Dear Christians in Commerce (CIC) Members and Friends,

There has been much excitement within the CIC community this past year! We have made tremendous strides in our Vision and Mission of “Being Christ in the Workplace.” Thanks to you and all your time, talents and efforts within your communities, CIC is reaching more people than ever before. Our goal has always been to transform people’s lives so they can transform their workplaces. We are to be Coworkers in Christ in all that we do.

The Vision and Mission of CIC are realized when we as Christians reflect the power and attractiveness of the gospel, drawing fellow brothers and sisters into serving the common good in our ordinary, daily lives, whether at home or at work.

In a past front page newsletter article, we heard about Ed from Minnesota. Read what Ed says and then ask yourself, “How does CIC influence my work?”

“Working for a small, private company, I need to wear many hats. My role has increased exponentially, but my compensation and recognition have been frozen. I felt exploited, and it was affecting my attitude... The Holy Spirit was constantly bringing to mind my poor attitude. While I felt exploited, I knew I shouldn’t be looking at things this way. I work for my Father. He isn’t into exploitation. He’s into transformation, glory, and fullness of life... I am getting the opportunity to use the talents God gave me to build his kingdom and serve the people he has placed around me. This brings me dignity and fulfillment. This is my chance to give back. My attitude changed drastically when I began remembering who I work for.”

The ministry of CIC has taught, touched and transformed many of us and will continue to do so.

Some of our works and efforts this past year included:

- Several CIC Town Hall meetings across the country, where members from several chapters met with me. The purpose of the meetings was to follow up on the CIC Vision and Mission Statement, primarily as it related to Louie Grams’ inspiring exhortation about why CIC exists. We usually began the evenings with prayer, pizza, and listening to Louie’s talk from the 2014 Annual Conference on YouTube [http://youtu.be/BIN5WOTORxs](http://youtu.be/BIN5WOTORxs). (It is also available on the CIC website in our Document Repository, but you need to login to view it. Once logged in, here is the URL: [www.cicintl.org/louisgrams14](http://www.cicintl.org/louisgrams14). Everyone is encouraged to listen to this talk as it reiterates our Vision and Mission.) The viewing was followed by an exhortation on the Good Samaritan by Capuchin Father Raniero Cantalamessa. He says, “The Good Samaritan parable cannot be understood if we don’t take into account the question to which Jesus intended to respond: Who is my neighbor?” 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?”
“Doing the Right Thing in Business and Government” was a highly-attended program that many CIC brothers and sisters worked on diligently. The event took place in Northern Virginia with 103 attendees. The speakers included Mark Lytle, Assistant U. S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, and Bill Colegrove, CEO of aspenhome™ Furniture and Furniture Values International. Mr. Lytle described the impact of corruption on society, and how otherwise good people fall prey to it. He discussed Congressman William J. Jefferson as a case study, and offered some insights as to what people can do to avoid being ensnared in workplace corruption themselves. Mr. Colegrove shared how his commitment to Jesus Christ guided his company’s decisions not to lay off employees during the 2008 financial downturn, and his determination to successfully seek justice in communist China’s court system over a huge breach of contract, costing his company millions of dollars. He concluded that better ethical outcomes take place when people are motivated to do the right thing as a result of a relationship with Jesus Christ instead of relying on a regimen of rules and consequences. It was highly impactful for all!

A four-week “Living the Vision” series was presented in the Phoenix area to several members and then taken on the road to California. The team, led by Dan Trevino, asked those in the audience, “Did you ever think about what CIC’s purpose is all about?” We recite the Vision and Mission Statement every week, but do we really comprehend in our hearts, minds and souls what it is that we are a part of and what the call is that we have been given? The team spoke about changing the mindsets of greed, selfishness, deceit, corruption, unfairness and immorality by exhibiting faithful Christian character in the workplace. They dedicated a full day to attendees in exploring the richness of our Vision, Mission, and Values statements. The meeting concluded with a presentation built upon the CIC Prayer. When we recite the CIC prayer, we ask our Father, “Fill me with the Holy Spirit... 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.” May this prayer bring new meaning to your spirit from now on! This is our calling. This is our mission. Let us go forth to re-commit to Living the Vision that was given to us!

ExxonMobil Employees Embrace Christ in the Workplace Message: Bill Dalgetty, who served as President of CIC from 1999-2008 and Chairman of the Board from 2009-2012, was invited to speak at ExxonMobil worldwide operating headquarters in Houston, Texas. Bill worked for Mobil for thirty-eight years and spoke at the closing session of an Alpha program on the company’s 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 Exxon Mobil”. He spoke about the message of CIC and its mission, as well as the book, Hope for the Workplace – Christ in You, which he authored in 2013. “As I wrapped up my remarks and looked out over a packed room,” he 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.”
President’s Update – 2016 Year in Review

- **A new Campus Ministry at Fresno State University** was formed under the leadership of Lucy Vasquez, Peter Arnold and Sophia Norman. After years of waiting, the Lord sent them to Fresno Pacific University, where they sought out Dr. Angulus Wilson, Director of Spiritual Formation. He embraced the mission of CIC and proposed building a partnership, challenging his student leaders to work as CIC apprentices and reach out to believers at Fresno State University. Dr. Wilson connected them to a Fresno State stakeholder, Dr. Francine Oputa, and helped them gain sponsorship from their Christian Fellowship staff. Touching the lives of college students and giving them a head start in being Christ in the marketplace is crucial to impacting the culture. Glory!

- **Trip to Uganda**: Jon Cassady, Therese McNichol, Randy Raciti, Alanna Crimmins and I visited our CIC brothers and sisters in Uganda last May and presented to approximately 6,200 people in eight villages. Our team experienced much love and humility in every location we visited and we were thanked for the wisdom we shared, both through the talks and discussion. The crowds were almost always double what had been expected and people travelled great distances to attend the seminars. Many of the church leaders recognized that CIC was able to feed their people in a way that they could not, and expressed their gratitude. At one point, due to an unexpectedly large turnout of children, the team decided to split up and Alanna and Jon created some talks onsite for the youth audience. We visited CIC’s Food for the Poor program recipients (thirty-three families total) and even hosted a broadcast of the Uganda chapters’ radio program, which has the largest listening audience in the area! During the broadcast, Therese shared a prophetic word of love and a vision from our Father to the people of Fort Portal about the plans he has for the future of Uganda, which will take place through their efforts. I had the opportunity to distribute over one hundred bibles to brothers and sisters who were excited to receive God’s word for their everyday walk with Jesus! The team also visited some of the wells funded by CIC members, and much more. All of our works are changing lives in Uganda!

- **Working for Our Father Video Series Introduced**: The new Working for Our Father workshop was introduced at the 2016 Annual Conference. Several of the videos were played both at the Leaders’ Workshop as well as the General Sessions. The workshop is designed to assist baptized Christians in integrating their work life into their Christian faith. It is written and produced to impact all age groups, particularly the next generation. It utilizes professionally-developed, engaging videos that show how Christians can align their careers with God’s mission. It can be jointly presented to men and women.

    As an organization, and with the power of the Holy Spirit, Christians in Commerce’s goal is to provide a means for Christians to join with others to fulfill God’s desire for the marketplace. This video series can create many opportunities for companies, ministries, churches, chapters, etc. to equip one another in the workplace. It will help brothers and sisters to:
    
    o Recognize their call to be stewards of God’s creation.
    o Realize our employment as working for our Creator and serving God.
    o Respect the dignity of all workers and assist them in using their gifts and talents well.
    o Relate together as faithful Christian contributors to culture and commerce.
President’s Update – 2016 Year in Review

- **Annual Conference**: The CIC Annual Conference, held October 14-15, 2016 in the Palm Springs, CA area, was attended by 180 people. It was the first year for us at this location, and it was heavily supported by the local chapters, who offered hospitality to those who couldn’t secure hotel rooms and provided transportation and meals for many members from outside the area. The local team was serving the body of Christ in a variety of ways!

  Many messages resonated with the audience. The theme “Come To Me All You Who Labor” was focused on the impact we must have in the marketplace. We are called to be agents of change. We have a mission to bring Christ wherever we are, and we need to take it more seriously. Another clear message to the body was that the Lord is asking us to widen our circles by ushering in the next generation. How will each of us respond to this calling to expand CIC? It will take courage, collaboration and unity. The workplace is our mission field and it is the ministry of Christians in Commerce that can help transform it. We need to reach this generation in order to make a difference in the world.

  **This and much more** was accomplished this past year. Thanks to **ALL** of you for making it happen! Let’s have an even larger impact on lives, culture, workplaces and families in 2017!

  Bless you!