What if every man and woman in CIC realized they have truly been given the power of the Holy Spirit to transform their workplaces and their eyes were opened to the impact of those workplaces on the world? Would we find more strength to resist and overcome the influences of greed, the hunger for power, and manipulation in the marketplace? Would the quality of our work improve? Would customers be treated with more honesty, fairness, and justice?

What if every man and woman in CIC related to each other as brothers and sisters, committed to caring, supporting, healing, and consoling each other?

Would CIC chapters and groups be vital, life-giving communities that constantly draw others in because of their irresistible love? Would they be places where we could regularly learn from each other positive ways of dealing with the pressures of the marketplace and stimulate creative ways of spreading the influence of the kingdom of God there?

What if every man and woman in CIC realized they actually had responsibility for the physical world we live in—for its well-being, its future, and the way it sustains life?

Would CIC employers and business owners look more carefully for ways to use the limited resources of this earth and protect the environment and for ways to moderate and restrain consumption? Would we work to leave the world a better place for those who will follow us?

What if every man and woman in CIC realized they have a real responsibility to combat evil in all of its manifestations in their piece of the marketplace?

Would CIC members who are employees dare to risk their position and job security to stand up for what is right and good? Would they seek the good and advancement of their peers and those they supervise?

What if every man and woman in CIC acted on their call to live as brothers and sisters in the Lord, as people called to bring mercy, understanding, compassion, and forgiveness to those around them?

Would fellow workers, superiors, clients, and customers all be treated with the love, respect, and honor they deserve as the sons and daughters of the living God?

Would our understanding of God’s call lead each group and chapter of CIC to find ways to reduce poverty, secure better treatment for people in need, and seek ways to ensure that our workplaces, products, and services are not detrimental to our shared well-being, but rather contribute to the well-being of everyone?

If we could be more of what God has called us to be, would we start to see change following in our paths, light coming into darkness, hope replacing despair, freedom overcoming personal constraints, joy overwhelming sorrow, and new life and energy springing up everywhere? Would we see the earth become more fruitful, rather than more strained and exhausted of its resources?

The need for people who will answer God’s call for change in this world only grows. What if we actually decided to answer that call fully, all in, with nothing held back?

God is looking for men and women who are willing to join him in becoming an overwhelming force for the transformation of this world and for building a new creation. What if we said, “Yes”?

Louis Grams is a retreat leader, conference speaker, and music composer; he also develops courses on different aspects of Christian life. A retired leader in the ecumenical Christian community the People of Praise, he is also co-founder of Christians in Commerce. He and his wife, Nancy, have five children and three grandchildren. Louis is the author of a new book, The Healing Stories of Jesus: Signs of the New Creation.

The Fourth of July is commonly associated with fireworks, parades, barbecues, carnivals, fairs, picnics, concerts, baseball games, family reunions, and ceremonies, in addition to various other public and private events. We celebrate the Declaration of Independence and the birth of a new nation, the United States of America.

On the National Mall here in Washington, DC, there is a beautiful display of fireworks along with a host of concerts to celebrate our country and honor those who serve and protect our freedom, near and far, past and present.

We thank you, Lord, for the new nation that you gifted to us in the year 1776. We also thank you for making each one of us a new creation by your gift of the Holy Spirit. As James 1:17 says, “Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.” Heavenly lights will be sparkling on July 4th. Jesus said “You are the light of the world” (Matthew 5:14). Let our light shine bright in all we do!

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Mission: Possible

By Gail Cardwell

"And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me." (John 6:39)

"Anybody that has a job has a mission from God." These were the words of Louie Grams, one of Christians in Commerce's three founders, spoken at the 2014 Annual Conference Leaders’ Workshop. This enlightening talk described God’s purpose for CIC. We are stewards of God’s creation, challenged to "form a company of people in the marketplace" who are called to rescue people there and, in doing so, to rescue creation itself.

We are compelled to transform one place: the workplace. Louie went on to tell us God does not want greedy, power-hungry people controlling our businesses. We are challenged to step out of our comfort zone and relate to our work colleagues with genuine love, mercy, and justice, to serve the needs of others above our own, to work with great excellence and extraordinary faithfulness, to embrace our crosses without fear, and to face obstacles with confidence. If we do this, he said, workers "will see Jesus Christ" in the marketplace.

In sending us into our workplaces, the Father charges us with “losing none of all those he has placed under our stewardship. After graduate school, I was placed under the supervision of a great steward. Hired as the marketing representative in the economic development division of a county in Northern Virginia, I was tasked with two primary responsibilities: promoting the county as a preferential business location to major corporations; and writing speeches, presentations, and testimony on issues related to National Airport’s impact on the county.

Although a low-level position, this second component of my job afforded me frequent access to the county manager. Over the course of several years, I witnessed the county manager’s deep love and respect for all employees. Despite his demanding schedule, he made a point of getting to know all 3,700 of us. He referred to the county’s citizens as his clients, working long hours to serve them, including the least among them. When many residents lost power, he personally delivered heaters at late hours to ensure their warmth. He was beloved.

About three years into the job, the marketing director left, and I applied for the promotion. The county required applicants to take an exam with written and oral components, evaluated by a diverse panel of experts. My supervisor told me that I had scored very well, but the panel decided to select another candidate.

The rejection crushed me and contributed to a downward spiral in my attitude and self-esteem. The rejection crushed me and contributed to a downward spiral in my attitude and self-esteem. Humiliation followed me everywhere as I introduced my new boss to our clients. I sought counsel from a friend in charge of employee relations. He told me the truth: the panel ranked me first, but political factors had influenced their decision.

Several days later, the county manager visited me. He asked me to focus solely on my National Airport duties. This change would mean I would now report directly to the head of my division. He had amended my job to preserve my dignity. A few weeks later, he also invited me to attend a spiritual retreat. Given how focused the public environment was on being politically correct, his spiritual overture was risky. I agreed to participate. During the retreat, while praying at the cross, a feeling of divine love overwhelmed me.

Thirty years later, I explicitly remember that moment. I also vividly recall the selfless efforts of the county manager to rescue me from the hurtful, albeit unintended, consequences of work politics. He never once mentioned he was a Christian—he simply lived it out through genuine charity by placing the needs of others above his own. He did this sometimes in tiny ways, but also in big ways. Stepping beyond his comfort zone, he took risks “to lose none of all those he was given.” In him, I saw Christ in my workplace.

We want to be one body and one effort, not fragmented. So, going forward we will not use the name “WCIC.” We will have one banner, called Christians in Commerce (CIC), and three sub-banners: Men’s Chapters; Women’s Chapters; and Campus Clubs.

This renaming will be reflected on the Christians in Commerce website and marketing materials (brochures, business cards, and Vision, Mission, and Value poster boards). Additionally, the WCIC Board of Directors will now be known as the Women’s Chapters Advisory Board. Thank you!

Gail Cardwell serves as the current President of the Women’s Chapter of CIC in Northern Virginia. She has worked in the financial services industry for twenty-five years. She and her husband, David, have been married for twenty-seven years and have two sons, Daniel and Christopher. Gail can be reached at gailcardwell@cox.net.

CHRISTIANS IN COMMERCE NAMING STRATEGY

Looking at the cultural changes in the workplace, it has become clear that we have to find a balance between being unified in a shared ministry while maintaining the integrity of building brotherhood and sisterhood support. This clearly underscores the need to put the entire ministry under the Christians in Commerce banner/logo and sort out the chapters on a unified basis.

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WEEK 2 • MEN’S REFLECTIONS

Personal Sacrifice

“So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags…. And throw that worthless servant outside.” (Matthew 25:28, 30)

In preaching about this parable of the ten talents, my pastor struggled to explain why the master was so hard on the servant with only one talent. He didn’t lose it and in fact returned what he was given; what’s wrong with that? But Jesus tells us here that he has given each of us at least one talent, not to be buried and returned to him unused, but to be used to grow his kingdom.

Being in CIC I have come to realize that God will call on us to share our wisdom and talents with others at times we least expect it, even in a small way. I volunteer at a hospital gift shop every Saturday, working with a female volunteer. We always listen to Christian music in the shop. One day a man and his two young sons came in, with a woman following after. The man and sons paid and left, and then she came over. She asked if we were Christian and if she could get some advice; that’s when the other volunteer disappeared. I listened to her share about her situation; she was living with the man who had just left, and while she knew he would never marry again, she had grown close to his boys. As I listened to all she had to say, she shared the advice given her by her mother and the women at her church. She then asked me what I thought. I said she should accept the good counsel she had already received and that I thought she already knew the hard choice she had to make: moving out was the best choice. She agreed. She had already gotten the best counsel from other women in her life. I guess the Holy Spirit knew she just need to hear it from a perfect stranger with a man’s perspective for it to ring true.

PRAY:

Holy Spirit, let me be your ears; allow me to listen to those with burdens and hear their cries.

REFLECT:

What are your talents? How can you develop them and share them with others to help build God’s kingdom?

DISCUSS:

Share about a time when you were called upon to use your talents or speak a word of truth to someone. How did the person respond?

WEEK 3 • MEN’S REFLECTIONS

Making a Difference in the Workplace

Jesus called the crowd to him and said, “Listen and understand.” (Matthew 15:10)

Here we have a short and sweet command from the Lord: “Listen and understand.” How many times have we jumped to a conclusion before finding out the full situation? How many times have we said we knew the answer when we really didn’t understand what was going on? It’s part of our nature to want to fix things and move on quickly, but we need to take these words to heart and slow down.

Though I’m not always the peacemaker I should be, when I do take the time to truly understand what’s going on, I can often bring wisdom to the situation. I work for a contract manufacturing company. Because it’s a low-margin business, decisions are often made quickly and abruptly. People can be moved around, told they need to do their work differently, or even let go without following proper procedures. This really raises the stress level for everyone involved. With many years of experience and on-the-job training as a program manager, I see change management as vital to the success of a company. When it doesn’t happen properly, someone needs to bring clarity and good direction to the situation.

During a recent performance review, my boss told me he really appreciated the way I would step into a problem and listen to both sides. He said I had a way of defusing the situation without saying much and getting both parties to work together better. He especially appreciated when I was able to facilitate a discussion after he had unsuccessfully tried to resolve a particular situation. He went on to say that he wanted to be a good boss and to develop this trait more so he could better help people at work. I’m grateful for my boss’ review and especially for the opportunities I have at work to act on this command from the Lord.

PRAY:

Jesus, I pray for ears that listen and for a heart that understands. Let me see those in conflict as individuals you love. Let me be your voice in these situations.

REFLECT:

As you grow closer to the Lord, do you take time to listen and understand what he tells you?

DISCUSS:

Recall a situation when you actually took the time to listen and understand a problem before you acted. How were you then able to influence the situation?
Holding Each Other Accountable  
By Lenny Dadasiewicz

“Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.” (Luke 22:31-32)

When I look at Peter, I see a man who at times had great faith but at other times succumbed to the temptations of the world. Simon Peter struggled with his faith, what it truly meant, and what he needed to do to be the man Jesus knew he could be, the leader to build his church when he was gone.

Three years ago I was asked to lead the Gilbert-San Tan Chapter of CIC. They saw something in me that I did not see in myself. Like all chapters, we’ve had some turnover, but many of the brothers have come to me and encouraged me. They have expressed appreciation for the words I’ve shared and the things I’ve done. Both the chapter and my own challenge group have expressed their view of me as a spiritual leader, one who gives insights and causes them to grow in their understanding and reading of Scripture. This has been very encouraging and surprising to me. I never expected to be in a leadership position, especially in serving those I have looked up to over the years and with all the challenges and struggles we all face in our lives.

It helped me realize we can all provide strength for each other with the prayer and accountability CIC provides. CIC is a place of true fellowship, where we grow in a trusting relationship with each other and call each other on to grow in faith and build God’s kingdom.

PRAY:
Jesus, pray for us all and strengthen us so that we too will succeed as Satan sifts us and our faith.

REFLECT:
What Scriptures come to mind during certain struggles in your life? Spend time thinking about how God uses these Scriptures in your life.

DISCUSS:
How has the fellowship of your brothers in CIC gotten you through a period of trials? What elements of their support have meant the most to you?
The Christians in Commerce (CIC) Home Office recently sent a team of five individuals to Uganda from May 16-28, 2016 to visit the Men’s and Women’s Chapters and presented to approximately 6,200 Ugandan brothers and sisters in eight villages. The team included three of the Home Office staff: Terry Cassell, Jon Cassady and Therese McNichol, and also Alanna Crimmins and Randy Raciti. They were extremely blessed by the local Ugandans’ hospitality and reception in the various villages, as well as the love and service they experienced on the part of the CIC Service Council. The sessions were promoted and supported by the Uganda CIC Service Council, which consists of twenty men and women and contains representatives from most of the villages where CIC has a chapter.

The team had the honor of beginning their trip with a visit to Bishop Robert of the Fort Portal Catholic Diocese. Bishop Robert is the person who first invited CIC to come to Uganda and begin CIC chapters and he continues to support the work of CIC today. Another highlight of the trip was when CIC President Terry Cassell had the opportunity to speak on the chapter’s weekly live radio broadcast. Terry’s message was on the topic of hope and the show was hosted by Aloysius Mugisa, CIC Uganda Men’s Chapter President.

Here is a summary of the different sessions and talks that were given:

Leaders Session
Speakers: Terry, Therese, Jon, and Alanna

1 Peter 4: 10-11 “Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.”

To be a servant leader, we need to keep in mind that we are actually servants first and leaders second. We must learn to model Christ-like servanthood in every situation. We are to value every task and talent given to us as essential to the body of Christ. We serve God our Father when we serve one another! Terry modeled what it means to be a servant leader by washing the feet of two of the Ugandan CIC leaders (Morence & Rose Mpora).

The Leaders Session was held only once and consisted of four talks. The talks were given to the combined group of men and women on topics relevant to being leaders. There were 200 leaders present from various locations, and at the end of the day, there was a time for questions and testimonials. In a true spirit of humility, many of the leaders expressed what they had learned from the talks and how they were going to apply it to their lives. They also expressed their gratitude for the team sharing their wisdom and love with all of them.
Married Couples Sessions
Speakers: Terry, Randy, and Therese

The Married Couples Sessions were given at three different locations: Kitumbi, Verya and Kamwenge. There were a total of 445 couples present at these gatherings.

The couple’s talks were given in both a combined and same-sex setting. The talks focused on married life, raising children and how to be a loving spouse and parent. Of the 170 couples present at the first Married Couples Session held in Kitumbi, one third of them were engaged couples. One of the young men in particular was very inspired by the talks and asked to be married that day to his betrothed. Because this couple had previously completed their wedding preparations through their church, at the end of the day, all present witnessed a joyous wedding celebration between these two attendees. The team was told this was the first time something like this had ever happened from any of the CIC Married Couple’s Sessions.

One of the couples had been married for ten years and the husband refused to attend any church sponsored events. His wife had been praying for his change of heart, and as soon as he heard CIC was hosting a Married Couples Session, he was very excited to attend. The morning of the session, he arose and dressed very early because he didn’t want to be late for the event. His enthusiastic countenance at the session confirmed he was feeling blessed by what he heard. The husband of a couple who had been married for 49 years shared he had learned he needed to become a better listener and be more patient with his wife. He planned to begin living this way for their remaining years together. Another husband shared about a time when he had not been in control of his anger and had come close to seriously hurting his wife. Although he had apologized previously, after hearing Terry’s talk on anger he felt inspired to again seek her forgiveness. One husband shared that he had helped his wife prepare meals for his family as a way of serving her, prior to the talks. He was ridiculed by the other men in his village for doing what they believed was “women’s work”. He decided to stop serving his wife in this way, even though she felt very loved by his service. After hearing talks on the importance of loving our wives through acts of service, he recommitted himself to again serve his wife, no matter what ridicule he might encounter from the other men. He went on to share that loving his wife was more important than what the other men thought of him.
Mixed Audience Sessions: Adults, Teenagers & Children
Speakers: Terry, Randy, Therese, Alanna, and Jon

The talks for the Mixed Audience were presented to over 4,320 individuals in three villages: (3,200 adults and 1,320 youth)
The team addressed audiences comprised of various ages on three different days. The talks focused on mercy, love of God and love of neighbor and evangelization. Due to an unexpectedly large turnout of children, the team split up and Alanna Crimmins and Jon Cassady created some talks onsite appropriate for the youth audience.

Youth Sessions
Speakers: Jon and Alanna

The youth talks were given in both a combined and same sex setting. The talks focused on making a personal commitment to the Lord, dealing with worldly temptations and forming good friendships. They were presented to over 1,150 young adults in two locations.

After hearing Alanna’s talk on prayer, one young woman said she was going to rejoin her church choir in order to spend more time praising God.

During a Q&A segment following the Youth Session on chastity, a young man commended Jon for being 55 and unmarried. He was impressed since not many Ugandan men serve the Lord through the single life at that age. When he learned that Jon was open to marry someday he immediately said, “We should pray for you to find a wife!” This led to a wonderfully spontaneous time of prayer in which the attendees prayed with one another based on the state in life they felt called to. First they prayed with those who desired marriage, then the religious life, and then the single life.

Afterward, a number of the people expressed the need to return to their homes and become reconciled with family members who had mistreated them. One man asked how to better discern some of the choices he has been making that don’t seem to be producing fruitful results.
Works of Mercy

The CIC trip also provided the team with an opportunity to witness many of the works that CIC is supporting financially through the generosity of our members. Here is a visual summary of other works done by Christians in Commerce in Uganda. If you would like to participate in CIC’s work in Uganda, please consider contributing to support Christians in Commerce online. Our Christians in Commerce gift form can be found online at www.cicintl.org/support.

History of Christians in Commerce in Uganda

In 1998, the South Bend Chapter of Christians in Commerce, in collaboration with the Notre Dame Mendoza School of Business, sponsored a seminar entitled “Effective Christian Leadership in Today’s Marketplace”. Father Robert Muhiirwa, of Fort Portal, Uganda attended the seminar at the invitation of Kirby Falkenberg. Fr. Robert met Gus Zuelke and Bill Dalgetty, who impressed him by how they were able to manage their work, faith and family lives. Fr. Robert returned to Uganda, was eventually ordained the Bishop of the Fort Portal Diocese and in 2005 asked Kirby and Gus to put on a Challenge Weekend in Fort Portal.

At the invitation of Bishop Robert, 32 young men and women attended the first Challenge Weekend in Uganda, where Aloysius Mugisa and Gertrude Kabaliisa were elected presidents of the Men’s and Women’s chapters. The team left them with the CIC Chapter Guidelines and the Home Office continued to provide leadership and support to the newly formed chapters. Three teams from the US have made trips to Fort Portal to assist in putting on Challenge Weekends and present other teachings.

For more information about our Uganda CIC chapters and our works of mercy, please visit https://www.christiansincommerce.org/uganda. This page is updated regularly with local events and content from our Ugandan brothers and sisters.
**Personal Sacrifice**  
By Kathleen Shaffer

He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
(2 Thessalonians 2:14)

God gave us dominion and authority over creation, to work and to care for it. He is our boss, and we are his employees. The theme of one of CIC’s past annual conferences, “Missionaries at Work,” tells us that our work is our mission field. If we truly receive the power of the Holy Spirit from our relationship with Jesus, are we prepared to give it away?

This year I feel that God is calling me to obedience—true obedience in all aspects of my life. He is gently guiding me to evaluate my commitments to my daily devotions, my church attendance, and especially my business. What value does this small non-profit bring to his kingdom? I spend many days counseling, guiding, and listening to clients and never even know if I’ve made an impact.

But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.  
(2 Corinthians 12:9-10)

While I was very shy and reserved most of my young life, I had a mother who modeled true humility and hospitality to all who entered our home. She enjoyed entertaining guests in our home and trusting in God’s power and love to get her through life. Like C.S. Lewis, she would say humility does not mean thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less.

In our non-profit business, we know all too well about being humble and respecting the power that comes from prayer and trust in God’s plan. Each day we get to keep the doors open is a gift from God. Miracles are seen every day as we try to pay the bills and keep the lights on, all the while trying to increase financial support.

Most recently, we were blessed to have an anonymous donor give us $10,000! We prayed, and God sent an angel. We trust even when there is no hope that it will come through … but it does, time and time again. It is just amazing! The insults that are directed at us because we support the pregnancies of single mothers cause us to rely on his strength day by day, and sometimes minute by minute.

Every day I witness the power of prayer and trusting in the Holy Spirit to guide this business. Our prayer team is growing in numbers and also in peace and joy. It is nothing that we can do on our own, but we partner together with the Lord so we can minister to our clients and be Christ in this workplace.

For example, take Gina, who I remember as cold and distant. She left the office, and I never heard from her until months later, when she sent me a picture of her newborn baby girl. I thought I missed the mark, but God knew better. He gave me the power to speak the truth to her in love and let her know that someone cared for her in her difficult situation and would be there for her down the road. I shared the gospel with her, and the seed landed on the soft soil of a young mother’s heart, watered by God’s words and my prayers.

**PRAY:**
We come before you, Lord, and ask for your Holy Spirit to guide us in reaching out to people who need to learn about your love and forgiveness.

**REFLECT:**
What are some obstacles you face that make you hesitate to share your faith with others? How can you move beyond them?

**DISCUSS:**
Share about a time when you were unsure at first about speaking to a friend or coworker about Christ, but then the Holy Spirit guided the conversation. How did it strengthen your faith?

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**Redeeming Our Father’s Creation**  
By Kathleen Shaffer

But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.  
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**PRAY:**
Dear Lord, you are our source of power and strength. You modeled humility from the day you were born. Strengthen our trust in you and the direction you have for our lives.

**REFLECT:**
When have you had to put on humility and patience and just trust in the answer to come from God?

**DISCUSS:**
Describe a situation when you allowed God to take the lead and in doing so witnessed a true miracle. How did you feel?
**The Fruits of Our Relationships as Sisters**  
By Kathleen Shaffer

**He took one of the seedlings of the land and put it in fertile soil. He planted it like a willow by abundant water. (Ezekiel 17:5)**

Recently, I attended a women’s retreat, and while the setting was beautiful, and the décor, music, and activities were wonderful, I came away feeling alone and unfulfilled. Over 100 women attended, and we had shared rooms and meal times, but still I never connected on a personal level. I often sat near someone I did not know as I tried in vain to make new friends. I also wondered why I was having such difficulty in feeling the spirit and the joy of the Lord while we worshipped.

On the last day I felt strongly that I had to share my hurt and sadness with my small group. They were kind and listened intently as I shared my feelings. To my surprise, many of the women felt the same way. My openness enabled others to be vulnerable and share their honest feelings, which in turn allowed us all to grow a little bit closer. We all promised that we would keep in touch after the retreat. I had made some new sisters in Christ by just being honest and letting God’s mercy and grace cover the situation.

The person I was created to be may have been initially planted in rocky soil—an only child from a broken home and abusive family—but my Father in heaven planted me where he knew I would receive fellowship, guidance, and spiritual growth, which have allowed me to blossom into his blessed, beautiful child. He drew me into Christians in Commerce, where I found sisters to gather around and pray over me when they sense I am in need of some true sisterhood. When we meet weekly for prayer and reflection, we can always speak our mind, be vulnerable, and share our deepest secrets in an environment that will water our souls and nourish our hearts for the coming week.

**PRAY:**

Lord, we surrender to your will. We ask you to guide our lives even when we turn away because of sadness or fear. Thank you for your unending mercy and love and welcoming spirit.

**REFLECT:**

Where has the Lord planted you? In rocky or fertile soil? How is he calling you to grow?

**DISCUSS:**

Share about a time when the Lord stood by you, loved you, and brought the right sisters to water your spirit with their love and acceptance.

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**CHRISTIANS IN COMMERCE APPAREL**

One of Christians in Commerce’s goals is to equip Christian men and women to live the life of Christ through various means. In order to further increase our visibility and affect a larger surface area, we are providing you with the opportunity to purchase items of clothing that display our CIC logo. The items you can select include shirts, jackets, and hats and are provided by a CIC vendor. The prices they are offering are at a discounted rate. Please click the pictures on this page to view a larger image and our CIC logo.

To view these products, and for additional details, please visit: www.cicintl.org/cicwearables.
The South Bend/Elkhart Chapter held a Spring Challenge Weekend on March 4-6 and had twenty-six men attend. This included a good number of younger men, about a third of the group! The Lord is good and blessed our time together abundantly. I had the privilege of leading a small group of younger guys that weekend, and some amazing and powerful stories came from that group. We discussed the struggles of the college culture, trying to put on the armor of God, and living out our Christianity in a positive way.

We also discussed the struggles of the young professional life. Very few of our employers have an openly Christian culture, so sharing our faith at work definitely has its challenges. One man from our group shared that he has a “Jesus buddy” at work. They come into work together, read their daily reflection together, and turn on a Christian song to start the day off right. It was inspiring to see someone take initiative like this to create a positive environment and literally bring Christ into the workplace. He is on fire for CIC now and wants to put on a weekend in his hometown of Indianapolis, about three hours from South Bend.

Another attendee on the weekend had been struggling with depression that forced him to drop out of school. He was the first to jump in and share what he had been going through and what he hoped to get out of the weekend. By the end of the weekend, he was smiling and joking with all the guys, completely filled up with a new kind of joy—the joy of Christ and his love.

Two other men who came on the weekend admitted they were a little hesitant about coming; one of them said, “I wasn’t sure what to expect, but I told myself if I get even half of what I should really get out of this weekend, then that would be good for me.” After the first night, they both came up to me and shared that the weekend had already exceeded their expectations and they had gotten 110% of what they thought they would get out of the weekend. One even said that he had been on a retreat the weekend before but was already getting so much more out of the CWE. He was being pulled closer and closer into an intimate relationship with God and was being built up, surrounded with other like-minded men that weekend.

Our theme song for the weekend was “Soul on Fire,” and I don’t think there was one soul in that room that was not set on fire with the love of the Lord and his Holy Spirit. Men were set free from depression and from chains of fear, and other men were given a sense of faith-filled direction in their lives that they had never experienced before. I think it was also encouraging for the older men to see so many young guys soaking in the weekend and being set on fire for the Lord.

Praise God for CIC!
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