



CHRISTIANS in COMMERCE

Challenge Newsletter

Christ in the Workplace

So What's the Difference?

by: Art Klaum

Have you ever considered what makes you different? Lots of people have been through what you have. Lots of people are confessed, baptized Christians. What makes each of us so special?

As I write this, our scripture readings the past few weeks have been about the baptism of Jesus and the start of his public ministry. I have been reminded that God has a special calling for each and every one of us — even me. That is what makes me special. That is what gives me purpose. He loves me so much that his son died for my sins so I would be able to enjoy eternity with him.

I have been called to be his ambassador, to represent him where he directs me or allows me to go. *I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live but Christ lives within me.* (Galatians 2:20) I am called to share the Christ in me — to be available to God's people. Like Jesus, I am called and drawn to serve his people wherever I am — wherever his people are. I am called to invite them into God's kingdom and a relationship with him.

I may still have gone to many of the same places to which I have been if I was not "his man", but the way I am called to bring his love, peace, justice and presence is different because he has called me to serve him and I have accepted his call.

Many are called, few are chosen. Many are baptized Christians, but not all accept the call to build his kingdom, especially in the marketplace. How do we do that? How do I do that? It may be in big things, but probably mostly in the small ones. It means going out of my way to recognize the humanity of someone else just by greeting them, wishing

them a good day or a blessing. It may be standing up to friends of mine who are still doing what they used to do when we were teenagers or young men.

Some days I am more successful than on others. I may be called to do things I wouldn't otherwise do (since I took my call to serve the Lord seriously) like go places I wouldn't normally go. But, what did Jesus do? He went to where the sinners were. Even though he was in less than reputable venues or with people the local churches looked down upon, he recognized his call to share our Father with whomever God placed before him. It's easy to do this at church or in faith-filled environments, but he has charged us to do this at work, at airports, in restaurants, on the phone, wherever we are.

I am called to share my love and belief in him as an encouragement to others to help them recognize they are beloved sons and daughters of the Most High God. They matter to him and, therefore, to me. To lift someone up in the course of our day may be a daily challenge, opportunity and blessing both to them and to us.

That's why I am different. God made me different.

Art Klaum has been a member of CIC for over 20 years and is a member of the Board of Directors. He and Geraldine have been married for 30 years and have four grown children. He is an Operations Manager for Avnet, Inc. in AZ. Art can be reached at art.klaum@avnet.com.

Being Christ in the Workplace

Galatians
2:20

April, 2014

Upcoming Events

Men's Weekends

Bakersfield/Fresno

April 25-27, 2014

Salinas Valley

April 25-27, 2014

Santa Cruz

April 25-27, 2014

Greater Phoenix Area

May 23-25, 2014

Salinas Valley

November 14-16, 2014

Women's Weekends

WCIC-Gilroy/Morgan Hill

April 12-13, 2014

WCIC-Fresno

August 22-24, 2014

Christians in Commerce News

**CIC 2014 Annual
Conference**

**Salinas Challenge
Weekend**

**Uganda Leaders'
Spiritual Renewal
Program**

Please send your stories to:
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Falls Church, VA 22042

Life Pleasing to God

week 1

A Call to Holiness

by: David Rall

Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. (Hebrews 12:14-15)

Due to my job situation, I accepted a position in Washington, D.C. requiring me to be away from my family in Arizona for long periods. It was a tough decision, but I sensed a call from the Lord to dedicate myself fully and grow in holiness during this time.

I have been blessed with many examples of others in Christians in Commerce who help me understand what a holy life looks like. I take frequent trips home and recently experienced a full day of examples that not only blessed me, but enabled me to be a blessing to someone else.

On my first flight, I sat in an aisle seat and a nun in a habit sat in the window seat. A young man came and sat between us. The sister was about the same age as this young man. In no time, he was asking questions about her faith.

She openly discussed her vows and her calling from the Lord. For two hours they talked. I never got a chance to interject any questions or comments, but what a joy it was to observe someone so young hear that calling and commit themselves fully to God.

As I started the next flight, I was reminded of John Mooney talking about God working out his divine plan through delayed flights and the people he puts in our path. My flight turned out to be overbooked so I accepted a delayed flight. This flight would stop in Las Vegas and would mean two more segments; two more people I would meet.

I left Milwaukee on a full flight and was able to find a middle seat next to a petite elderly lady with a set of tennis racquets at her feet. As we started talking about tennis, I soon realized she played on the professional circuit.

She not only knew but also had played with tennis legends like

McEnroe, Connors, and Evert. She didn't waste any time before she started to discuss her zeal for the Lord and the mission she felt called to on the tennis court.

She talked about the simple message she always gave to others: "As Christ was being led to be crucified, they whipped him, beat him, spit on him and nailed him to a cross. There on the cross were two criminals with him. One continued to ridicule and curse him; the other showed compassion and sorrow... These two people represent all of humanity. Which of these two represents you?"

The next flight left immediately from Las Vegas. I was in an empty row until the last few minutes when a young lady sat down. It was easy to start a conversation. A simple question about her children was all it took. She shared how she loved her kids but had to leave their father.

She was flying to Phoenix to meet her boyfriend. She expressed she felt isolated and rejected as a single divorced woman at her church. I shared the story of the woman at the well and how Jesus accepts everyone no matter what has happened. I then relayed the story that the tennis player had shared with me on the last flight. I asked her which person represented her.

She said that I talked just like her boyfriend. He had gotten her to start reading the bible when they first met and he continues reading it with her whenever they meet. She was very excited to talk about what they were reading and what it meant to her. It was a quick 45-minute flight but as I was leaving baggage claim, I could hear her talking to her boyfriend with joy in her voice about the conversation we had.

David and Vicki Rall live in Glendale, AZ. They have been married 35 years and have four children. David is a software development manager with Lockheed Martin and is currently working in the Crystal City offices in VA. David has been involved with CIC since 2002. He can be reached at david.rall@usralls.org.

Pray: Thank you, Lord, for those who have been role models for sharing my faith and living a holy life. I pray that I can remain true to the calling you have given me.

Reflect: How have those you have met along your journey impacted your life and brought you closer to the Lord? How have you seen the Lord through the life of another?

Discuss: Where are you on your path to holiness? What does holiness mean to you? Why is it important?

Men's April Reflections

week 2

Personal Sacrifice

by: Bart Tesoriero

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." (Psalm 91:1-2)

Ever since childhood I have struggled with fear. My mom told me that I even cried in my baby carriage whenever I heard a dog bark!

Recently I went through a time when I felt almost constantly barraged by feelings of anxiety, fear, and uncertainty, both at work and at home. I spent time in prayer every morning, rebuked the spirit of fear and asked others for prayer. All these actions helped, but still the feelings plagued me.

In our Leadership Institute, John Mooney taught us to personalize Psalm 91 by inserting our name wherever applicable. So I prayed, "Bart, who dwells in the shelter of the Most High, will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. Bart will say of the Lord, 'He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.' In you Bart places (his) trust. Surely you will save him from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence..." I did this sometimes many times a day. I gradually felt myself entering that place of inner refuge and, in due time, the oppression lifted.

In Sarah Young's book, Jesus Calling, Jesus says to us, "I am with you in all that you do... concerned with every detail of your life... However, your awareness of my presence falters and flickers. Learn to look steadily at me in all your moments and all your circumstances."

The Lord is teaching me to find my refuge more consistently in him and in his Word, which cannot be broken. I now check in with him more often. I'm anxious less, and enjoying it more!

Pray: Dear God, I can't. You can.
Help me to let go and trust you!

Reflect: God is our refuge and strength. But how do I enter this refuge? How do I remain there?
How can I abide in him more consistently?

Discuss: When was the last time you felt fearful or anxious? What did you do? How did that work for you? What, if anything, would you do differently?

week 3

Making a Difference in the Workplace

by: Bart Tesoriero

And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains... but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a still, small voice. (1 Kings 19:11-12)

We are blessed in our company with a personable, efficient and helpful receptionist whom I shall refer to as Edith. She doubles as our CEO's administrative assistant, which is no small task!

Edith greets us as we come through the doors each weekday morning at Christian Brands. Over the course of the past year, Edith and I have become friends. On a recent Wednesday morning I paused to visit with her for just a few moments. In our Christians in Commerce meeting earlier that day, we had discussed being open and obedient to God's whisper in our hearts. As we visited, I heard "a still, small voice" telling me to focus on Edith and give her my full attention.

In the middle of our conversation, Edith's supervisor walked up to her desk with a sheaf of papers for her. My first impulse was to go on my way. But again, I felt a gentle impression to stay put, even if it meant feeling a bit uncomfortable because her supervisor had appeared.

In a moment, the supervisor walked away. Edith gratefully said to me, "Thank you for not walking away. You affirmed me as a person of worth who has a right to share a few words with a coworker without trying to look busy all the time."

I marveled inwardly at the love of God for Edith that he would be so considerate of her feelings. I praise God for his care for each of us, a care that will make a difference not only in our workplace but also in our hearts.

Pray: Dear God, help me to be slow to speak and swift to hear, especially when you speak!

Reflect: How am I at listening? Do I focus on the speaker as if they were the only one in the room, or do I allow my thoughts to wander?

Discuss: When was the last time you really listened to someone? What did you do to help you focus? Did you listen to their words only, or could you also sense a bit of their heart?

Men's April Reflections

(continued)

week 4

Holding Each Other Accountable

by: Bart Tesoriero

Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken. (Ecclesiastes 4:12)

It was the day after Thanksgiving. I had a rare day off, and my "To Do" list was so long it was even broken into columns! As I perused the list, trying to discern what to do first, I felt a growing angst that was quickly morphing into downright discomfort.

For the past six years or so, I have participated in a 12-step recovery group. One of the things I've discovered about myself is that unattended anxiety can lead to more ominous things such as negative behavior and acting out. I have learned that I cannot afford the luxury of either anxiety or anger. I need to surrender them both to the Lord.

Thus, on this beautiful Friday, I decided to take a walk and pray. As I did so, I realized it would be good to call my 12-step sponsor, who is also a believer. It felt good just to talk to someone else about my feelings. He helped me to see that in allowing my list of tasks to come between me and the peace of Christ, I had inadvertently broken the first commandment: "You shall not have strange gods before me."

In his mercy, the Lord helped me to repent and to realize that our communion with him is what is most important. Time with him is my greatest treasure. When I did that, I was able to return to my list with the assurance that I was not alone, and the Lord would show me what to do, how to do it and when it needed to be done! I am so grateful that the Lord provided my brother to whom I could turn for support and strength in my hour of need.

Bart Tesoriero has been a member of CIC since attending a Challenge Weekend in 1989. Bart and his wife Brenda have been married for 28 years and are the parents of Josh, Teresa, Paula, and Hannah. Bart is the Book Editor for Christian Brands Company in Phoenix, Arizona, and can be reached at bart@samarcy.com.

Pray: Dear God, forgive me for allowing anything to come between you and me.

Reflect: In this past week, when have I chosen to surrender my tasks to Jesus, asking his help? When have I failed to do so?

Discuss: Share a time when you felt yourself moving towards a precarious place of anxious, angry or fearful feelings. What did you do to channel these feelings toward the Lord? What happened?

2014 Consolidated Income/Expense Projection

Brothers and Sisters,

As promised, each year we provide our income and expense projections for the current year to date in the April issue. We hope CIC has given you a reason to help meet our goals for 2014. People need to know they are loved and Jesus provides that through CIC. We are making a difference in the marketplace and, ultimately, in people's lives! Thank you and God bless you.

Terry Cassell, President

| | Operations 2013 | Mission 2013 | Operating Budget 2014 | Mission Budget 2014 |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| INCOME | | | | |
| Local Chapter Income* | \$128,250.00 | \$0.00 | \$135,250.00 | \$0.00 |
| Chapter Pledges | 30,390.00 | 0.00 | 33,429.00 | 0.00 |
| Membership Gifts | 194,310.00 | 0.00 | 213,741.00 | 0.00 |
| Foundation Gifts | 40,000.00 | 160,000.00 | 40,000.00 | 135,000.00 |
| Other Income | 44,514.00 | 0.00 | 46,022.00 | 0.00 |
| Total Income | \$437,464.00 | \$160,000.00 | \$468,442.00 | \$135,000.00 |
| EXPENSE | | | | |
| | \$448,726.00 | \$133,749.00 | \$434,325.00 | \$228,114.00 |

*These funds are for local chapter use only (Rental space, Challenge Weekends, fundraisers, insurance, etc.); not used by the national office.

Please contact our office if you need any additional details.

Women's April Reflections

week 2

Personal Sacrifice

by: Beky Hazelton

... let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12:1-2)

Growing up, in Sunday school, it seemed that the correct answer to any question posed by the teacher was "God" or "Jesus". In life as an adult, it turns out that is also the case. There have been countless times when I have felt like saying, "I don't want to run this race", not because it was not the right race, but because I just didn't want to run or I wanted the race to be different.

Sometimes the race before us is something fairly simple. We recently had two occasions to have international students over for dinner. It involved being careful about dietary restrictions, picking them up and taking them home because they didn't have cars, and encountering a few unexpected hurdles throughout the evening. Yet the chance to be Christ to those who have little to no opportunities to even meet a Christian in their own countries was one that could not be passed up.

Almost a year ago, my mother passed away as a result of Alzheimer's disease. During the ten years of her illness, there were so many times I did not want to be running that race.

So how do we find the strength and courage to run a race we do not want to run? The answer is found in Hebrews 12:1-2. "Fixing our eyes on Jesus", we remember his sacrifice for us. He knew what was coming but he did what he did not want to do (remember the Garden of Gethsemane) and look at the outcome! The worst injustice in the history of the world was turned into the greatest triumph. Jesus, the perfect God made man, knows our weakness and frailty. He will help us run the race marked out for us.

Pray: Holy Father, thank you for sending Jesus to be our Savior and example. Thank you for giving us your Holy Spirit to empower us to do what we cannot do on our own. Thank for the race you have marked out for us. Give us eyes that are fixed on Jesus. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Reflect: When have you persevered in a race and found God faithful?

Discuss: How does looking over at someone else's race distract and hinder us?

week 3

Redeeming Our Father's Creation

by: Beky Hazelton

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. (Ephesians 2:10)

Often when we think about having an impact on this world, we think about grand schemes. There is nothing wrong with wanting to do great things for God if our motives are pure. However, not everyone is in a position to "go big". There are seasons of life that limit the scope of our impact and certainly as we age, that scope is very likely to be increasingly limited. The problem is that we are very likely to get caught up in the quantity of good works rather than the attitude of humility we should have, and a consistency that should be evident in every season.

My parents have been a great example of this consistency throughout my life. As a pastor and pastor's wife, and later in the long-term care field, they both had a huge impact on people's lives. There is no doubt that this world is a better place for many hundreds of people because of the way they lived their lives, based on a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

However, the most remarkable thing to me is the impact they had as their world became smaller and smaller. They have always been kind, grateful people. But when they moved into assisted living and began needing more help, instead of being resentful, they became more grateful. I never saw them pass up an opportunity to thank the staff for helping them. If they passed a staff member in the hall, they thanked them for standing there! Since my mom's passing, my dad still goes out of his way very regularly to both thank and affirm those who care for him. Even as his world has narrowed to the size of one room, he has an impact for the Kingdom of God on those who enter it, and no one leaves without a word of encouragement from him. That is a life-long habit.

Pray: Holy Father, you have given us so much, and most precious of all, you have given us your Son, Jesus. Open our eyes to see all we should be thankful for. Amen.

Reflect: What are your life-long habits? Will they be ones that enable you to accomplish God's good works even when you are in a rough season?

Discuss: How can you broaden and make more consistent your practice of gratitude and encouragement?

Women's April Reflections

(Continued)

week 4

The Fruits of Our Relationships as Sisters

by: Beky Hazelton

Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you. (2 Corinthians 13:11)

As Christians, we have been given many wonderful gifts, or as Satan might see them, weapons in the spiritual war we find ourselves in. We have been given Jesus, who has given us his righteousness. We have been filled with the Holy Spirit, empowering us to do what we cannot do on our own. We have been given the Body of Christ, the Church, in which we share in worship, teaching and encouragement. Within that body, we have been given a more specific gift, that of sisterhood.

Sisterhood is something that goes beyond friendship, in fact supercedes friendship. It is not just common interests, values, or family configurations. It is not convenient. It is the commitment to being there to encourage, lift up, gently correct and fill in the gaps for the sister in Christ that God puts in our path.

This sisterhood can mean looking hard for ways to be thankful for a sister we find difficult to be with (Think how difficult we often are for God!). It can mean sacrificing time to do something hard (e.g. helping a sister clean out her attic). It can mean emphasizing our common bonds when issues of theology, worship or even lifestyle get in the way of our love for one another. It always means making room in our lives for the needs of another, and doing it in a way that is meaningful to her.

Sisterhood is also a common commitment to helping one another become more Christ-like. It means elevating the conversation so there is never a hint of gossip. It means helping each to always assume the best. Our sisters encourage us to do good in leading by example.

Recently, we have been sharing the book One Thousand Gifts by Ann Voskamp in our group. It is a sisterly exhortation to lead more thankful lives. We have been working at it together and seeing some progress! Don't pass up the opportunity to use this precious gift God has given us of sisterhood.

Beky Hazelton is a wife of 34 years to her high school sweetheart, David. They are the parents of three adult children and one elderly cat. They are blessed to be part of two wonderful faith communities, Cornerstone Church and The People of Praise. Beky's background is in social work and elementary education, but her last several years have been spent caring for her elderly parents and holding various positions of leadership for women's outreach at her church. Beky can be reached at beky.hazelton@gmail.com.

Hope for the Workplace – Christ in You by Bill Dalgetty: Special Offer

Until April 20th, receive a FREE eBook copy of Hope for the Workplace — Christ in You (a \$9.95 value) with the purchase of the print version at the regular price of \$14.95.

Bill Dalgetty, former Christians in Commerce President and Chairman of the Board, draws from his extensive experience in business and ministry to examine the challenges faced by Christians seeking to live out their faith in today's workplace. Readers will discover practical tips for:

- Dealing with a difficult boss or colleague
- Maintaining integrity and ethics in business decisions
- Balancing family and career
- Seeking excellence in one's work
- Caring for co-workers

To purchase the book, please visit www.zacchaeuspublications.com.

* All income from the book is being donated to Christians in Commerce.

Pray: Holy Father, thank you for the Body of Christ. Help me to fully function within it to be a light and encouragement to my sisters. Amen.

Reflect: What is your favorite personal example of sisters in Christ helping one another?

Discuss: How can we create even more examples?

Christians in Commerce NEWS

Christians in Commerce
Prayer

"Live the Life" CIC 2014 Annual Conference

Mark your calendars!

We are pleased to announce the theme of our upcoming 2014 Annual Conference: "Live the Life". The conference will take place October 17-18, 2014 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in San Jose, CA.

Salinas Challenge Weekend

By: Mike Marcroft

The Salinas Valley Chapter hosted a Challenge Weekend from January 31-February 2, 2014. From the opening talk, Tony Brigantino was direct, from the heart, and had a story to tell that appealed to the whole group.

"What Stands in the Way?", delivered by Clem Richardson, brought a reminder of the reality of sin, the constant fight we face, and the repentance we seek to overcome our sinful nature.

Steve Church's presentation of "Called to Jesus" was very sincere and showed how Christ works on our hearts, oftentimes causing unexpected changes.

The "Appointment with God" talk from Jake Thorup was a reminder that we mustn't let distractions keep us from the most important relationship in our lives.

Jim Fink read a moving rendition from St. Luke that helped us to discover who Jesus is in any person God places in our lives.

Sunday's worship service struck many with incredible force in hearing David Balch's family testimony and subsequent hope that he found after the tragic loss of his son.

"Stewards of Creation" was well spoken by Mark Weber, signifying our responsibility to do our part in the circumstances we face.

"Being Christ in the Workplace" was Mike Lauritson's look at his "giving back" through his work at the Juvenile Hall fellowship as simply another way to be a successful C.I.C. soldier in Christ!

Chris Bunn's comments on the critical need to involve men in spreading the Word were an inspirational highlight.

I think we all appreciated the holiness we experienced at the San Antonio Mission and how God is calling us to change our hearts!

Uganda Leaders' Spiritual Renewal Program

By: Aloysius Mugisa

On January 10th-11th we did a Leaders' Spiritual Renewal, and the Lord mightily blessed the program. The theme was "New Year's Resolution to Serve the Lord". There were 45 attendees.

Praise and worship was very powerful and vibrant. We could powerfully feel the Lord's presence! It was a wonderful experience for the leaders to be together with the Lord.

At the end of the program, participants testified about how the Lord had moved them. A lady called Constance said she could not have started the year better than by getting the opportunity to make a New Year's commitment to live a life worthy of her calling.

Another said, "I feel challenged afresh, but also reinvigorated to go forth and bear fruit that will last. I want to promise God that whatever I failed to do last year, I will do this year..."

We thank the Lord that the CIC ministry in Uganda is growing!

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

Expanding the Kingdom by being Christ in the workplace.

Mission

We encourage and equip Christians to live the life of Christ by releasing the power of the Holy Spirit that is in them. We challenge them to be Christ to the people and circumstances in their workplaces by bringing his truth, love, healing, justice and excellence to the marketplace.

Values

As Christians in Commerce, we are an ecumenical organization united with the body of Christ to:

- Know, love and serve God and others
- Embrace the beliefs of the Nicene Creed
- Release the power of the Holy Spirit in worship and work
- Share the time, talents and resources God has entrusted to us
- Enrich member participation in prayer, scripture, family and church life



Christ
ALIVE!

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

www.christiansincommerce.org



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