



Challenge Newsletter

Being Christ in the Workplace

Galatians 2:20

September, 2015

## Christ in the Workplace

### Holy Ground

By: Tim Rowland

Recently a new CIC member was asking how, in a practical way, to live out our 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.") He confessed to feeling ill-equipped and overwhelmed by the thought. I told him I could relate, but that such feelings and thoughts were not from the Lord.

Our core scripture in Christians in Commerce is Galatians 2:20 - *I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.* By being born again in Jesus Christ, we are equipped with the presence of the Holy Spirit and his power, totally and completely. This is a fact.

Knowing we have the full and complete power of the Holy Spirit to use towards building the Kingdom of God, especially in the workplace, should be encouraging. But, as this new member asked, how do we do this?

The short answer is, we do it in the name of Jesus.

I suggested to him a very simple and effective method I use to claim my workplace as his holy ground.

A couple of times a year (usually on a Sunday when no one is around) I walk through the office, Bible in hand, praying and invoking the name of Jesus. My office is about 2,700 square feet, but the same may be done in a small office or a large corporate campus. I pray over every seat, the kitchen, the store room, the computer room and, of course, the reception area. I rebuke anything that is not of the Lord, in the name of Jesus.

While I am at it, I pray for every employee and all of our clients and vendors. I claim my office and each workspace as holy ground so that Jesus will reign and be glorified by our words and actions.

We have many people visiting our office each day. While I know many of them, some very well, I don't know what beliefs and practices they bring with them, be they of the occult or other anti-Christian philosophies. Regardless, I believe holy ground is to be claimed and not taken for granted. There is a very real battle going on all around us between good and evil.

Based upon my experience the fruits of holy ground actively claimed by faith are integrity and excellence.

During my conversation with the new member, another member asked about claiming our homes. I suggested the same is true for where we live. Our homes should be holy ground where God the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit are welcomed and reign supreme.

One of the core values of CIC is "Growing and being transformed in Jesus Christ". These new members are learning that CIC is a safe place in which to learn how to be transformed in Jesus and utilize the power of the Holy Spirit with confidence.

The power of the Holy Spirit is available to all who ask for it and use it for his glory in conformity with Holy Scripture.

What place comes to your mind that should be claimed, through prayer, as holy ground? I know the Kingdom of God will grow as you claim holy ground for his glory, and so will you, a beloved son or daughter of the Most High.

*Tim Rowland is married to Celesta and has three grown sons, two daughters-in-law and three grandchildren. He is a member of both the Phoenix and Scottsdale CIC Chapters. He is Chairman of Rowland Carmichael Advisors, Inc. a wealth management firm in Scottsdale, AZ. Tim can be reached at [timrowland@gmail.com](mailto:timrowland@gmail.com).*

### Upcoming Events

**Annual Conference**  
October 16-17, 2015

**Men's Weekends**  
**Northern VA**  
September 11-12, 2015  
**South Bend/Elkhart**  
September 11-13, 2015  
**Salinas**  
November 13-15, 2015  
**Greater Phoenix**  
November 13-15, 2015  
**Orange County**  
January 15-17, 2016

**Women's Weekends**  
**WCIC South Bend/Elkhart**  
September 11-13, 2015  
**WCIC-Gilroy/Morgan Hill**  
April 16-17, 2016

### Christians in Commerce News

**CIC Vision, Mission, Core Values Refined**

**WCIC-Fresno Challenge Weekend**

**2015 Annual Conference, pg. 4**

**Please send your stories to:**  
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# Life Pleasing to God

week 1

## Listening More, Talking Less

By: Bill Dalgetty

*Everyone should be quick to listen (and) slow to speak... (James 1:19)*

If we calculate the amount of time we spend talking versus the amount of time we spend listening, what would be the ratio? Would it tilt toward talking or listening? A good friend of our family who died last year had an uncanny ability to listen. If you were to ask her how she was doing, she would quickly turn the conversation back to what was going on in your life.

Recently, I experienced the blessing of taking communion to a 95-year-old gentleman, a widower who lives alone in the house that has been his for more than 40 years. In response to my question of, "How are you doing today," I heard about his wife of 52 years who died a few years ago; about his son who is a priest; about the many missions he flew in World War II and the Korean War; how he was a consultant to Congressional committees overseeing the Air Force; and finally, about his current health issues. What a blessing it was not to talk, but just listen.

We have the opportunity to listen wherever we are - at work, at home, or at social gatherings. If our desire is to learn and grow in each of these venues, we soon realize that **we don't learn much from talking, but we do from listening.**

As an attorney for a large corporation, I found that I was able to serve my corporate clients better by listening more. Understanding the facts in a given situation was absolutely crucial in determining whether a particular law or regulation was applicable. You can't give good legal advice without knowing all of the facts. I learned facts primarily by asking questions and listening.

In one case one of our executives did not appreciate the significance of a particular piece of information and neglected to mention it before we made a decision to go to litigation over a certain business decision. It wasn't until he was testifying in court that he mentioned this fact, which completely undermined our case and the decision

to go to trial. Our questioning and listening before trial proved to have been inadequate.

At home, I serve and love my wife and children better by listening more. At social events I honor our guests by doing the same. While my experience is sometimes spotty in this area, I try to change course as soon as I realize that I am talking too much.

We can also listen even when we are alone. The Lord loves to put thoughts in our minds about various things going on in our life so long as we are open to hearing him. When Moses was giving his last instructions to Joshua and the Israelites, he said, "*Love the Lord your God, and listen to his voice and hold fast to him.*" (Deuteronomy 30:20) Jesus said, "*My sheep listen to my voice.*" (John 10:27)

I have often allowed the noise of everyday life to drown out God's voice, particularly when I am in my car, listening to music, talk radio, or sporting events. Today, I am trying to listen to the radio less and the Lord more. He says, "*Be still, and know that I am God.*" (Psalm 46:10) When Elijah went up on Mount Horeb to hear God, he did not hear him in the powerful wind, or the earthquake, or the fire, but in a gentle whisper. God loves to speak to us as a gentle whisper in our thoughts. Are we listening, or is noise getting in the way?

*This article is taken from one of Bill Dalgetty's weekly blog postings that may be found at [www.christinlifeand-work.com](http://www.christinlifeand-work.com). Bill spent most of his career as a senior attorney and executive of Mobil Corporation where he served for 38 years. He is a past president and chairman of the board of Christians in Commerce. Last year he published *Hope for the Workplace - Christ in You* about the Holy Spirit empowering us to bring hope and transformation to our workplaces. The book may be found at [www.hopefortheworkplace.com](http://www.hopefortheworkplace.com). Bill is married to his wife of 52 years, Marilynn, has five children and thirteen grandchildren. You may contact him at [dalgetty-bill@gmail.com](mailto:dalgetty-bill@gmail.com).*

**Pray:** Lord Jesus, let me love the people you put in my life by listening more and talking less - at the office, at home and with family or friends.

**Reflect:** How often do I walk away from a conversation not remembering much of what the other person said because I was doing most of the talking?

**Discuss:** Is listening an act of love? Share an example of when your lack of listening had a negative consequence, or when your act of listening had a positive consequence.

# Men's September Reflections

## week 2

### Personal Sacrifice

By: Steve Becker

*I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.*  
(Galatians 2:20)

The CIC Vision of "Being Christ in the workplace" (see News, page 7) has been a growing understanding for me. In the early years, this mostly meant maintaining my personal relationship with Jesus at work and not compartmentalizing my life. We talked about being "stewards of creation" but I had a limited understanding of what that actually meant.

In the nineties, many, including myself, became increasingly aware that, as Paul says, "*Christ in you (is) the hope of glory.*" (Colossians 1:27) He wanted all of us to go deeper and actually be "another Christ". This had major implications for us, both personally and for our call to impact our workplaces.

The action point for each of us in Galatians 2:20 is our crucifixion and death. My death and his life in me have led me to new freedom and transformation. In spite of this I recently found myself growing comfortable, passive, and a little weary. Temptations, frustrations, and discouragement became commonplace.

Here's a paradox: While sacrifice is hard, it ultimately makes life easier. Trying to have an easy life only makes it harder. Paul knew the salvation of the world belongs to the crucified.

I can say, "*I no longer live, but Christ lives in me*"; but that "I" is very strong, stubborn, and persistent. Renewing my commitment and focusing daily on my choices are helping to realign my heart. Many sacrificial choices are small, ordinary, charitable acts for the sake of others. They each make a difference over time. They are setting my heart on him and transforming me even more into "another Christ", helping me fall in love with him all over again.

This is what our Vision requires. I must not rest until Christ is fully formed in me. I must become even more "another Christ" through my work years, retirement, and until my death.

## week 3

### Making a Difference in the Workplace

By: Steve Becker

*I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some.* (1 Corinthians 9:22)

Where better to find common ground with people than our workplaces? This is where we spend 60% of our time and work side-by-side with all kinds of people. The Message has a very descriptive translation:

*I have voluntarily become a servant to any and all in order to reach a wide range of people: religious, nonreligious, meticulous moralists, loose-living immoralists, the defeated, the demoralized—whoever. I didn't take on their way of life. I kept my bearings in Christ—but I entered their world and tried to experience things from their point of view...I didn't just want to talk about it; I wanted to be in on it!*  
(1 Corinthians 9:19-23, MSG)

The workplace is our mission field where we are called "to be God's presence by the power of the Holy Spirit, exercising faith, integrity, and excellence." (CIC Mission statement)

We are not here to find fault, judge or argue. We are here to make the life of Christ visible. No matter the situation, our faith should be honest, humble and true, our integrity consistent, honorable, and just, and our work conscientious, reliable, and excellent.

We have firsthand knowledge and experience from our own life-changing relationships with Jesus. Laboring together in our work environments, we build on the common ground of the work we share. Opportunities present themselves to demonstrate our life of faith, acting with integrity in all dealings and displaying the highest degree of excellence in our work and relationships.

We must show the world how the Gospel is lived. Then we can give it a voice, our voice, with our story of how the Gospel of Jesus Christ has come alive for us. If we have made him visible, they will be ready to hear about Christ.

**Pray:** Your compassion and mercy, Lord, compel me to offer you myself as a living sacrifice. Have your way with me for I know I can trust you. Grant me the grace to make the daily sacrifices that would allow your life to be realized in me.

**Reflect:** What choices have I made or avoided recently? What do they say about my crucifixion and death?

**Discuss:** What specific examples can you give of being Christ in your work? Where have you sacrificed or set aside your will for others?

**Pray:** Your lines have fallen for me in pleasant places. I embrace where you have placed me and desire to be a better witness to you. Let your life be reflected more fully in who I am, what I do and how I do it.

**Reflect:** How would a non-Christian coworker describe my faith, integrity and excellence at work?

**Discuss:** Talk about the phrase "exercising faith, integrity, and excellence." What should this look like in your personal situation?

# Men's September Reflections

(continued)

## week 4

### Holding Each Other Accountable

By: Steve Becker

*Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess... Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds... encouraging one another. (Hebrews 10: 23-25)*

"How is Christians in Commerce relevant?" This is a question several new, younger visitors asked after attending one of our chapter meetings. Many were active in their churches and bible studies. They had fellowship there. They were not looking for another place to "hang" with other Christians. They wanted something unique and relevant.

My answer was that relevancy lies in our Vision and Mission statements, but it is dependent on their being brought to life by our membership and chapter leadership. The greatest vision goes nowhere if it's not executed.

The first half of our Mission says, "We encourage and support Christians to be God's presence by the power of the Holy Spirit."

Most of us struggle with compartmentalizing our lives, especially when it comes to work. Yet, more than ever, we need to encourage and support one another to face the challenges of an increasingly secularized, post-Christian world. Only in the power of the Holy Spirit will this be possible.

Encouragement includes two aspects: courage and inspiration. Courage enables us to stay the course — to face danger, fear, challenges and unexpected difficulties with confidence and determination. Inspiration stimulates us to action.

But for us, it's not about rallying our emotions. It's about serving the Lord and living in the power of the Holy Spirit. He is whom we put our trust in. It is the Holy Spirit active in our life that gives us the knowledge that our work matters to him and that he cares.

Our core values underscore what really makes the impact in providing the power to fulfill the Vision and Mission of Christians in Commerce. (see News, page 7)

Look again at the scripture verse for this reflection. How well is your chapter executing the Vision, Mission and Values of our ministry? How are you holding each other accountable?

*Steve Becker is a member of the Minneapolis-Downtown Chapter and is the longest-standing member of the Christians in Commerce Board of Directors. His involvement with CIC began in 1984. He is currently retired after 47 years in advertising, marketing and brand building. Steve publishes a weekly blog called Northern Light, sharing reflections and stories about radiating Christ. He can be reached at [stevan.becker@gmail.com](mailto:stevan.becker@gmail.com).*

## 2015 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Doubletree by Hilton Hotel Phoenix Tempe



October 16-17, 2015

Register now at [www.cicintl.org/register2015](http://www.cicintl.org/register2015) to secure the Early Bird Fee of \$200.00 before EOD September 8th (savings of \$20).

**Pray:** Lord, I come to do your will. You have entrusted your mission to me. I surrender my desires in obedience to you. Let me be an encouragement to others to rally around our Vision and Mission.

**Reflect:** How is my chapter executing the J ision, A ision and J alues of CIC? How am I living them out on a daily basis?

**Discuss:** How can we fulfill God's will as expressed in CIC's J ision, Mission and Values? How can we better hold each other accountable? How can we encourage each other?

# Women's September Reflections

## week 2

### Personal Sacrifice

By: Diane McGinty

*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind; and, love your neighbor as yourself. (Luke 10: 27)*

Jesus gave us the Parable of the Good Samaritan as an example of how to live out these words. Like the Good Samaritan, we must often make personal sacrifices in order to love others as generously as God desires.

One of the young women in our WCIC chapter asked for help in dealing with a terrible situation. Her former housekeeper and friend had died, leaving no family except for three teenage children. The oldest, whom I'll call Mary, was 18 and still needed to finish high school. There was very limited money for a funeral; as it was, they were barely covering their current necessities.

Four of the women in our chapter laid aside their own plans and needs and went to meet Mary. They bought her a new cell phone to replace her broken one, went with her to plan her mother's funeral, arranged for tutoring and coordinated with the school counselor so that she was able to graduate. They also set her up with driving lessons, took her to meet with an attorney, and coordinated with a local foundation to provide some needed furniture, as well as clothes for the children to wear to their mother's funeral. These kind sisters even took Mary shopping for a prom dress so that she could attend this special event. They enrolled her in a nearby community college and helped her get a job at a fast food restaurant.

The younger siblings are now living with a good family, and Mary is living with a friend's mother as she begins her adult life.

Seeing my friends reach out to others with such unconditional love inspires me to lay aside my own plans and desires. Hearing them tell of their deep, ongoing friendship with Mary, I conclude that it was they who were most richly blessed.

**Pray:** Lord, thank you for opportunities to become more like you. Help me to reach out with your love more readily and generously. Amen.

**Reflect:** How do I react when a need presents itself and I hear God calling me to change my plans and reach out to help someone?

**Discuss:** Share a time when you had an opportunity to help someone. Did you get involved or turn away? How did that experience affect your relationship with God?

## week 3

### Redeeming Our Father's Creation

By: Diane McGinty

*...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control... Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. (Galatians 5:22-23, 25)*

A WCIC friend shared with me how God's love transformed the environment of her office.

Her job was to support a young Project Manager who barely acknowledged her presence. The company had a gala celebration that included a drawing where people had to be present to win. The time came to announce the winners. The first four weren't there, including the Project Manager. Then my friend's name was chosen! She was glad to win an airline gift card and a \$400.00 Visa card, but she was sad that the Project Manager had missed his chance for the big prize. God put it on her heart to share it with him, but she hesitated. After all, she could use the money too.

Torn, she brought the situation to prayer. She discerned that God was telling her, "Do what I'm asking you to do. You will gain by obeying." This message was confirmed that very same day when she received an unexpected check and news that she could skip a payment on her vehicle.

The following day she gave the Visa card to the Project Manager, who was shocked. She explained that she had been blessed. "Someday," she said, "you can bless someone and make a difference in their life."

My friend continued to act with kindness and charity, and the atmosphere in the office began to change. When the Project Manager was expecting his first child, she collected money from the other coworkers to buy a gift and knitted a blanket for the baby.

Overwhelmed by her generosity, he asked, "Why did you do it?" She told him that she wanted him to know he was loved. It warmed her heart to have listened to God and to have obeyed.

**Pray:** Lord, thank you for giving me opportunities to bring your love to the people in my marketplace. Help me to listen to you and to respond with a willing heart. Amen.

**Reflect:** To whom could God be sending me to bring his love and encouragement?

**Discuss:** Share about a time when you felt God asking you to reach out to someone in the marketplace. How did you respond? How did that impact your relationship with God and with the other person?

# Women's September Reflections

## (continued)

week 4

### The Fruits of Our Relationships as Sisters

By: Diane McGinty

*...Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all... that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again...We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. (2 Corinthians 5: 14-15, 20)*

The women I've come to love as sisters through Christians in Commerce are the most genuine, loving, humble, Spirit-filled, helpful and caring women I've ever known. We live in freedom and joy and peace because we have a deep faith and are living it out.

This way of life is so fulfilling that we, like the apostle Paul, are compelled to share it! We look at all the brokenness in the world and realize that most people, even Christians, are trying to manage on their own power and often feel isolated and discouraged. We, on the other hand, know that God loves and forgives us, and are living out his plan in the power of the Holy Spirit. We must reach out and invite other women into our way of life!

Our chapter has befriended non-members by hosting community-wide events like the Day of Renewal, and we recruit neighbors and coworkers to volunteer with us at the Gilroy Garlic Festival, our annual fundraiser. We have placed brochures for our Challenge Weekends in churches and business establishments throughout town.

We recently decided to join the local Chamber of Commerce, which will give us a relationship with the many churches in the organization and enable us to introduce ourselves at Chamber meetings and have display tables at their community-wide events.

We have also decided pack lunches for the homeless once a month as a group. Additionally, we are going to host a monthly coffee hour for young moms after they drop off their children at one of the church-run elementary schools in our community. We will structure these coffee hours like our WCIC chapter meetings.

These outreach activities will bring us into contact with Christian women whom we can invite to WCIC in addition to those we meet at work, at church and in our community life.

*Diane McGinty belongs to the WCIC Gilroy-Morgan Hill Chapter as well as the WCIC Board. She has been involved with WCIC since its inception. She and her husband Kevin are retired financial advisors and live in Gilroy, CA. They are the parents of five grown children and eleven wonderful grandchildren. Diane can be reached at [dmcginty@garlic.com](mailto:dmcginty@garlic.com).*

### Workplace Stories Needed

This year we want to put a special emphasis on expanding the contributions to our Workday Reflection emails. We especially are 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 even know where to start, 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 would be 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 Therese Rosenthal at [info@cicintl.org](mailto:info@cicintl.org) or 703-205-5600.

**Pray:** Lord, increase the fire of your love in me and give me opportunities to bring others into our WCIC sisterhood. Amen.

**Reflect:** What am I doing to invite other women to WCIC, and what more can I do?

**Discuss:** How can your chapter reach out more effectively to Christian women in the marketplace, in other churches, and in your community to invite them to WCIC?

# Christians in Commerce NEWS

## Christians in Commerce Prayer

### CIC Vision, Mission, Core Values Refined

By: Steve Becker

Stirred by Louis Grams' exhortation at last year's conference, the Board of Directors decided to better focus and clarify the call we have been given. The Board is announcing the refinements it has made to the CIC Vision, Mission and Values in time for this year's conference.

"The changes have two goals in mind," stated Terry Cassell, president. "First, we ask that the chapters read these at the beginning of their meetings. The new wording is designed to be clearer, more focused and easier to understand when read.

"Secondly, we are trying to reach the young professionals and want something that not only appeals to the head, but to the heart. This doesn't change our mission, only clarifies it."

These changes came about with input and approval from the CIC founders: Louis Grams, John Mooney and Bud Rose. Bill Dalgetty, past president, was also extremely instrumental in drafting the final version.

The new Vision statement is "Being Christ in the workplace."

The new Mission statement is "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."

We also refined four core Values:

- 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

"The Vision, Mission and Values are a compass pointing to a common cause of which we are all a part," Terry emphasized. "They should be easy to remember and frame our daily lives at work."

### WCIC-Fresno Challenge Weekend

By: Lucy Vasquez

The WCIC-Fresno Challenge Weekend took place May 29-30, 2015 at St. Anthony Retreat Center. Of our seventeen participants, seven were making their first Challenge Weekend.

When asked about their expectations for the weekend, the retreatants' comments included: to foster a closer walk with God, to boost personal growth, to receive new revelations for a deeper conversion, to get away from distractions and stay focused on God, and to navigate through a "spiritual business model".

The retreat provided practical tools for deepening our relationships with Jesus in order to become his presence in our marketplace. The desires expressed at the opening of the weekend were fulfilled through the strong presence of the Holy Spirit.

We returned home full of the Lord's peace and joy, confident that the gifts and fruits of the Spirit would aid us in any future challenges.

These are some comments written by attendees at the end of the retreat:

- "My faith in God was strengthened."
- "I understand that I have to be bolder for the Lord."
- "I saw the light of Christ shine through the women present at the retreat! I leave with strength and a readiness to face my life challenges."
- "(I found) peace spiritually and emotionally; realizing how to find refuge in God; knowing that I can overcome the struggles in my daily life."
- "God revealed to me areas in my life that he wants to help me work on (and) showed me direction for my life."



*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



Christ  
**ALIVE!**

Galatians 2:20  
“...I no longer live, but  
Christ lives in me.”

[www.christiansincommerce.org](http://www.christiansincommerce.org)



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