“Who do you work for?” In social or networking situations, this is not an uncommon conversation starter. A follow-up question may be, “What industry or market segment do you serve?” How would you answer these questions?

I think many people who read this newsletter may get stuck searching for an immediate answer. Why is that? I would suggest that it’s because we know we have a higher calling in the marketplace than what the world’s view is but don’t know how to connect it with our “official” job description. We may not be prepared to verbalize the reason for our hope or explain our role from God’s perspective.

If you think about it, aren’t we, as Christians, supposed to serve as Jesus served? Why is it a challenge then to explain how our work serves our Father? Aren’t we supposed to manifest the love of our Father in all that we do?

I’d propose that it really isn’t—or shouldn’t be—that hard to connect our work life to our Christian calling. It is not just a matter of perspective. It is a matter of understanding who we are—not just what our educational background is or what our job description says we are supposed to be doing.

Early in my career, a major aspect of what I did and how I did it was all about me. Clearly that is a very selfish perspective—and this was even after sixteen years of parochial education and going to church almost every week. It was all about me: my reputation, my abilities, my contributions to the team, my title, the recognition that I earned, and the possessions I had collected. Me. Me. Me. I did the job I was hired to do and very little extra.

Through a series of encounters with Jesus, my heart began to understand that the only thing I could or should be in control of is my surrender in allowing the Father’s will to be made manifest in my life.

In John 5:1-30, Jesus was challenged for healing a man at the pool called Bethesda. He did this on the Sabbath, when no work was supposed to be done. In response to the Jewish leaders who were questioning him, Jesus said, “My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working” (John 5:17). Jesus didn’t care about society’s norms or mores about how to honor the Sabbath. The critics didn’t react very well: “For this reason they tried all the more to kill him” (John 5:18).

In my current role, my job is to help people do their jobs better. In many cases, I have no experience in what they do or how they do it. I am simply called to serve them. If I am able to help them have one less thing to worry about or resolve one thing that is keeping them from being as successful as they think they can be, I have been successful.

And you know what? It is not about me anymore. It is about the Spirit of God working through me to serve them. I know whom I serve, and my Boss will provide for me, even if I get the same reaction Jesus did at the pool of Bethesda.

Remember the advertisements for the “Got Milk?” campaign? They normally consisted of a picture of a celebrity with a milk mustache. Milk was presented as a necessary part of good health.

Now, I know you all have a Bible. I know you even read it! So, when anxiety takes a lick at your peace, read Philippians 4:6: “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”

Or when sloth seeps into your day, read Colossians 3:23: “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.”

Do you need wisdom and discernment in making a decision? Either large or small, any decisions we make cannot be accomplished without his guidance. We thirst for God’s word, and when we drink of his word, good things happen. Philippians 2:13 says, “It is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.”

Got God? Got a Bible? Read up, it is very healthy!

Art Klaum (director of Enterprise Effectiveness with Avnet, Inc.), formerly of the Mesa Men’s Chapter, is a member of the CIC Board of Directors and is currently involved with the CIC Campus Club at ASU. He and his wife, Geraldine, have been married for over thirty-two years and have four grown children. He can be reached at aklaum@cox.net.

PHOTO CREDITS: Art Klaum
REFLECTIONS

Staying the Course

By Frank Adamo

“So be careful to do what the Lord your God has commanded you; do not turn aside to the right or to the left.” (Deuteronomy 5:32)

When I look back over the years at my involvement in Christians in Commerce, in my church, and in my personal relationship with Jesus and the Father, I see one recurring theme: the importance of faithfulness to the call. Life, family, work, and church duties can come at me and knock me off course, but it’s important to stay on track in my relationship with the Lord.

When you turn on the GPS on a boat, the technology starts tracking your course. It will help you chart a course from point A to point B with great accuracy. However, if you’re not careful and start varying a few degrees to the left or right, in no time you are off course by several hundred yards, and if you keep going, you can get lost.

Do you ever find yourself lost and wondering, “How did I get off course?”

In my relationship with our Lord, I sometimes find myself wondering the same. When I hurry through my daily prayer time or miss a CIC event, like the Annual Conference, I find myself feeling a bit lost. If I skip a Saturday men’s Bible study, I feel disconnected.

So what’s the answer? Show up, and stay the course. Show up for daily prayer time, make the weekly visits to church to spend time in prayer, show up for Saturday Bible study every week, and show up for the Wednesday chapter meetings. When we create a habit of meeting our daily and weekly commitments to God, we build up a stronghold that is very hard for the evil one to penetrate. When we stay faithful to our commitments to our Father, our spouses, and our friends, we stay connected to his grace.

Staying the course is not just about us, but it’s also about serving others. My wife, Sheila, and I spent some time in a Native American ministry, working at art and music camps in Arizona and New Mexico several years ago. We met some amazing Christian leaders, and we saw, in a tangible way, how music and art can be used to break down generational and cultural barriers. We met an amazing young woman, Alyssa, who was one of the leaders. She taught us how to get on a personal level with the children. I will never forget those summer weeks spent out of my comfort zone working with those children, listening to their amazing young stories about family life on the reservations while introducing them to Jesus.

Father, show me where I am off course in my walk with you. Help me walk closer to you and follow the path you have in mind for me.

I recently read a post on Facebook from this friend, Alyssa. What she said inspired me once again.

“To spend a certain amount of time working with people at a job that benefits others, in which our personal pleasure and profit are not at all involved, nourishes both us and the people we help. It helps them directly, but it helps us indirectly, by enabling us to realize that we are a part of life and have a contribution to make.

“Today, there are so many places where help is needed. Open the daily paper—the news speaks for itself...I cannot imagine any human being who has love in his heart not trying to think of ways to make some contribution to the world. We needn’t work on a large scale. The important thing is that each of us gives some time to working for a selfless cause. It’s good for the world, and it’s good for us.”

Staying the course means staying involved in those selfless causes that you have chosen as your own. I know mine; do you know yours?

Frank Adamo has been involved in CIC since 1987 and is a member of the Central Mesa Men’s Chapter. He has been married to his wife, Sheila, for forty years. They have three grown sons and twelve grandchildren. Frank is a senior contracts manager in the law and contracts department at Honeywell. He can be reached at fadamo12@cox.net.

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WEEK 2 • MEN’S REFLECTIONS

Personal Sacrifice
By John E. Daly

“My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.” (John 15:12)

While at church one Sunday not long ago, I experienced a moment where Christ came alive during the service. One of the longtime ushers at our church had been in a serious auto accident and had to use a walker to move about. There is a point in our church service where we greet each other with a sign of peace. I watched from a distance as the usher held onto his walker and attempted to greet others as best he could.

“If you love me, keep my commands.” (John 14:15)

In all my years of practice as an attorney, I have never turned down a case in writing and then later decided to take the case. That is, until last year, when another lawyer referred me a case to represent a man and his wife that I did not know. After an extensive review of records, I told the potential client that I would not be representing him and explained my legal analysis.

Days later, following my morning prayer time, I sensed that I had failed to ask the man what he wanted and that I should call him back and ask him. When I called him, he explained that he did not feel the insurance company was taking his case seriously and that he wanted a Christian attorney. I reversed myself and told him I would represent him. During my work on the case, I realized that the Lord had brought us together. We ended up sharing our faith, praying together during the negotiation process, and having lunches together. It was one of the most enjoyable and satisfying cases I have worked on.

PRAY:

Lord, you know what holds me back from revealing you to others. Teach me to love as you love.

REFLECT:

Are you afraid to love as Jesus did? What personally holds you back? How can you move beyond those obstacles?

DISCUSS:

Describe a situation in your life when the Holy Spirit inspired you to act in love towards another. What was the result for you and for the one you reached out to?

WEEK 3 • MEN’S REFLECTIONS

Making a Difference in the Workplace
By John E. Daly

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PRAY:

Lord, open my heart and my eyes to see you and all you are doing in this world. Help me not to miss something new you may be doing because of my lack of vision.

REFLECT:

Do you view all you do through the eyes of Christ, or through your own?

DISCUSS:

Share with each other the times in the workplace where God was calling you to do his will and not your own. What have you learned from these experiences?
**Holding Each Other Accountable**

By John E. Daly

“I no longer call you servants … instead, I have called you friends.” (John 15:15)

One of the members in our chapter of CIC was recently involved in a serious bike accident and suffered many broken bones. The chapter members immediately started praying for him and reaching out to him in the hospital. When I spoke to him, he commented that he could feel the prayers, love, and compassion of his brothers in Christ.

This man is a former Marine pilot who had been involved in war and knew hardship and brotherhood, on and off the battlefield. I began to reflect on my relationship with this brother in Christ and realized that I had known him for over twenty-five years as a member of our CIC chapter. Although we were not in battle together in Vietnam, we have been on the spiritual battlefield together for many years. We have shared our continuing battle with sin and trying to overcome it with God’s grace.

All the men in our chapter and Challenge Groups have shared a deep Band of Brothers-type relationship that has been centered in Christ. Our spiritual battles have given us a deep appreciation and respect for each other.

The brotherhood we have together today is as strong—if not stronger—than that experienced in any war.

We have become soldiers for Christ, and the battle for souls and eternity has united us in so many ways. Thank you, Lord, for the brothers and sisters you have given each of us.

**PRAY:**

Lord, protect me in the battle with the enemy. Give me your grace and strength to always do your will.

**REFLECT:**

Do you feel alone in your spiritual battles with sin, or do you reach out to others in Christ for support and prayer? If you don’t reach out for support, what is holding you back?

**DISCUSS:**

Describe a time when sharing in another’s suffering has helped you deal with your own.

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**2016 CHRISTIANS IN COMMERCE ANNUAL CONFERENCE WEBSITE: WWW.CICCONF.COM**

We are pleased to announce the launch of our brand-new website to support our Annual Conference!

On the new website, you can find:

- General Sessions and Workshops content
- Speakers
- Schedule
- Conference hotel venue, including local attractions
- Past Annual Conference videos
- Christians in Commerce resources
- Photo gallery from past Annual Conferences
- Integrated social media buttons for Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and LinkedIn

We will be constantly updating our content with helpful Annual Conference information pre-, during, and post-conference.

For any questions, suggestions, feedback, or comments, please contact Jon Cassady (cassady@cicintl.org, 703.205.5600) at our CIC home office.
Come to me, and I will give you rest.

Christianity is not just another set of religious ideas; it is the Gospel being brought to life in each of our lives. No matter what positions we hold, we are equipped to influence our workplaces and share our experiences in ways that are admirable and attractive.

Learn more about living the life of faith, integrity, and excellence.
To register online, please view our 2016 Annual Conference page and select the option to register online: christiansincommerce.org/2016conference

Name __________________________________________

Spouse (if attending) __________________________________________

Address __________________________________________

City ___________________ State _______ Zip __________

Daytime Phone ________________________________

Email ____________________________________________

Spouse’s Email ______________________________________

Chapter ___________________________________________

Spouse’s Chapter _______________________________________

**Lord’s Day Meal Selection** (check one):

(self)  □ Beef □ Salmon □ Gluten-free □ Vegetarian □ No Meal

(spoouse) □ Beef □ Salmon □ Gluten-free □ Vegetarian □ No Meal

Special dietary restrictions for ALL meals: _____________________________

**Payment Method** (check one):

☐ Check  Credit Card:  □ Visa □ AMEX □ MC □ Discover

Credit Card Number: ________________________________  Expiration Date: (mm/yy) ______/_______  CCV# ________

**Housing** (Attendees are responsible for making their own accommodations - check one):

☐ Staying at DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Golf Resort Palm Springs*  ☐ Staying elsewhere

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**CONFERECE FEES – Check All That Apply**

☐ Leaders’ Workshop: ________________________________ $35.00

☐ Leaders’ Workshop + Spouse: ________________________ $70.00

☐ Early Bird Registration: ____________________________ $200.00

☐ Early Bird Registration + Spouse: ____________________ $350.00

☐ Registration beginning September 7: ____________________ $220.00

☐ Registration + Spouse: ______________________________ $370.00

☐ Lord’s Day Only, each individual: ______________________ $50.00

Registration closes on October 6, 2016.

Discounted Room Rate at DoubleTree until September 20.

Fee includes Friday and Saturday lunches, the Lord’s Day dinner on Saturday, and all conference materials.

* Special rates have been negotiated with DoubleTree. The rate is $139 for single or double occupancy, $159 for a triple, and $179 for a quad. This includes a breakfast buffet for registered hotel guests. In addition, there is a $5/night resort fee per room, plus taxes.

To make a reservation, go to the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Golf Resort Palm Springs CIC page: http://tinyurl.com/cichotel16 or call (844) 543-9184 and request the CIC group rate. To ensure this rate, you must register by September 20, 2016.

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**Mail completed registration form (with check if paying by check) to CIC Office: 7515 Lee Highway, Falls Church, VA 22042**
Personal Sacrifice  
By Jennifer Frankenberg

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. (Proverbs 3:5-6)

In 2008, when the U.S. economy crashed and many in our country were struggling, my husband, Rich, and I had so many blessings—a modest house, two cars, and good jobs. Our son, Connor, was a happy, healthy little boy. We were quite blessed in many ways.

Her work was in marketing, and mine has been in project management. Since I started working at this company two years ago, I have expanded my role, working hard not only to make the company more profitable, but also to improve our internal operations and make the environment conducive for employee growth and development.

Sarah’s email was eye-opening for me. She said that she was amazed at my work ethic, my positive attitude (especially in the face of extreme stress), and how I cared about the people around me. I had never realized how much people watch you in the workplace, taking note of the good—and the bad. She went on to say that I had given her an example of the type of manager she wants to be someday.

As a family, we formed a strong connection with the Lord. We prayed and served, and the Lord brought my family tremendous blessings. My new job has allowed us to slowly rebuild and ultimately led to my founding the Women’s Chapter of Christians in Commerce in Orange County. The women in our group continue to strengthen my faith and have helped me demonstrate Jesus’ loving kindness to my co-workers.

As we look back over the past several years, we no longer mourn what we thought we had lost. Instead, we realize it was God’s plan all along. This is where we are meant to be.

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PRAY:

Lord, give us faith and hope when the burdens we carry and the disappointments we face seem too much to bear.

REFLECT:

Does your faith ever falter as you hold on to preconceived notions of how life is supposed to work? Think of a time when anger or resentment over a difficult situation may have cut you off from the Lord.

DISCUSS:

Share about a time when you “gave it up to God” and realized unexpected blessings.

WEEK 3 • WOMEN’S REFLECTIONS

Redeeming Our Father’s Creation  
By Jennifer Frankenberg

“Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.” (Acts 20:28)

I recently received an email from a co-worker telling me that she would be leaving our company within the next month. She wanted me to know this before I saw the company announcement. This woman (I’ll call her Sarah) was not one of my direct reports, nor did we work together directly.

Her email was eye-opening for me. She said that she was amazed at my work ethic, my positive attitude (especially in the face of extreme stress), and how I cared about the people around me. I had never realized how much people watch you in the workplace, taking note of the good—and the bad. She went on to say that I had given her an example of the type of manager she wants to be someday.

Her email also explained the personal reasons behind her leaving the company. She and her husband were having difficulty having a baby, and they both felt she needed to reduce her stress level significantly to improve their chances. I, too, had been through the pain of infertility and all of the heartache, confusion, and sadness that come with that struggle.

After receiving her email, I approached Sarah and, drawing her into a conference room, explained my own fight with infertility and offered to support her by giving advice, listening, or simply being there as a shoulder to cry on. The Lord brought us together that day as we cried and prayed together.

PRAY:

Thank you, Lord, for giving me the perfect example of what it means to be a servant by showing compassion and love to those around us.

REFLECT:

Consider the way people perceive you. How do your interactions with those around you exemplify Jesus’ teachings? How could you improve in that area?

DISCUSS:

Describe a time when you discovered how your actions, good or bad, influenced someone around you. How can you work to positively influence those around you?
The Fruits of Our Relationships as Sisters

By Jennifer Frankenberg

And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love. (1 Corinthians 13:13)

I lost one of my best friends in 2005—my grandmother. She was possibly the most faith-filled person I’ve ever known. Few words could fully describe her, but I can assure you she was truly special and had a tremendous influence on me.

My grandmother lived with my family for several years, and she would take me to church every Sunday. She loved the church and focused on her faith and love for all people. She volunteered at hospice and helped many families through difficult times. She was known for her open-mindedness and loving heart. Over the years, she instructed me to live “without regrets,” telling me that by dwelling on mistakes, we lose sight of what is important: the lessons we have learned from those mistakes.

As she was approaching her final days, I laid down in her bed by her side and held her hand. A question in my mind begged to be asked. Gathering my courage, I asked if she was afraid of dying. She said she was not afraid of death but wondered if all she had done in this world was enough to grant her entry into heaven. I was shocked that this faith-driven woman could be asking this question.

I knew this was my moment to guide her, as she had always guided me. Gently squeezing her hand, I said, “You have positively impacted more people than I can count, including me. You’ve sat at people’s deathbeds, counseled them, and brought them peace as they passed. I’m here now to tell you that you are leaving behind a beautiful legacy. I believe you have earned your place.”

Three days later she was gone. But she is in my heart forever, speaking to me, ensuring that I follow Jesus’ example of unconditional love. I hear her reminding me to ask forgiveness from the Lord when I make mistakes and continually learn how to be a better person.

PRAY:

God, my Father, may I love you in all things and above all things. May I reach the joy that you have prepared for me in heaven.

REFLECT:

Think about the impact you have made on your sisters and the impact they have made on you. How do you reflect Christ to one another?

DISCUSS:

Who has influenced your faith the most? What about that person has had the greatest impact on you? How?

2016 Annual Conference Promotional Video

We want to express our gratitude to Duane Valencia (La Quinta Men’s Chapter) for his professional assistance.

This video is also listed on our Christians in Commerce YouTube Channel: https://www.youtube.com/user/cicinternational.

You can also view presentations from past Annual Conferences (2012-2015), Christians in Commerce (CIC) Worship Book - Songs Collection, Hope for the Workplace, and Challenge Weekends.

If you have a YouTube account, please subscribe to our channel!

For any questions, suggestions, feedback, or comments, please contact Jon Cassady (cassady@cicintl.org 703.205.5600) at our CIC home office.

It is with great excitement that we officially announce the launch of our 2016 Annual Conference promotional video:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7nEvIlOvhAI.
**LAUNCH OF NEW ANNUAL CONFERENCE WEBSITE**

After months of hard work and dedication from members and staff, we are pleased to announce the launch of this brand-new website in support of our Annual Conference. This new website launch complements our current Christians in Commerce website and may be viewed now at www.cicconf.com.

The goal of this new website is to provide an easier, more interactive way to learn about our Annual Conference for our members and visitors. Specifically, it will fulfill the following ministry needs:

- Engage existing members
- Increase the number of registrations for the conference
- Reach new audiences via the internet (Millennials, Generation X'ers, and Baby Boomers)
- Inform people about the conference
- Provide answers to common questions about the conference
- Help fuel an ongoing conversation
- Build community-based messaging

**EXXONMOBIL EMPLOYEES EMBRACE MESSAGE TO BE CHRIST IN THE WORKPLACE**

“God calls Christians to be his presence in the workplace,” Bill Dalgetty told 220 ExxonMobil employees gathered over their lunch hour at the company’s worldwide operating headquarters in Houston, Texas on May 4.

Dalgetty, who worked for Mobil for thirty-eight years, was invited to speak at the closing session of an Alpha program that had been conducted weekly since February on the company’s new 300-acre campus. “I was amazed at the number of employees involved in the Alpha program, as well as various Bible studies and prayer meetings that take place weekly before work or over the noon hour,” Dalgetty said. “They have organized themselves as the Christian Community at ExxonMobil with a website at www.ccemhc.com to communicate with one another and provide additional support.”

Dalgetty’s talk was essentially the message of CIC and its mission, as well as the book, Hope for the Workplace – Christ in You, which Dalgetty authored in 2013:

- Understand that your work is important to God and is part of his plan for creation.
- Accept God’s offer to dwell in you and seek the release of the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Be God’s presence, bringing love, integrity, and excellence to the people and circumstances of your work.

In addition to this sizable Christian group in Houston, there are prayer groups and Bible studies in various ExxonMobil facilities around the world that culminate in a worldwide video conference prayer meeting each October with all of these groups praying for each other and the company.

“As I wrapped up my remarks and looked out over a packed room,” Dalgetty said, “I referenced the quote from Billy Graham, ‘I believe that one of the next great moves of God is going to be through believers in the workplace.’ This word, I said, “is being fulfilled through you today.”

Bill Dalgetty served as president of CIC from 1999 to 2008 and chairman of the board from 2009 to 2012.
“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.”
Galatians 2:20

CHRISTIANS IN COMMERCE PRAYER

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: Being Christ in the workplace
MISSION: To encourage and equip Christians to be God’s presence in the workplace by the power of the Holy Spirit, exercising faith, integrity, and excellence
VALUES: Christians in Commerce is an ecumenical organization committed to:
   • Growing and being transformed in Jesus Christ
   • Manifesting the gifts of the Holy Spirit
   • Building strong brotherhood and sisterhood
   • Serving God and expanding his Kingdom in all aspects of our lives