



Challenge Newsletter

Being Christ in the Workplace

Galatians
2:20

February, 2014

Christ in the Workplace

"They Know We Are Christians by Our Love"

by: Bud Rose

Every so often we may find a person in our workplace, church, or family who might complain frequently, argue at the drop of a hat, or slander others. We may even need to stand ready to alert this individual, if they begin sharing inappropriately about another, that we really don't want to hear anything that harms another's reputation.

A few months ago, I received a phone call from someone whom I had previously told I would not listen to his sharing about others' faults. I answered the phone and the caller immediately started to gossip about someone. I hesitated, was caught off guard, but was already aware of the information since the individual involved had already told me.

I thought for a moment and responded with, "Really?" Bad choice! The caller actually knew I was aware of the situation he was discussing and assumed from my response that I was pretending not to know. He was very angry with me, calling me a liar, etc. The call ended in a very disturbing manner.

That night, I had trouble sleeping, knowing I was in the wrong, but not sure why. My motive had been to change the subject. However, I don't recommend using the word "really" to effect that change. It was clear that the caller was deeply offended and that I was the villain in his mind. What I should have done was to take my old stance on the issue by saying, "I am not interested in discussing this person's faults."

I had been drawn in by not asking the Holy Spirit to guide me. Instead, I responded by whipping out a quick response that could have had many meanings. I believe the Lord was teaching me a lesson.

I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves. (Matthew 10:16)

Many years ago, John Chrysostom wrote about this verse, "The Lord insisted on the cleverness of a snake so that deadly wounds might be avoided, and he insisted on the innocence of the dove so that revenge might not be taken on those who injure or lay traps for you. Cleverness is useless without innocence."

I had jumped ahead of the Holy Spirit, my innocence. So, I was still confused about what to apologize for. I felt like the Lord led me to ask forgiveness for using the word, "Really", which caused this person much grief and anxiety.

It didn't really matter what my intention was; I had confused him. I told him I was very sorry and asked his forgiveness, which was granted. I was set free from the bondage of the enemy and his cleverness. I thank the Holy Spirit for guiding me through this trial and lesson in loving others.

Cyril ("Bud") Rose is a father of six children, 30 grandchildren and has been blessed with a great Spirit-filled wife for over 51 years. Residing in South Bend, IN, Bud oversees the building of houses for the poor in Shreveport, LA. He is a co-founder of CIC. He can be reached at crose39@gmail.com.

Upcoming Events

Men's Weekends

Salinas Valley
January 31-February 2, 2014

Twin Cities
February 7-8, 2014

Palm Desert/Palm Springs
March 21 -23 2014
Sacramento
March 28-30, 2014

Women's Weekends

WCIC-Palm Desert
February 7-8, 2014
WCIC-Central Coast
April 11-13, 2014

Christians in Commerce

News

Sacramento Commuter CWE

Salinas Spanish CWE

Duluth Challenge Weekend

Uganda Update

Please send your stories to:

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7515 Lee Highway
Falls Church, VA 22042

Life Pleasing to God

week 1

"Answering the Call"

by: Dan Trevino

Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 3:13-14, NASB)

Two years ago this week, a dear CIC brother, Deacon Mike Kronschnabel, went home to the Lord. Mike greatly influenced my life through the personal interest he took in mentoring me in many ways and how he lived a life full of purpose. He served our country with distinction as a communications specialist until his retirement, was a devoted family man married for over 50 years and actively served the church in his vocation and ministry.

Mike lost his father in an industrial accident at a very young age and that void in his life compelled him to encourage all to seek out that special enduring relationship that comes from personally knowing our Lord. Mike's passion focused on helping men go deeper in their spirituality and serving those in prison because he was sensitive to their hopelessness and abandonment. As Mike realized his health was failing, it grieved him that he could no longer minister to those he cared about so profoundly. He faithfully continued to carry out his mission and purpose by sharing his love of scripture, prayer and wisdom for as long as he could.

As believers, we all have a desire to serve God, but how often do we contemplate our purpose? Are we aware of the spiritual gifts that have been bestowed upon us? Do we ask the Holy Spirit how we can best serve in building his kingdom by using those gifts? Are we attentive to our past life experiences that can impact our calling?

At 56 years old, my life has changed significantly from where I was just seven years ago. Events and circumstances in my faith, family, career and vocation have brought new meaning. My energies are being redirected to make the most effective impact that aligns with my purpose. Values such as perseverance, integrity, obedience and accountability have prepared and

guided me to continue following my desire to press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

For the past three years, I've had the honor of serving as board president of a ministry that provides evening meals to the homeless and working poor as its primary mission. My affinity and close association with Paz de Cristo goes back many years when I found myself in need while struggling to start a business after losing my job and it was there to graciously provide assistance.

The ministry daily provides first-rate services and has established a firm foundation from which to do more for those we are called to serve. Paz's vision for the future was presented at an event last fall that addressed recently expanded programs to complement its core services designed to empower our guests toward achieving independence, dignity and self-respect. A survey revealed there is an interest and big need to help bring job opportunities to the area since employment starts people on the path to self-reliance.

This contemplated job creation and development project is an ambitious undertaking that will take a real commitment of time, energy and expertise to launch. In my natural thinking, I'm conflicted as to whether I can participate on this committee given my other responsibilities. But as I see God beginning to open doors by inspiring divine appointments of good people coming together, I will continue to offer up the administrative gift that has served me throughout my career.

If the Holy Spirit calls us to move forward, we can be assured that the Lord will equip, anoint and provide us with everything we need to accomplish the purpose that lies ahead. Thank you, Father, for preparing us in the journey thus far for even greater things to come.

Dan and Karen Trevino live in Chandler, AZ and have been married for 32 years. They have three children and a granddaughter. Dan has been involved with the Mesa Chapter for 18 years and has served in various capacities. He is co-founder of a paint technology company and is the current board president of Paz de Cristo Community Outreach Center. Dan can be reached at dktrevino@cox.net.

Pray: Lord, let me not be **complacent** in the things I have **accomplished**, but **always be a willing instrument to be used for your glory.**

Reflect: Who in your life has been an inspiration that has influenced you to press onward despite challenges?

Discuss: Share with each other what the Lord is asking you to do for his kingdom in your current state of life. What experiences have you had that motivate your desire to impact the world?

Men's February Reflections

week 2

Personal Sacrifice

by: Gary Brown

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him and he will make straight your paths. (Proverbs 3:5-6)

Seven years ago it was my desire to start a new business. There was extensive time spent doing due diligence. I promised God no action would be taken until he gave a clear sign if or when it was okay to begin. My sincere desire was to trust God fully and submit to his will. After a few months of praying diligently, a clear sign did arrive, so I quit my job and started. The venture succeeded.

Then the business hit a roadblock after year six. Our successful marketing hit a wall and stopped working and I struggled with doubt and worry. My prayers for help appeared to go unanswered. It was perplexing. Why had God responded affirmatively for me to start the business only to ignore my pleas now? An answer finally came - just not the one I anticipated. The Holy Spirit revealed that my relationship with Jesus had become more intellectual than from the heart.

Our intellect can cause us to lean on our own understanding and we forget how to surrender in the process. We go through the motions of faith, believing we are doing everything a devoted Christian is called to do. During the past seven years I had attended church faithfully, prayed and read a lot of scripture. I had encouraged and prayed with others, tithed my money and volunteered my time. What else could Jesus possibly expect of me?

We must always be on guard against the flesh. Intellectually, we understand Jesus to be King, Master, Savior and Authority. But in our heart we do not always live this truth. We fall into behavioral habits that mirror how the Pharisees lived; on the outside everything appears wonderful.

Attending church, quoting scripture forwards and backwards, volunteering our time and tithing do not make us the Christian men and women God desires. Surrendering to his will does. Understanding the difference is key.

week 3

Making a Difference in the Workplace

by: Gary Brown

Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. (Matthew 7: 1-2)

Having my faith and beliefs attacked by another Christian was jolting. A realtor friend asked me to host an open house on her behalf. The homeowners, a retired couple, remained home during the event and we became acquainted. They joyfully shared stories of co-founding a church. Rightfully, they were proud of what they had accomplished and I applauded their success and tenacity.

The husband then asked what my denomination was. Upon hearing my answer his demeanor changed and he began verbally attacking my faith without mincing words. It surprised me greatly because these are genuinely nice people, caring and generous. At no time did they ask questions about my faith or beliefs so we could at least have a dialogue. I would have welcomed that.

My first instinct was to honor their relationship with the other realtor so I listened quietly and prayed. As he appeared near conclusion I respectfully offered a few scriptures in reply so as to not give the impression that my silence was an acceptance of his words. There were no feelings of anger, only compassion for his misguided actions.

The experience caused me to wonder about the potential impact of this behavior. What if this had been directed at someone new in his or her Christian faith or someone whose faith was on shaky ground? Might it perhaps cause a young believer to question the Christian faith and his or her relationship with Jesus? How does faith bashing help demonstrate the life and teachings of our Lord and Savior? We should always strive for our behavior and words to tell the story of Christ's love and leave the judging to him.

Pray: Help me, Jesus, to understand what it means to surrender.

Reflect: Is my relationship with Jesus intellectual or based on surrender? Do I understand the difference?

Discuss: How do I overcome an overly intellectual relationship with Jesus?

Pray: Please, Lord, help me keep my heart and mind free from judgment.

Reflect: What commonalities do our differing traditions share?

Discuss: What is faith bashing? Do I engage in this practice? On a positive approach, how can I build unity between brothers and sisters of other Christian traditions?

Men's February Reflections

(continued)

week 4

Holding Each Other Accountable

by: Gary Brown

Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." (Matthew 19:26)

My primary business is insurance brokerage. An idea came to me during prayer to add Real Estate to my business practice. The initial excitements faded as doubts crept in. How would I muster the energy to attend 90 hours of class time on top of running the insurance business and still have time to study, plus keep all my other commitments? With God all things are possible.

Some days were a grind, balancing the demands of the job with attending classes, coupled with extensive studying at night. After only the second day I returned home and informed my wife that the task seemed too hard and perhaps I should just quit. My mind was already feeling old and tired. She encouraged me to continue, as did friends. The material was exhaustive. Some days my head hurt from an overflow of information.

The joy of passing the exam on the first try felt short lived. Now it was on to learning the nuances of a highly regulated industry. How could I possibly understand everything needed to succeed and properly represent clients? Thankfully a realtor friend took me under her wing, mentoring me. Today we partner on cases together. With God all things are possible.

One bible scripture promises that in life we will have trouble. God is more than happy to help us through our troubles if we only give in to his will. Too often we succumb to fear, doubt and worry and remain stuck in those dark places.

When life gives us lemons we may think that God does not love us or hear our pleas, particularly when our prayers are not answered quickly. Usually there is a lesson involved. God is interested in our spiritual growth, our surrender and commitment to him. He allows us to walk in our struggles until we figure it out. The answer often rests in trusting that with him all things are indeed possible.

Gary Brown is a Past-President of the Mesa Chapter. He has been a member of CIC for six years. He is married to Tracy, his wife of 22 years, and has two children ages 22 and 18. Gary is the owner of Choice Insurance of Arizona, an independent insurance agency. Gary can be reached at (480) 659-0229 or via e-mail at gary@choicearizona.com.

Pray: Father, help me to understand that with you all things are possible.

Reflect: In what areas of my life do I not trust the Lord completely? What fears, anxieties or past experiences hold me back?

Discuss: What are the experiences and steps we've taken that have helped us move to a place of deeper trust in Jesus? How can we be a support to each other during these times of growth?

Hope for the Workplace – Christ in You by Bill Dalgetty

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, visit the Zacchaeus Publications website at www.zacchaeuspublications.com.

* Bill has generously offered to donate all profits from the sales of this book to the ongoing ministry of Christians in Commerce.

Women's February Reflections

week 2

Personal Sacrifice

by: Brenda Fox

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. (Hebrews 11:1)

After losing my job in March 2012, I was broke, discouraged and burned out. I felt like I needed something different. A few months later, a good friend presented a business opportunity for me to consider. I would be in business for myself yet working with a team. I was excited and said, "Yes!" I knew it would take some personal growth for me to succeed, but I was up for the challenge. The timing seemed right and from the Lord. I had just started a new position one month prior, which ended up consuming a lot of my energy. I was not able to put much effort into my new and exciting business venture. For the past year however, I've been attending training sessions and getting excited about it again.

I was booked to attend another session in Kentucky when I realized it was on the same weekend as our WCIC Challenge Weekend. I was one of two ladies organizing it and would have to be there. I was so disappointed! I had become recharged and excited to get my business going and could see how the Lord would use it to further his kingdom. But I knew I needed to keep my commitment to my WCIC sisters and to the Lord, especially since we've been seeing God bless us in new and refreshing ways through our chapter. So I sold my ticket and am choosing to have faith that the Lord will bless my personal sacrifice of giving up one good thing for another good thing. I believe the Lord will bring "things hoped for" in both the Challenge Weekend and in my personal business. All for his glory!

Pray: Lord, please give us the courage to put ourselves aside and not falter in our commitments to you or to others. As we sacrifice for you and others, please increase our faith to be certain of things unseen.

Reflect: When have you had to make a decision about two positive things that you know would have glorified God? Was this an easy or hard decision?

Discuss: How has making a personal sacrifice blessed others as well as yourself?

week 3

Redeeming Our Father's Creation

by: Brenda Fox

Humble yourselves, therefore under God's mighty hand and he will lift you up in due time. (1 Peter 5:6)

One of my family members decided to cut off all contact with the rest of us after getting married. We had no idea why, though we had our assumptions. This person made no attempt to communicate with us all those years. I was hurt, angry and confused.

My parents divorced when I was 24 and my siblings were a few years younger, leaving us in a state of shock. I had gone to therapy several times over the years to work on myself and to heal from the repercussions of the divorce.

A few years ago I decided to start praying for healing in my family tree. Last October, my mother got a letter from the estranged family member, whose spouse was, sadly, dying of cancer. This family member asked my mother for money and for sympathy, still giving no explanation for the past, expecting to just be accepted back into the fold. I found myself angry, yet wondered if this was God's way of bringing about the healing I'd been praying for.

I humbled myself and contacted the family member through Facebook to give my condolences. The spouse passed away three months later. This past October we saw each other for the first time in 19 years when I went back to Chicago to celebrate my mother's 80th birthday. Seeing one another felt odd because we were like strangers.

I continue to need the Lord's help and healing for this situation. However, the Lord is humbling me to encourage this person to go back to church, find Christian support and find the resources needed to heal. I trust that the Lord will lift me up in due time with this estranged relationship.

Pray: Lord, help us to humble ourselves when we find ourselves in painful situations with family members. Help us to see the work that you want to do in healing our families.

Reflect: What family or other relationships do you struggle with when it comes to being humble before the Lord?

Discuss: What action can you take to humble yourself for the sake of healing in your relationships?

Women's February Reflections

(Continued)

week 4

The Fruits of Our Relationships as Sisters

by: Brenda Fox

A friend loves at all times. (Proverbs 17: 17)

The Phoenix Chapter of WCIC has been around for a long time now. I remember when it was just a few women coming together, wondering if we would ever get it off the ground. In the early days, I had a job that took me an hour and a half to get home from and would call the Chapter President to see if she was going to be at the meeting on Tuesday night. What a relief to know that she would be there! There were many weeks where it was just the two of us at the chapter meeting. She and I met at my first WCIC Challenge Weekend and were partners in the Emmaus Walk. We hit it off instantly.

During those chapter nights where it was just the two of us we would question what God was doing because nobody else came. However, we soon discovered that God's plan was for our friendship to cement into a blessed and fruitful one. On my long drive to work, there would be times where she and I would have what we called "drive time." We'd call each other to chat for a few minutes to check up on each other and ask how we might pray for one another. What a blessing to know that my WCIC sister had my back in prayer as I headed in to work!

Today, although we are at different places in our lives - I being single with no kids and she being a working mom - the Lord has blessed us with a unique bond. We have been there for each other in times of family crisis, times for comfort and encouragement, and have spoken the truth to one another in love. She is a friend whom I consider one of my "go-to girls" in times of need, encouragement, prayer, love and laughter. It's been exciting to see how the Lord has been working in our lives and in our friendship over the years. Thank you, WCIC!

Brenda Fox lives in Tempe, AZ and is a member of the WCIC-Phoenix Chapter. She is an Art Therapist, Life Coach, and an Iconographer. Brenda teaches iconography workshops around the country, and owns Art for Living Enterprises, LLC. She has been involved in WCIC from its beginning over 13 years ago. Brenda can be reached at BJFox7600@aol.com.

CIC QRC Code

Attention, Smartphone users! On the back of this newsletter you will notice what looks like a barcode beneath our web address. Use this image to pull up the newsletter in our website by scanning it with your phone using a barcode scanning application. Then share it with your friends!

Newsletter Reminder Notice

To those of you who responded to our 2013 and/or 2014 Member Commitment Campaign, thank you, you will continue to receive the Challenge Newsletter via mail. As a reminder, if you did not complete a Member Commitment Form, you will no longer be receiving a newsletter via the mail. If you desire to continue receiving it in the mail, please complete a 2014 Member Commitment Form online or fax or mail it to the CIC Office. The form can be found at www.christiansincommerce.org at the bottom left of our homepage. In addition, you have the option of making a prayer and/or service pledge if you are unable to contribute financially. Thank you!

Pray: Lord, bring to mind friends who have spoken into our lives and brought us closer to you. Show us how we might reach out in thanksgiving to them this week.

Reflect: Think of a time where God surprised you by bringing a new Christ-like friendship into your life when you least expected it.

Discuss: Share how that friend was Christ to you. How did she or he bless you?

Christians in Commerce

NEWS

**Christians in Commerce
Prayer**

Sacramento Commuter CWE

By: Mike Jones

The Sacramento Chapter held its second commuter weekend on September 6th and 7th at St. Clare Parish in Roseville, CA. There were a total of 22 men in attendance, four of whom were attending for the first time. Mike Conley from the San Jose Chapter attended with his brother Chuck. It was Chuck's first weekend and he got to see his brother present Talk Four!

Here are some of the comments from the men attending the weekend:

"I was privileged to hear many inspiring stories."

"I was able to hear God."

"I (was) reminded (that) we are all in the same boat, walking together in our walk with the Lord."

"I saw some powerful things happening."

"Talk Six was an awesome talk; one of the best I've experienced on a weekend."

"I enjoyed being prayed over."

"(I) learned about the Holy Spirit and how he works in my life. And receiving the Holy Spirit – awesome experience!"

"I was able to move past mental blocks that had frustrated me in the past."

Salinas Spanish CWE

By: Chris Bunn

Ten men attended the Spanish Challenge Weekend at Ranchito Buena Vista the weekend of September 20th. We had one first-time attendee and many second and third-timers. Our new man to CIC said, "I am an example of your faithfulness. Don't stop inviting men!"

Though small, the weekend had a powerful effect on all participants. Many men were facing serious personal struggles, including a father who had just lost his daughter. The Holy Spirit worked marvelously, bringing insight, healing and encouragement to all.

Other comments included:
"For me it was talks from the heart.

I would have not stayed in CIC if I didn't think these men were genuine."

"I respect more and more the structure of CIC. It is always the same message but reinforced in so many ways through all the different speakers."

"I am going away with my tank full!"

"Get prepared! God wants to us to multiply his laborers."

Duluth Challenge Weekend



The Duluth Chapter held a Challenge Weekend at Camp Miller from September 27th-28th. Nine men participated in the weekend and two of them were first-timers.

One of the first-time attendees said that he appreciated being able to connect with other men's stories, receiving prayer for direction, participating in the discussions, and having time to think and pray. The other new participant wrote that the weekend had taught him to "put your trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, not to worry, (and) put everything in his hands. His will be done!" He also described the group discussions as "very informing".

Praise God for the work he is doing!

Uganda Update

Many exciting new events have recently taken place in the Uganda chapters as our brothers and sisters continue to work to build the kingdom in Africa! You can read all about them by going to the Uganda CIC home page:

www.christiansincommerce.org/uganda

The various events are listed on the left. Click on one to read the overview.

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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