



Christians in COMMERCE

Challenge Newsletter

Being Christ in the Workplace

Galatians
2:20

October, 2011

Christ in the Workplace

Christ on the Battlefield

by: Bill Dalgetty

The following story is from Tom Kelly of the Northern Virginia Chapter who retired last year as a Colonel in the Marine Corps Reserve.

"During my tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, I've had the privilege of observing young military men and women from all services. Most are on their third or fourth tours, and I'm amazed at the remarkable courage, commitment and self-sacrifice that they display. They have been successful in gaining the support of the indigenous population by overcoming fear and demonstrating a genuine concern for the welfare of the people.

"As a senior officer, my responsibility was to travel to each unit in the field and ensure they had the resources needed. Afghanistan, in particular, is a very austere environment and most of the infantry Marines I visited were continuously in harm's way. Most units would be replenished by helicopter once a week. Some units may not have access to a chaplain or religious services for several weeks. I often marveled at how squads of young Marines between the ages of 19 and 24, led by a Corporal, would endure the same stress and dangers each day.

"A common practice before a squad would go on patrol was to form a prayer circle. The men would gather together, putting their hands on each other's shoulders. They would collectively ask the Lord for his protection and guidance. They would pray for the wounded or deceased, for a family issue back home, and they would recite Psalm 23:4, which some refer to as the 'Soldier's Prayer': *Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.*

"These prayer circles are not taught in military training, but have been initiated informally at the small unit level. In most cases, a member of the squad, not the squad leader, initiates the prayer. What I noted as the troops mounted their vehicles following the prayer was that they always seemed at peace, joyful and confident. In many ways, this peace and self-control resonated throughout their patrol engagements and helped the Marines foster a strong relationship with the Afghan people they were protecting. The close bond formed by the squad that prayed together helped them overcome nearly any adversity."

"Marines and other U. S. military personnel would often spend their free time volunteering to visit local orphanages or camps filled with thousands of refugees. The charity, humanitarian assistance and kindness resulting from these efforts have had a profound influence on Afghan citizens. Despite the threats of traversing mountainous trails often saturated with mines and explosive devices, Marines would never avoid engaging with the Afghan or Iraqi people. They knew that their generosity, candor and daily assistance were making a difference in cultivating trust and gaining public support."

Tom concludes, "As Christians in Commerce, we strive to bring Christ into the marketplace. We should pray for Christ to come into lives of our young men and women in military service so they can bring Christ onto the battlefield."

Tom Kelly was initially mobilized to work in Crisis Response Planning at the Pentagon, followed by multiple tours in Afghanistan and Iraq. He served as Director of Counter-Improvised Explosive Devices and as a Senior Marine for the U. S. Marine Forces Central Command. Tom may be reached at thomaskel-lyjr@hotmail.com.

Upcoming Events

Men's Weekends

**Scottsdale/
Gilbert-San Tan**
September 30-
October 2, 2011

Santa Cruz
November 18-20, 2011

Salinas
November 11-13, 2011

Orange County
January 13-15, 2012

Salinas
February 3-5, 2012

San Jose
February 24-26, 2012

Women's Weekends

WCIC-Santa Cruz
April 28-29, 2012

Christians in Commerce News

Conference Workshops

**Santa Cruz
Barbeque Fundraiser**

New Chapters

Please send your stories to:
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2853 Meadow View Road
Falls Church, Va. 22042

Life Pleasing to God

week 1

Potent Christianity

by: Curtis Montgomery

Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit." (John 20:21-22)

Much of my Christian walk probably mirrors that of a lot of people who sincerely believe in God and truly try to follow his calling in their lives. My parents got my two brothers and me all dressed up for Sunday school and church and we learned the classic Bible prayers and songs that are still with us today. How could we forget the stories of Adam and Eve, Moses, Daniel and the lions and David and Goliath?

Continuing into adulthood, fairly regular church attendance provided wonderful sermons of Jesus' love, grace, forgiveness and the ultimate promise of eternal life by simply accepting him as our Lord and Savior. Serving on various committees and developing lasting friendships throughout the church added to the overall "feel good" Christian experience. The sad reality was that all these wonderful things were not enough; they were not leading me to "potent Christianity".

I never fully understood who the Holy Spirit really is. What did Jesus mean when he told the disciples that they were to wait for the helper who would come and provide them with the power and ability to continue his ministry and do even more than Jesus himself? Years went by before this mystery was revealed to me.

Fortunately, I would be introduced to a gentleman in the early '80s who would be bold enough to invite me to something called a "Challenge Weekend".

Chris did not share a lot of details but through our short friendship he told me that this could turn out to be a very special moment in my life.

Ironically my normally cautious and hesitant nature disappeared and I accepted his invitation. The thought of going away for a weekend with some other guys out in the country seemed

interesting. Little did I know that the "mystery" was about to be solved.

During the course of the weekend I was finally taught about the helper. The opportunity came to turn up the power of the Holy Spirit in my life through the prayers of the other men. The love of God that I had known about but had experienced only in moderate ways had just exploded.

Over the weeks following this experience I had the desire to not only share time praying with God, but to also study his Word and serve him abundantly through CIC and my church. I had finally seen what "potent Christianity" was all about.

That first Challenge Weekend experience was over 25 years ago. Even though God's power has not diminished, my original euphoria for the Holy Spirit's awakening in me has become subdued. Like any new and exciting relationship, there typically is a calming down period following the initial burst of "new love".

We Christians must be vigilant in never forgetting our first love: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Our ability to intercede, heal, forgive and reconcile is only possible to the degree that we rely on the potency of the Holy Spirit.

Those of us who have experienced the gift of the CIC Challenge Weekend should not neglect any opportunities to share it with our families, friends and fellow workers. God's hand was truly at work when he answered the CIC founders' prayers of how to develop a workplace ministry.

It all started with the Challenge Weekend. There are probably thousands of sincere, God-loving parishioners warming pews in churches all around us who would be grateful and blessed to receive an invitation to the next Challenge Weekend in your area. I will forever be thankful to my brother who gave one to me. Praise God.

Curtis Montgomery is presently serving as the President of the Salinas Valley Chapter and has been an active member of CIC for over 25 years. Curtis has a chiropractic practice in Salinas, California. You may contact him at: curtismontgomery33@gmail.com

Pray: Lord, may the strength and impact of your Holy Spirit never diminish in our lives. Help us to continually fan the Spirit's flame.

Reflect: back to when the Holy Spirit's power in your life went from a "pilot light" to a full blown inferno.

Discuss: How much do you desire the power of the Holy Spirit in the lives of your family, friends and coworkers? Discuss specific examples of how you can reach out to them to draw them to a Challenge Weekend.

Men's October Reflections

week 2

Personal Sacrifice

by: John DeSanto

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His love endures forever. (Psalm 136:1)

Nighttime can be filled with anxiety about life. My sleep is frequently interrupted with worries about adult children, my grandchild, financial security, salvation of family members, workplace decisions—you name it; darkness can be troublesome.

About three months ago my wife, Lana, and I were in our car heading home from a local restaurant when her cell phone rang. Our daughter Abby was calling as she drove to the Minneapolis airport 150 miles away to pick up a friend. Abby was just keeping in touch. A voice in the background yelled, "Your rear tire is flat!"

Lana continued talking with Abby until she had exited the freeway and pulled into a station to put air in the tire. It turned out that our daughter had a slow leak in her tire.

Falling asleep, I awakened to worries about Abby and her situation. I was paralyzed with worry about the safety of our 27-year old daughter! I did eventually fall back to sleep, but I was not doing well.

When I awoke the next morning I went to my "prayer chair" in our den and opened my daily devotional to the scripture and reflection for the day. Psalm 136:1 jumped out at me. After about ½ hour of prayer time with the Lord, I called my local tire dealer to get the phone number and location of the Expert Tire dealer closest to Abby in Minneapolis.

He informed me that Abby had already been to the dealer near her home, who had in turn called the Duluth store to get the necessary information for repairing her tire at no additional cost.

All I could do, as I hung up the phone in tears, was praise God for his goodness, and reaffirm that his love does indeed endure forever.

Pray: Heavenly Father, you are always with me when I need you. You never tire of forgiving me and helping me when I worry and fail to trust in you. Thank you for your never ending love.

Reflect: Think of who or what makes you most anxious or fearful at the present time.

Discuss: Share how the Lord has relieved your anxiety through his word or presence with you or through another person's comforting presence or words.

week 3

Making a Difference in the Workplace

by: John DeSanto

I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. (John 15:5)

In July 2009, after 35 years as a prosecutor and 2 years of private practice, God blessed me with a new career as a trial court judge.

The role of trial court judge presented me with a new challenge. I was no longer handling only criminal cases, and would have to preside over and decide civil disputes, divorces, child protection and custody cases, eviction and probate matters, as well as small claims court.

These new challenges filled me with feelings of inadequacy and anxiety. My faith in a good and loving God (see week 2) has led me to his words from scripture for help.

Before I enter the courtroom to take the bench, I pray John 15:5 every time: *Jesus, you are the vine, I am the branches, apart from you I can do nothing.* This expresses my intention to bring Jesus with me to my workplace. He, through the power of his Holy Spirit, helps me handle tough decisions in unfamiliar areas of the law.

As a result of my trust in the Lord and his power, during my time as a district court judge I have encouraged troubled children and broken adults, even through rulings with which they and their lawyers disagree. By his grace I have sent convicted felons to jail or prison with the hope that they can overcome past criminal acts and addictions.

By being Christ to the people in my workplace—the attorneys and litigants, witnesses, and court personnel—his truth, love, healing, and justice can be part of every decision I make. Because I am human, my decisions may sometimes be mistaken or wrong. However, with Christ alive within me as the vine and source of my strength, I can make the many judicial decisions I must make each day and hope for the best outcome.

Pray: Lord Jesus, please increase your presence and power in my workplace as I invite you to become a greater part of me.

Reflect: How can I allow Jesus to be the vine and divine helper in my difficult workplace decisions? Decisions at home? Decisions in and for my community?

Discuss: How can I allow the Lord to increase while I decrease through my workplace decisions and wherever else I am?

Men's October Reflections

(continued)

week 4

Holding Each Other Accountable

by: John DeSanto

As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another. (Proverbs 27:17)

The Duluth Chapter in Minnesota has met every Tuesday since the fall of 1987. Every fifth Tuesday is our Challenge Group week.

As we break up into our Challenge Groups, we are reminded to hold each other accountable in four areas, designated by the golf acronym FORE:

- Faith (How is my prayer life and relationship with God?)
- Occupation (Am I building the kingdom of God in my workplace?)
- Relationships (Are my relationships with other people all that God wants them to be?)
- Everything else (What sin areas are holding me back from giving my all to God and from being all that he wants me to be?)

Holding each other accountable in these suggested areas and allowing ourselves to be held accountable to brothers in Christ is not easy. We have to work at this.

A few years ago, when we first established Challenge Groups that met on days other than the weekly Tuesday meeting, many men would miss their Challenge Group meetings because other commitments had greater priority. Our accountability week is typically the poorest attended meeting week.

However, as each of us draws closer to the Lord and invites him to become our "all in all", the sharpening of each of us into men of God can become a reality.

Let us each recommit to an accountability group or partner within CIC. We won't regret it.

John E. DeSanto is the twin brother of Twin Cities Chapter President, Will DeSanto. He has been a member of CIC since 1984 and is a past president of the Duluth Chapter. He lives in Duluth, Minnesota with his wife of 31 years, Lana. They have three adult children: Amy, Abby and Adam, and a grandson, Timothy John Felix, who was born on April 23, 2011. John can be reached at jdesanto46@yahoo.com or john.desanto@courts.state.mn.us.

Pray: Lord Jesus, you want to shape me and mold me into the man of God you intend me to be. Give me the grace to open myself up to those brothers you've placed around me.

Reflect: In what areas have I let my brothers hold me accountable? Are there new areas God is calling me to be more open about?

Discuss: Ask each person in your group to give you an honest assessment of your willingness to be open and accountable.

Women's October Reflections

week 2

Personal Sacrifice

by: Joan Mangino

... Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. When Elijah heard it, he covered his face... (1 Kings 19:11-13)

Family is often our greatest blessing and greatest challenge. This is true in my family of origin. We don't have a lot in common. Within the last ten years, the Lord has been working overtime with us. Although I can see that, I still have trouble. It's amazing how disruptive pride and resentment can be.

I've seen amazing changes in one of my brothers. His son-in-law is disabled and cannot work. His daughter works nights and cares for her three children and husband. As she became increasingly overwhelmed, my brother stepped in, taking responsibility for his grandchildren and helping with his son-in-law.

A year ago, my brother called to say he was bringing his son-in-law and grandchildren to Sacramento to visit. We had plans so we didn't see them and weren't comfortable opening the house to them while we were away. This year they came again. I sensed a gentle nudge from deep within to have them stay with us. There was no guilt or obligation, just this quiet nudge. We extended an invitation and it was accepted.

I didn't know specifically when they were coming, for how long, but I decided not to worry. I enjoyed their visit immensely. The children were well behaved and everyone appreciated my husband Al's home cooking. There was that delightful peace of a family being healed. This strengthens my heart to be more open to that small, quiet, gentle nudge, whether at home, with friends or in the workplace.

Pray: Father, you are always patient with my rough edges. I am so blessed by your ever gentle love and mercy. Continue to challenge me to see what you see and say "yes" to you.

Reflect: Recall a time when pride and/or resentments were an obstacle to healing.

Discuss: Talk about how you dealt with this obstacle.

week 3

Redeeming Our Father's Creation

by: Joan Mangino

He said to them, "You are well aware that it is against our law for a Jew to associate with or visit a Gentile. But God has shown me that I should not call anyone impure or unclean. (Acts 10:28)

Early on in my adult life in the Spirit, a friend sent me these simple and encouraging words: "Have an unconditional warm regard for others... love your neighbor..." I tried to bring this attitude of heart to my work. In the final days of school this year I packed up to leave my job due to budget cuts. I understood with my head but my heart wasn't ready to quit. In saying my goodbyes I was thanked for giving perspective, for welcoming a new member to the staff, for mentoring, and reminded that the children had always been happy to see me, becoming disappointed whenever class was canceled. As difficult as goodbyes were, they also blessed me. I wasn't aware of the impact that I had made. To me it was a confirmation that in my job, I had succeeded in showing an unconditional warm regard for others.

I found this same "unconditional warm regard for others" in one of my CIC sisters who shared the following story: "I went into a store and asked for the furniture department. The clerk said they did not have furniture at their particular branch of the store, but told me which branches did carry furniture. I smiled and thanked her for her help. To my surprise, she thanked me for not getting mad at her and told me how several people had been very angry because what they were looking for was not available. I am so thankful that I took the time to thank her and smile at her. Little things can make such a difference in a person's life. It's not just the big things that make us Christ in the workplace. It is often the small things that show Christ's love to those around us."

Pray: Father, open my eyes that I might reach out to others with an unconditional warm regard.

Reflect: Consider those you encounter at work, on the street, in church, and at home. How can you have an unconditional warm regard for them?

Discuss: Share your reflection, your successes and your challenges.

Women's October Reflections

(Continued)

week 4

The Fruits of Our Relationships as Sisters

by: Joan Mangino

I give thanks to my God at every remembrance of you, praying always with joy in my every prayer and for all of you, because of your partnership for the gospel from the first day until now. (Philippians 1:3-5)

We all know the joy of friendship, the sister or friend who knows your thoughts before you speak them. Then there are friendships in Christ, "partnership for the gospel" which so enrich our lives. This year, in an effort to make the Challenge Weekend more user friendly, we held it in town at our home and for just two days. Of course the nitty gritty involved house cleaning. Frankly, my heart wasn't in it. Then a sister offered to help with the cleaning. What a blessing, I was energized and overwhelmed with gratitude! Later on I was working on the wording of a prayer for the weekend. The sister who was helping me said, "I know what you want to say; what about this..." bringing clarity to my struggle. Then there are those who can't be directly involved but always ask how the preparations are coming along, offering prayer support that is tangible.

Weekly prayer for one other also binds us together. Laying hands and praying with each other is even richer. I remember preparing for our first Challenge Weekend. We weren't experienced at praying over each other, so we decided to practice. How the Lord blessed us for simply trying! How awesome is our God!

At times our friendships extend beyond our immediate group. Recently, I was invited to Los Gatos to give a talk for a WCIC weekend. At first all I could think was that I didn't have time to do this. As I prayed about it, I could see that there was enough time and I said "yes". The blessings were unlimited. One of those blessings was the best delivery of Talk 7 (Stewards of Creation) I have ever heard. I boldly asked the speaker if she'd consider coming to Sacramento to give this same talk in June, and she said "yes"!

Joan Mangino is the current president of the WCIC-Sacramento Chapter. She is newly retired from teaching, most recently from Campus Ministry in a grade school. She has a master's degree in Pastoral Theology. She married into a large Italian family and now has countless grandchildren and great-grandchildren! She participates in a 12 step program and team teaches an introductory program in her church. Her passion is scripture. Joan may be reached at ALNJOAN@comcast.net.

Pray: Father, thank you for the bountiful blessings of friendship with sisters who follow you. My life is enriched through their encouragement and support and I experience a sense of your presence and love.

Reflect: Meditate upon the blessings of being of sisters in Christ.

Discuss: Share your reflection.

Save the Date

October 28-29, 2011 CIC Annual Conference

Fiesta Resort, Tempe, AZ

Christians in Commerce NEWS

Christians in Commerce Prayer

2011 Annual Conference Workshops

Here is the listing of the five workshops you can select from at this year's CIC Annual Conference. For additional details, visit our website conference page.

“Excellence in the Kingdom”

Hear how God invites you into a partnership with him to tend to your piece of the garden of creation, with a purpose unique and expectations high...

“Mentoring”

Explore ways to mentor, and learn how and why mentoring can be a life changing event in folks lives...

“Overcoming Guilt and Fear with Hope and Trust”

Hear personal stories and testimonies about how God still won the battle for us even when our flesh was weak...

“Trusting God with our Children”

There is one person who loves our children more than we do. Raising children in today's world can be a struggle, but we have love and power that can see us and our children through...

“Practicing the Presence of God”

To know God is one thing. Knowing him in an intimate, personal and loving relationship is another.....learn how...

Santa Cruz Chapter's Annual Barbeque Fundraiser

This year, both the men's and women's Santa Cruz Christians in Commerce Chapters got together to put on the 7th annual family BBQ fundraiser. Despite our coastal summer fog, we had our largest turnout to date of 150 people who helped us raise contributions for the scholarship fund. This fund will provide financial support for the Challenge Weekends, Annual CIC Conference and Days of Renewal. This year's fundraiser netted close to \$3,500.

The fellowship, great food and drink, and all the games and silent auction items, drew many members and friends of CIC who often cannot make other events. For the past few years, Wayne Shaffer has graciously provided a beautiful setting and home for the CIC BBQ at Shaffer Park, where bocce ball, archery, a zip line, and a jump house for kids are all sheltered within a redwood forest next to a rushing creek. Praise the Lord, it was a truly blessed event!



New Chapters

During the past year and a half CIC has officially started four new chapters in the US. If you know of anyone living in these areas who would like to be a part of CIC, please direct them to our website for contact and meeting information. Here are the names and location of the new chapters and presidents.

<u>Chapter</u>	<u>President</u>
Beaverton, OR	Alex McDougall
Gilbert-San Tan, AZ	Bryan Trudeau
Gilroy, CA	David Osler
Hollister, CA	Keith Schwehr
West Gilbert, AZ	Jeff Buntrock
West Phoenix, AZ	Richard Rodriguez

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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