Karen oversees the forty-person support staff of an ENT medical practice involving five physicians. Jerry, one of the support employees, wasn’t feeling well and asked Karen if he could have the rest of the day off. When Karen asked what was wrong, Jerry gave a rather vague response. Karen continued to probe, asking if he would be returning the next day. Jerry said he didn’t know. Karen asked if there was something wrong and Jerry said no.

Karen invited Jerry to sit down and asked if there was anything he wanted to share. Because of the trust that had built up in their relationship over several years, he started to share that nothing was going right in his life. He wanted to get married to the woman he was living with, but she didn’t want to and was in fact talking about moving out. He was also having difficulty finding enough time for his two children and relating to them in the right way. He seemed quite despondent to Karen.

As Jerry was leaving, Karen asked if she could make a suggestion. He said yes. Karen said, “When you go home, go into your bedroom, close the door, kneel down, and ask Jesus to come into your life and help you.” Jerry said, “I’ve tried church.” Karen said, “I am not talking about church, I’m just saying that if you offer that prayer, Jesus will not refuse you, and things will start to change.”

Karen did not judge Jerry or preach to him. She gave him an opportunity to talk, she listened, she empathized, and she asked if she could make a suggestion. She related to him as Jesus would. A “bruised reed” she did not break.

How do we reflect the presence of Christ to the people and circumstances of our lives—with shouts of judgment and argument, or with gentle mercy, wisdom, and the power of the Holy Spirit? The latter is evangelism, Jesus-style.

While our stereotype of evangelization may conjure up images of someone handing out Christian tracts on a street corner, or the broadcast of a televangelist in a megachurch, Isaiah, in speaking about the coming of Jesus, offered a different perspective: “He will not shout or cry out, or raise his voice in the streets. A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out” (Isaiah 42:2-3).

A couple of weeks later, Karen noticed that Jerry seemed to be more peaceful. As he was leaving her office one day, he stopped and said, “Oh, by the way, I did what you suggested, and something did happen. After I said the prayer, I started to experience warmth and peace. I bought a Bible and started to read it. I have been reading a children’s Bible to my kids. We started to go to church, and my partner and I are moving toward marriage.”

P R E S I D E N T ’ S C O R N E R

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)

Gifts given to us are to be opened and used for a purpose. As we celebrate Pentecost this month, we remember that we are given a great gift when we receive the power of the Holy Spirit. We become equipped to be his witnesses across the United States and Uganda because of the work of the Holy Spirit through Christians in Commerce brothers and sisters, like you.

You are a gift to others when you reach out and give of yourself. You are a gift to others when you pray with them, you are a gift to others when you love them unconditionally, and you are a gift to others when your exercise your faith, integrity, and excellence with them.

Come, Holy Spirit, and renew our hearts and minds so that we may renew the face of the earth that you have given to us.

cassel@cicintl.org
(703) 205-5600

Gentle Evangelism

By Bill Dalgetty

This article is taken from one of Bill Dalgetty’s weekly blog postings at www.christinlifeandwork.com. Bill spent most of his career as a senior attorney for Mobil Corporation. He is a past President and Chairman of the Board of Christians in Commerce. In 2013, he published Hope for the Workplace – Christ in You, which may be found at www.zacchaeuspublications.com. He and his wife, Marilynn, have been married for fifty-two years. They have five children and thirteen grandchildren. You may contact Bill at dalgettybill@gmail.com.
WEEK 1 • LIFE PLEASING TO GOD

REFLECTIONS

Courage and Boldness

By Bud Rose

“Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.” (John 14:12)

I have been thinking about how the devil tries to instill in us a spirit of fear. Then the Lord put the word “courage” on my heart. I started to think about Jesus as the Son of Man and his courage: preaching in the temple at age twelve; constantly facing the Pharisees; praying in the Garden of Gethsemane while waiting to be betrayed and arrested; and his going before Pilate, knowing he would soon be crucified.

How did Jesus have such courage as one of us? He had it because he believed in the Father’s mission for him. His life seems very radical! To believe means to step out and do the will of the Father. Jesus says if we also believe like this, we can do the works that he has done!

When I was living in South Bend and employed by the People of Praise, I was asked to pray about taking my family and moving to Corvallis, OR. We were to help a group join the People of Praise and learn what it meant to live in a covenanted, Christian community. Sharon, my wife, had repeatedly gotten Scripture passages a year earlier that all spoke of moving. I suggested to her at that time to think of them as a word from the Lord that might have meaning for us later.

It was now a year later, and we had two of our six children in college in South Bend, a daughter who was a junior in high school, a son who was a sophomore, two younger children, and a home. We thanked the Lord for his word from a year earlier that helped us have the courage to move forward in his will.

Before we arrived in Corvallis, I asked the Lord to give me opportunities to serve the five men that I would be mentoring. The Lord is faithful. The day we arrived, I noticed a strong sewer smell at the home where we were staying. I asked if the family had a problem. “Yes,” they answered. They lived in the country, and their sewage had to be pumped up a hill.

The next day I was able to dig it up and fix it. I had opportunities to serve each of the five men I mentored. Though the tasks may have been small, they unified us; the families knew we really cared about them. This gave credibility to our trip.

As a result, I believe the Lord blessed our family and the group we worked with. They are great brothers and sisters in the Lord today. Our courage and boldness were rewarded.

Pray for opportunities to serve others in your workplace; it says to your co-workers, “I care about you.” We are called to be radical in our Christian life. The fruits of the Spirit are radical in our world today, especially love, mercy, kindness, forgiveness, joyfulness, and true friendship. Our Lord says, “Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends” (John 15:12-13). It takes courage and boldness to live in the will of God.

Married for fifty-four years, Bud and his wife, Sharon, have six children and thirty grandchildren. He was one of the three founders of Christians in Commerce in 1983. Baptized in the Spirit in 1972, he has an accounting degree from Notre Dame; he has managed a K-Mart, owned four businesses, and worked for the People of Praise for thirty-three years in leadership, administration, and pastoral care.

PRAY:

Our father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

REFLECT:

“For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, ‘Abba, Father’” (Romans 8:14-15).

DISCUSS:

Share how your kindness changed a relationship at work. Does anyone come to mind for whom kindness could open the door for the Holy Spirit to work?

WORKPLACE STORIES NEEDED

This year we want to put a special emphasis on expanding the contributions to our Workday Reflection emails. We are especially looking for personal stories related to fulfilling our mission in the workplace.

Don’t worry if writing is not your talent!

We will edit all submissions as needed. If you don’t know where to begin, simply tell us your story over the phone or via email, and we will take care of the rest.

We are also looking for individuals in the local chapters who are willing to be Workday Reflection stringers/ghost writers for others in their chapters, who have inspiring stories to tell.

To serve in this capacity, or to share your story, please contact the CIC offices by calling (703) 205-5600 or send an email to info@cicintl.org.
WEEK 2 • MEN’S REFLECTIONS

Personal Sacrifice

By Will DeSanto

So I say, walk by the Spirit … for the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit … so that you are not to do whatever you want. (Galatians 5:16-17)

It has been a constant challenge for me not to let my concerns and worries in the morning control me. I don’t want to be cheerful; I want to fill myself with my ways and thoughts—not answering to anybody, doing it my way.

PRAY:

I am yours, Jesus. Remove all that is in me that is not of you so I can be an empty vessel, ready to be filled by you.

REFLECT:

How can I become filled with more of Jesus and less of me? What fruit of the Spirit do I need more of? Is it love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, or self-control?

DISCUSS:

What steps do you need to take to portray that fruit of the Holy Spirit? How does it particularly apply to your relationships at work?

WEEK 3 • MEN’S REFLECTIONS

Making a Difference in the Workplace

By Will DeSanto

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I. Send me!” (Isaiah 6:8)

I had just started selling life insurance and was responding to a request for information. The man, Joe, was twenty-five years older than his wife and spoke with a slur, as if he was tipsy, but he wasn’t. Joe said he talked oddly because of some old football injuries. He wanted a policy for himself so that his wife and their thirteen-year-old son would be protected if he died.

PRAY:

Father, give me the courage to ask to pray with others. Put people in my life who need your love and support.

REFLECT:

Do I look at my work as kingdom-building? What drives me in my workplace to keep going when things are difficult?

DISCUSS:

In what ways do you look at your workplace as kingdom-building? What needs to change in the way you go about your work to have a kingdom-building attitude?
Holding Each Other Accountable
By Will DeSanto

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. (Hebrews 10:24)

I meet with the same five men once a week throughout the year to pray, listen to how God is working in each of our lives, encourage each other, and hold each other accountable in how we’re walking with Jesus. We celebrate our victories and thank the Lord as well as help each other see what needs to change.

We decided several years ago to open our meeting to more men. Through our love and care for each other, these new men have opened themselves to a deeper relationship with Jesus and each other. We have seen changes in how they approach relationships with their families, friends, and others.

These men did not have a place to talk, pray, and hear God to help them through difficult situations. Men come with their problems, hurts, and insecurities. One of the men, Dan, is a single dad who would get upset and correct his adult children when they did something he didn’t like. This would only push them apart.

Since joining the group, Dan says he’s learned to listen and pray before responding. We can see changes in Dan as he looks to be held accountable, allowing the Lord to lead him and to be an instrument of love and encouragement. Dan sees the value of meeting regularly with other men to build trusting relationships and advance the kingdom of God.

Father, thank you for drawing people together who desire to become more like you.

Am I grateful for the relationships I have with people who draw me closer to you, Jesus? Do I take it for granted and desire to give up meeting? Am I willing to be open and honest? Do I hold back? How can I be a better participant?

How do you hold yourself accountable to regularly meeting with other brothers and sisters? How do you make it a priority? Give an example of something that happened in you as a result of your meetings.

Join us
October 14-15, 2016
DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Golf Resort Palm Springs Area, Cathedral City, CA.

GENERAL SESSIONS TO INCLUDE:
• 1st Talk: Working for Our Father
• 2nd Talk: Falling in Love with Jesus
• 3rd Talk: Establish the Work of Our Hands
• 4th Talk: Come to Me, All You Who Labor

Registration and more information to follow in the near future.

COME TO ME ALL YOU WHO LABOR 2016 CHRISTIANS IN COMMERCE ANNUAL CONFERENCE
Personal Sacrifice

For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love, and self-discipline. (2 Timothy 1:7)

Throughout my life, I have been gifted with several women mentors. The first one, of course, was my mother. There also were my grandmother and my aunt. Later on there were favorite teachers and caring co-workers who took me under their wings. Yes, women take care of women. Sometimes we do it intentionally. Other times, God cares for others through us without our awareness and then later reveals to us how he has used us.

"Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in Heaven." (Matthew 5:16)

As a teacher in a public school, it was not acceptable to verbally express my spiritual beliefs. However, there are other ways to share our beliefs: speaking respectfully, dressing modestly, responding with sincerity, and treating others with dignity.

On my desk, I kept a little stained glass plaque that had a picture of colorful fruits. In the center it had the Scripture from Galatians 5:22 about the fruits of the Spirit. It was on the right-hand side of my desk, next to the wall. Students would come up to the left-hand side for questions or help.

One day an observant youngster pointed at the plaque and asked, “Is that from the Bible?” Before I could answer, the student behind that one replied, “Of course it is, stupid. Don’t you see Galatians 5:22 at the bottom?” I would not have used the word “stupid,” but then again, I didn’t have to use any words at all.

Another time a student asked me about a necklace that I often wore, a gift from my husband. It was a cross with a swirled line of diamonds running from the top to the bottom, popular a few years ago as a sign of being together on the journey. However, this student obviously did not see it that way. “Is that a gun? I thought we weren’t allowed to have weapons at school.”

As I was explaining that it was a cross with diamonds, I had another thought. “Well, I guess it is a type of weapon—a spiritual weapon.” He did not understand right away. Later in the day, he pointed at my necklace and exclaimed, “Now I get it!” He was smiling like he had just solved a complicated problem. Indeed, if he really did get it, he had solved a problem that has perplexed many people throughout the ages. We are protected by God’s love. That is more powerful than any gun. It is so simple; it is our doubt that makes it complex.

Redeeming Our Father’s Creation

“Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in Heaven.” (Matthew 5:16)

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The Fruits of Our Relationships as Sisters

By Debi Wiskirchen

“So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.” (Matthew 7:12)

Being recently retired from teaching, I finally “found” the time to take care of a foot problem that had made walking increasingly difficult. After the Christmas holidays, I went in for bunion/hammer toe surgery. The recovery time is around ten weeks, including five weeks non-weight bearing (think knee scooter), and five weeks walking in a special post-op shoe (think clunky).

After a two-hour surgery, I went from independent to invalid. I could not cook. I could not drive. I could not shower. For the first week, I couldn’t even focus my eyes well enough to read much, due to pain meds. Why did I “volunteer” for this, I wondered. Walking before surgery had not hurt that much!

Besides healing my foot, God had some lessons for me. I learned to accept help, empathy, limitations, and disability. (Still working on graciousness…)

My WCIC sisters jumped into action, bringing meals for my family. They didn’t ask when. They knew I was stuck at home that first week, so they just told me when they would be coming by. Later on they offered me rides and willingly loaded my knee scooter into their vehicles or drove mine if theirs wasn’t large enough. They came to visit, brought ice cream sundaes, and loaned me their lap dog for a week. (Dogs are the best medicine, you know!)

Others sent cards, texts, and adult Christian coloring books. My biological sister sent a care package of small gifts to open daily, something I had done for her when she was hospitalized as a child. My sister-in-law brought a meal from one of my favorite restaurants. Payback is good—just be sure that what you do for others is something you would want done for you in return!

Galatians 6:7, 9-10 encourages us, “A man reaps what he sows. … Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.”

PRAY:

Lord, help me to take advantage of opportunities to help others. Bless me with empathy and willingness. Amen.

REFLECT:

Think about times when God slowed you down to teach you to see things from a different perspective.

DISCUSS:

What can you do for your sisters to make their journey a little easier or a little more pleasant?

UPCOMING HOME OFFICE TRIP TO UGANDA

The Christians in Commerce Home Office will be traveling to Uganda from May 16-28, 2016 to present and conduct sessions for various audiences. The team will include Terry Cassell, Jon Cassady, Alanna Crimmins, Therese McNichol, and Randy Raciti.

We will visit six villages, meet with the local Catholic bishop, be guests on the chapter’s weekly live radio program, and meet and greet hundreds of your Ugandan brothers and sisters! At each village we will be giving multiple talks to various audiences. Here is a summary of a few of those talks:

- Leaders Talks: Servant Leadership; Tithing Time, Talent, and Treasure
- Mixed Audience Talks: Embracing and Being Ambassadors of God’s Mercy; Our Mandate of Evangelization
- Couples Talks: Marriage and Family Life
- Youth Talks: Personal Commitment to the Lord; Forming Healthy and Righteous Friendships

Please keep our brothers and sisters in Uganda in your prayers as they prepare for our visit. In addition, please keep our CIC team in your prayers as we finalize the talks and prepare to be blessed by what the Holy Spirit has in store for all of us. We look forward to reporting about our visit at the upcoming annual conference!
MEN'S WEEKENDS
Greater Phoenix
June 10-12, 2016
Salinas
November 18-20, 2016

WOMEN'S WEEKENDS
Fresno
April 29-May 1, 2016

ANNUAL CONFERENCE
Palm Springs Area
October 14-15, 2016

UPCOMING EVENTS

CHRISTIANS IN COMMERCE
WOMEN'S CHAPTERS BEST PRACTICES

The Women's Chapters Board of Directors has established a practice to connect with each of the twelve Women's Chapter Presidents by phone, quarterly.

These quarterly phone calls are a way to reach out to the Women's Chapter Presidents for support, coaching, and mentoring; it is an ongoing bridge of communication. The Women's Chapters Board recognizes the importance of personal contact in relationship-building and sisterhood. The Women's Chapter Presidents exchange ideas and their local chapter best practices.

Well done, sisters!

CALIFORNIA TOWN HALL MEETINGS
By Terry Cassell

I was able to meet and greet several brothers and sisters from San Jose, Sacramento, Fresno, Monterey, Salinas, Gilroy, Hollister, and Santa Cruz, California during a week in March. The purpose was to meet many new members, encourage all members within each chapter to live out the mission God has given Christians in Commerce, and unite with one another in doing so. I believe all these goals were achieved because of the outstanding turnout and dialogue that occurred in each town hall meeting.

It was a very fruitful visit from the start in San Jose. We shared and agreed that we need to be more organic in our thinking of reaching out. Thoughts and comments included the idea that we shouldn't wait until a Challenge Weekend comes about before we extend invitations to folks to join us. We should invite folks into our life and not just wait until an event. For example, choosing a “Christ Alive” story off the website and inviting folks over to discuss the story or another topic of choice could happen either on a weekday or on a Saturday morning. We can have folks over for snacks and refreshments and discuss a certain subject matter related to our mission. It doesn't take much time of a person's day to do so. Many ideas like these came forth from brothers in San Jose.

I then moved on to the town hall meetings with CIC brothers and sisters. We were shown a visual image of the parable of the Good Samaritan, which portrayed a striking, stirring, and intimate image of the broken man being carried on the donkey of this selfless Samaritan. The discussion that followed challenged us to ask ourselves, “Whose neighbor can I be here and now?” I shared comments from a commentary given by a pontifical household preacher. His points were that we need to be ready to look for those neighbors God has placed in our paths. Love of neighbor is proactive. The category of neighbor is universal, not particular. Let’s ask ourselves, “Whose neighbor can we be here and now?”

We then heard from one of our founders, Louie Grams, during his 2014 Annual Conference Leaders Workshop exhortation, which can be found on the CIC channel of YouTube. Louie shared about the founders’ intent in starting CIC. He clarified our mission and what it means to “be Christ in the workplace.” If you haven’t had the chance to listen, I ask that you please do so at your convenience. It gives a clear understanding of how CIC should be impacting commerce and culture.

After listening to the audio of Louie, we then opened up the floor for a question and answer session. Many comments were exchanged about Louie’s words and about being proactive in being Christ to those God puts in our path.

Besides these town halls, I had meetings with many others, such as our Fresno Men's and Women's Presidents, Peter Arnold and Lucy Vasquez, at Fresno State University. We are very excited that we were approved to start a chapter on campus at the university. God is blessing the works and efforts of all of you in CIC. Thank you for your service!

Please send your events and stories to:
Terry Cassell
Fax: 703 205-0485
cassell@cicintl.org
7515 Lee Highway
Falls Church, VA 22042
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