employees and customers, the owner of the facility sought me out. He screamed at me, cursed me with foul language, and

threatened me in a number of ways. I remained cool as I apologized and made a sincere commitment to take care of everything. He was unmoved and, with a final cursing and tongue lashing, stormed off.

We worked long and hard and fulfilled our promises. I never heard from the store owner afterwards.

Several years went by. I was now attending CIC meetings on a regular basis. I had attended a Challenge Weekend and was beginning to understand real devotion to a life of salvation.

I was invited by my church community to participate in a play that was intended to bear witness to the working of the Holy Spirit. The play was set in the time of Jesus, so we actors donned robes and beards.

As part of the performance, we were asked to embrace our fellow actors in the true spirit of community after the final closing lines of the message were delivered before leaving the stage.

When the lead actor finished his lines, I turned; standing in front of me and looking me straight in the eye was my fellow actor: the business owner who had cursed me years before.

There I was; onstage, faced with the opportunity and responsibility to be Christ in the marketplace. I was inspired and moved to action by the Holy Spirit working from within. I warmly embraced him and deeply experienced the moment being transformed into a blessing. To this day my fellow cast member doesn't remember me or the incident at his store.

I was humbled and enriched at the same time. I was able to have a personal experience of the devotion Jesus has consistently taught us; the way of Christ and those selfless acts of devotion that Ruth so faithfully demonstrated.

Years have elapsed since I started, but all that needed to be done at that shopping center project is now finally completed.

Larry Favor is a past president of the Santa Cruz Chapter and has been an active member for 13 years. He is the owner and operator of Favor Construction Inc. Visit his website at www.LarryFavor.com and you will see his family and his horse! Larry's e-mail is LFavor@sbcglobal.net.

Pray: Lord, let me be devoted to you, serving you in everything I do; in every situation and circumstance, with every individual, however challenging.

Reflect: What circumstance at work, at home, or elsewhere calls out for greater devotion to your call to be Christ?

Discuss: Share with each other an account of a time when you were able to set aside your own feelings and desires to be a blessing to someone else. How did it impact you personally?

Men's November Reflections

week 2

Personal Sacrifice

by: Joe Maguire

Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. (1 John 2:15-16)

We know as Christians that we are called to be good stewards. In the CIC prayer we recognize and ask the Father for the help we need to be good stewards of our talents, time, money and possessions he has given to us. These are easy words to say, but it means that nothing is ours, everything belongs to the Father, especially the people he has put in our lives. We are called to love, care for and nurture them.

When each of our children was born my wife, Michele, and I acknowledged that they were gifts from the Father and belonged to him. We were to nurture them and teach them his ways.

Michele passed away just over seven years ago and at first I thought I was handling the grieving process fairly well. After about a year I was speaking to a priest and he made the observation that I was angry with God.

After some reflection I realized he was right. Michele was mine; why did he take her away from me? Then it struck me. Even though Michele and I had acknowledged that our children were the Lord's, I had never acknowledged that Michele was also his and that he had given her to me for a time. She was his and now he had called her home. My anger was lifted. As Michele's husband, I was a steward and not an owner.

Michele is now at home with the Father and hopefully one day we will join her.

Pray: Father, I know that all belongs to you, even my very life. Help me to be a good steward of the talents, time, money, possessions, and especially the people that you have entrusted to my care.

Reflect: Do I believe and live as a steward and not the owner of all that I have?

Discuss: What obstacles stop me from giving all that I have to build the kingdom? How can I overcome these obstacles?

week 3

Making a Difference in the Workplace

by: Joe Maguire

But in your heart set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give a reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect. (1 Peter 3:15)

Over the past few years, like many of you, I experienced an office consolidation that brought a sister company's personnel into my office space. This put me in almost daily contact with three people that I had only met on a few occasions. Over the past few months I have gotten to know one man who sits in the office next to mine.

We have talked about many things, from business issues to sports, but when it comes to God and religion he is turned off. He explained his father had forced him to go to church services as a kid and their minister was a "fire and brimstone" preacher who had nothing good to say about the world or life in general.

A few weeks ago his youngest son was going to have rather extensive surgery to correct a congenital jaw problem. Based on our conversations, I knew that he would not be open to being prayed with, but I wanted in some way to let him know of God's love and concern for his son. Not sure exactly how to do this, I told him that I would pray for his son. His immediate response was, "You'd better pray for him because I won't."

I was surprised and caught off guard by his response since I know that he cares for and loves his son very much. It led me to realize that the challenge to share Christ with him will be an even greater one than I thought.

Pray: Father, help me to always be ready to share the reason for my hope — eternal life with you. Help me to be attentive to the Spirit so that I might share your love in a gentle and respectful manner.

Reflect: What is the reason for your hope? Does it show in your attitude toward others?

Discuss: How are things going with sharing the reason for your hope? Have you been prepared? If not, why, and what could you do differently?

Men's November Reflections

(continued)

week 4

Holding Each Other Accountable

by: Joe Maguire

You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. (1 Corinthians 9:11)

At this time of year, we Americans set time aside to reflect on the many blessings that the Father has bestowed on us, individually as well as a nation. Of those blessings, surely the greatest is our knowledge of the love that the Father has for us. But the Father's love does not stop with us; we are called to share that love with others. In CIC we have a special mission to extend the Father's love into the marketplace.

One way to do this that is somewhat unique to CIC is the Challenge Weekend. Extending invitations to a Challenge Weekend requires prayer, preparation and timing. It is easy, knowing that a planned weekend is still months away, to do nothing and leave the inviting up to other brothers.

As our chapter prepared for our last Challenge Weekend, at the urging of the Service Council and our Chapter President, each man was asked to list the names of the individuals that he planned to invite two months prior to the weekend. Each was asked to pray for the men he planned to invite and all the other men listed. Then each man in the chapter was paired up with a partner. In addition to praying for his partner, each man was asked to follow up with his partner to see that invitations had been extended and to assist if necessary.

The list that was compiled contained 49 names. The weekend was one of our more successful recruiting weekends with 19 participants including seven first-timers. The chapter is now in the early planning stages for our next Challenge Weekend. We have last year's list as the starting point for inviting other men to come and experience the Father's love in a new and personal way.

Joe Maguire currently serves as treasurer and is a past president of the Northern Virginia Chapter. He attended the first Challenge Weekend in Northern Virginia but stepped away for a number of years due to family obligations. He returned to active participation six years ago. Joe is on the regional management staff of a major title insurer and has been with the company for 38 years. He is the father of four and grandfather of six. Joe Maguire can be reached at maguirejh@gmail.com.

Pray: Father, thank you for all that you have given me, especially the gift of faith. Give me a renewed zeal in sharing your love, especially in the marketplace and through CIC.

Reflect: Am I truly thankful for all that the Father has been given me, namely, the Spirit and the ministry of CIC?

Discuss: How does your thankfulness to the Father show in your life? What can you do to help build the Father's kingdom through CIC?

Women's November Reflections

week 2

Personal Sacrifice

by: Cathy Glover

I will never leave you nor forsake you. (Joshua 1:5)

I am writing these reflections as the tenth anniversary of September 11th approaches. My husband, Ric, lost quite a few friends and colleagues that day. Putting his own feelings of loss aside, I've watched Ric minister to families and coworkers. Over the years, he shared with people the miracles he experienced, the faith he witnessed in the families that lost loved ones, and the deep transformation of his belief and trust in God.

Against that backdrop, my challenges and sacrifices seem small. They involve prioritizing God, carving out time for a career as a realtor, and balancing marriage and family commitments with work and WCIC. In reality, I have made no real sacrifice; the times that I've felt like I was sacrificing have usually involved not getting what I wanted as quickly as I would have liked, having to choose one commitment over another, or being a witness to the sacrifices of others.

Currently, our daughter and her family are visiting from Australia. In the past, I have allowed myself to live in guilt and loss during their visits. I've felt guilty for working and the loss of not being with them, while simultaneously feeling guilty for being with my daughter and the loss of not working for my clients. I've been torn in both directions. These negative emotions left me with the feeling that I was sacrificing something. Prior to this current visit, though, I made the conscious choice to place work on the back burner and enjoy time with my daughter and her family. The negative feelings of guilt and loss have not surfaced. The joy created from time spent with my family is rejuvenating my desire to carry that joy back into my work. I really have not sacrificed anything. I have gained a new perspective of God's promise to never leave nor forsake us.

The only real sacrifice would be giving God the back seat in my life. It's comforting to see that God keeps his promise to never leave nor forsake us in all circumstances.

Pray: Lord, thank you for the people in our lives who are tremendous witnesses to the love you have for us. May they show us how to put the needs of others before our own.

Reflect: How have you witnessed God's loving hand working in your life?

Discuss: Where can you make changes in dealing with conflicts? What can you add to your routine that will help make God a priority in your life?

week 3

Redeeming Our Father's Creation

by: Cathy Glover

Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish. (John 6:11)

When I first became a realtor, I supplemented my income by substitute teaching. A few years ago around the holidays, I was substituting at a school that held a luncheon for the students, their families, faculty, and volunteers. When the luncheon was over, there were a large number of trays with lettuce, tomatoes, onions, fruits, and vegetables remaining. The initial reaction of those of us cleaning up was to throw away the leftovers. However, we started discussing what options we might have other than discarding the food.

I remembered that Paz de Cristo Charitable Dining Room was only two miles away. I went to speak to the principal. With his permission, I loaded the leftover trays of food into my car and headed to the Dining Room. When I arrived, the volunteer staff came out and helped me unload everything. As we spoke, I shared with the volunteers where the food had come from and how relieved the school was to know there was an option to help those in need.

The Dining Room staff shared that, until I had arrived, they did not have food to accompany their main course that evening. They had just finished a group prayer for God's assistance in feeding those in need. I had delivered plenty of fruits and vegetables to feed everyone that evening!

When I returned to the school, I shared the gratitude of the Dining Room staff, the prayers that were offered, and God's providence through the food the school had provided. As a result of that one decision, the school took on the Dining Room as a fundraiser that year.

Pray: Lord, thank you for your providence. Please remind us to look daily for opportunities to serve others. Help us use this holiday season for your purposes.

Reflect How is God's providence working in your life or the lives of those around you?

Discuss: How has God used you in his plan for someone else's life? What are you thankful for this holiday season? What can you change in your daily practice to live out God's plan for you?

Women's November Reflections

(Continued)

week 4

The Fruits of Our Relationships as Sisters

by: Cathy Glover

The Lord declares to you that the Lord himself will establish a house for you.
(2 Samuel 7:11)

Five years ago, I suggested to our Challenge Group in Tempe that we expand into north Scottsdale. Without discerning God's will, without a plan, and against the advice of the other women, I began holding Challenge Group meetings at my home. Not surprisingly, the meetings failed.

Fast forward five years. Our WCIC group has focused years of prayer on seeking God's will regarding the growth of WCIC. As a result of our prayers, our Tuesday evening Challenge Group has tripled its size. Our level of spirituality has grown. We've had many dramatic Pentecost moments and expanded our membership to include women from Scottsdale and the northwest valley. Once again, I brought up the idea of expanding into north Scottsdale. This time, however, God was consulted, the Scottsdale women and men of CIC supported the growth, and God even sent us a confirmation during a Sunday service.

It is Thursday evening, July 2011. Leading up to this night, the Scottsdale women and I, with CIC's support, spent months organizing and planning, marketing and advertising. Three women and I are meeting for the first Scottsdale Challenge Group. The summer has been difficult but the rewards have been great. We've had renewed interest in all our Challenge Groups, a prior member returned to our Scottsdale group, doors are opening into other churches, and the women of the north valley now have a convenient location to meet other Christians in Commerce sisters. The Scottsdale Challenge Group looks to the future prospect of becoming a chapter, in God's time.

As for me, I've discovered that venturing into unknown territory requires prayer, patience, humility, and sacrifice. I've learned to confer with and wait on our Lord and to trust the wisdom that the women in my WCIC-Phoenix Chapter have received from the Holy Spirit.

Cathy Glover is President of the WCIC-Phoenix Chapter. She is a realtor with Keller Williams Integrity First Realty and has worked in the real estate industry for about 20 years and has lived in the Phoenix area for almost 50. She and her husband Ric have been married 37 years, have three children, and four grandchildren. Cathy can be reached at cathyglover.wcic@gmail.com.

Pray: Lord, thank you for my WCIC sisters who help me see my prayers being answered. Please strengthen my faith to patiently and humbly wait on you. Give me the courage to venture into unknown territory for you.

Reflect: What unknown territory is our Lord asking you to venture into?

Discuss: What words of wisdom have you received from your WCIC sisters? Where do you see growth in your life? How have you seen your prayers answered?

Christians in Commerce NEWS

Christians in Commerce Prayer

Website Launch Announcement



We are pleased to announce the launch of our new and improved website. One of the exciting enhancements to our new site is the creation of chapter level pages. This enables each local chapter to maintain and update its own content. Additionally, on our [ChristAlive! Resources](#) page, we're featuring hundreds of past stories from our own members. All previous website content has been retained, most of which has already been uploaded to the new site in a more user-friendly format. We will continue to upload the remaining content in the coming months as further updates are made.

We collaborated with August Ash, Incorporated (AAI) to deliver our new website. The website is designed to allow users with little to no knowledge of web programming to create and manage website content with relative ease. The website can still be viewed at the same URL: www.christiansincommerce.org.

We hope you'll enjoy the new site! Please send your questions and suggestions to Therese Rosenthal at therese@cicintl.org.

Gilbert San-Tan & Scottsdale Chapters Challenge Weekend

The Gilbert San-Tan & Scottsdale Chapters jointly hosted a Challenge Weekend September 30th-October 2nd at Living Waters Retreat Center. They had 17 men in attendance, four of whom were first-time attendees.

This was the first Challenge Weekend hosted by the Gilbert San-Tan Chapter. There were at least four chapters supporting the weekend, with praise & music from the Phoenix Chapter and speakers from Scottsdale, Gilbert San-Tan, Mesa and Phoenix.

Ric Glover, Weekend Administrator and Chapter President, commented how he could see the Holy Spirit at work throughout the weekend, leading and guiding the team as they made choices.

Once the weekend had begun, Ric says, "The Holy Spirit just took over and things went fine from that point forward."

Another brother who had been away from CIC for a period of time returned in time to join them on the weekend. His comment was, "Returning to CIC and a CWE was like returning to the home of an old friend."

Another participant said, "This is the first retreat of any kind I have made in my life....all I can say is it is like trying to describe the Grand Canyon. Mere words will not do." Another shared, "This is life changing. It definitely wakes up the spirit and calls you to do more in everyday living."



Testimonies from Uganda

In our September newsletter we announced we would periodically be sharing stories from brothers and sisters in Uganda whose lives have been changed through their encounter with CIC. Here is a testimony from one sister illustrating these changes:

"My father did not take me to school. He preferred my brothers to me and educated all of them. I blamed him for all my suffering. I am very poor, I married a poor man and he mistreats me. I cannot educate my own children. I have thought about divorce but I have nowhere to live because I have no money. My brothers have jobs and they are well off. Every thought of my father brought me grief that came with headaches, dizziness and stomach pain. At a Challenge Weekend I met my real father — my Father who art in Heaven. He gave me the grace to forgive my worldly father. I know now that my worldly father is imperfect and limited in many ways, but my heavenly Father is unlimited and perfect and can provide me with all I need. Since I forgave my father I have no more stomach pain and headache." – Dinhaven Makuru

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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Managing Editor: Therese Irene Rosenthal

Editorial Board: Executive Committee

Desktop Publishing: Mary Lu Barrett

For further information about CIC call or write:

Christians in Commerce

2853 Meadow View Road

Falls Church, Va. 22042

Phone: 703 205-5600

Toll Free: 877 205-5600

Fax: 703 205-0485

info@cicintl.org.

www.christiansincommerce.org

Christians in **COMMERCE**

2853 Meadow View Road, Falls Church, Va. 22042