



CHRISTIANS in COMMERCE

Challenge Newsletter

Being Christ in the Workplace

Galatians
2:20

March, 2014

Christ in the Workplace

Why Jesus?

by: Greg Aitkens

Recently, I attended a Challenge Weekend sponsored by the Orange County Chapter. These weekends are always wonderful for gaining new insights about our lives in Christ and how to grow or improve upon what we are doing for Christ and others.

A "nugget" I received on this weekend had to do with evangelizing our children. I realized I had not done enough with regard to my own children who are now all grown adults. While I regularly reach out to complete strangers to invite them into Christian life, I seem to "drop the ball" with my own kids.

I was praying about next steps in communicating with our children. It occurred to me to begin by looking at why I believe in and follow Jesus. The question arose: "So, why Jesus?"

It's been almost 30 years since my first Challenge Weekend, which is where I met Jesus in a very profound and miraculous way. Do my own kids know what happened with me on that weekend? I'm not sure I've even shared that story, and we all know our stories are important to share!

Those who have accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior might think of many practical aspects of a close relationship with the risen Lord. These might include salvation (eternal life with Jesus Christ), recognizing Jesus has been with us all our lives (even when we denied or ignored him), and sanctification (cleansing from our sinfulness through his death and resurrection and our asking him to restore us).

We might also acknowledge how our Lord has healed us from physical maladies, helped us to learn how to forgive others, and even reconciled us with others who have hurt us. Jesus has taught us to love others—even when we don't like them very much. Our Lord has pro-

vided strength, power, insight, wisdom and countless anointings of his Holy Spirit to assist us all in living out what God has asked us to do.

He has helped us to learn to live more simply and not "buy-into" the worldly notions of acquiring more "stuff" we don't need. He has taught us about being in the world, but not of the world.

Our Lord has purposed us to build his Kingdom, here and now. And we all recognize the daunting challenge because our enemy (Satan) will do all he can to thwart or derail our efforts. We recognize that our Advocate (the Holy Spirit) is with us and provides his supernatural graces for us to continue being prayerful, steadfast, vigilant and faithful to Jesus Christ.

As we contemplate the evangelization of our children—or anyone for that matter—it's important to ask and answer for ourselves, "Why Jesus?" Perhaps today we could all write down some thoughts and our answers to that important question. They should bring to mind our own stories and examples that underscore the reason for our hope. Then, let's pray our children (or others we speak to) have hearts and minds open to the messages we bring from Christ.

Let us pray that the Holy Spirit will provide the words and illustrations we need at the precise moments at which we need them. Glory to God!

Greg Aitkens has been involved in CIC since 1986. He is a current member of the Board of Directors and was involved in helping to start the Orange County Chapter in the mid-90s. He is married to Ginny, and they celebrated their 41st anniversary recently. They have three adult children and one grandchild. Greg is an avid golfer and road cyclist and has attended over 40 Challenge Weekends. He can be reached at GAitkens@fmncc.com.

Upcoming Events

Men's Weekends

Palm Desert/Palm Springs

March 21-23 2014

South Bend

March 21-23 2014

Sacramento

March 28-30, 2014

Greater Phoenix Area

March 28-30, 2014

Bakersfield/Fresno

April 25-27, 2014

Salinas Valley

April 25-27, 2014

Santa Cruz

April 25-27, 2014

Women's Weekends

WCIC-Central Coast

April 11-13, 2014

Christians in Commerce News

**Salinas
Challenge Weekend**

**Santa Cruz
Challenge Weekend**

Jim Warnock

Please send your stories to:
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Life Pleasing to God

week 1

"Grand and Glorious Requests"

by: David Hazelton

In our prayers, we sometimes seem preoccupied with surviving our daily struggles rather than experiencing the fullness of our victory in Christ. Preoccupation with immediate challenges can cause us to neglect the abundant life God has in store.

Paul's prayers in the Bible are grand and glorious. His understanding of what God is pleased to do in our lives should cause us to reconsider our own prayers. Compare how you pray to one of Paul's prayers:

I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. (Ephesians 3:16-19)

Do we dare pray in such grand and glorious terms? Paul prays we would have power "to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ," that we be "rooted and established" in that love and "filled to the measure of all the fullness of God." Here are other examples from Paul:

- *I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. (Ephesians 1:18-19)*

- *And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God. (Philippians 1:9-11)*

- *We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a*

life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. (Colossians 1:9-12)

While we tend to focus on our efforts to overcome our difficulties, Paul's focus is on God and his abundant resources. He prays God will give us victory out of "his glorious riches", "the riches of his glorious inheritance", "his incomparably great power", and "all of the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives". We often pray for little because we focus on how little we can do in our own power. As we shift our focus upwards like Paul, we see our Father with infinite resources who can do a great and glorious work in our lives.

Paul also provides a prayer model that focuses on God rather than ourselves and on God's priorities rather than our own. He prays that you "may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God", that "the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you", that you "may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ" and that you "may live a life worth of the Lord and please him in every way".

While there is certainly nothing wrong with praying about our legitimate needs in this life, we should not be so preoccupied by our earthly needs that we neglect eternal values. God wants our prayers to focus on him and his priorities. With that focus, we can follow the model of Paul's grand and glorious prayers.

Dave is the author of [The Simplified Guide: Paul's Letters to the Churches](#). While his day job is as a senior partner at Latham & Watkins LLP, one of the nation's largest law firms, his passion is teaching Sunday school and leading Bible studies in his home, church and workplace. He can be reached at david.hazelton@lw.com or through the website for his book, thesimplifiedguide.com.

Pray: Father, do a great work in my life. Help me to grasp the massive love of Christ, that I might be filled to the measure of the fullness of God. Lift my eyes upwards so my prayers will be grand and glorious.

Reflect: Compare your prayers with Paul's. Is their focus on God and his agenda or on yourself?

Discuss: What should we be requesting in prayer? How are we preoccupied with daily needs that miss God's eternal purposes? How can we bring our prayers in line with God's agenda?

Men's February Reflections

week 2

Personal Sacrifice

by: Aloysius Mugisa

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. (Colossians 3:23-24)

Whenever I do something good and am rewarded with appreciation, I get the courage to do even better. But many of my good deeds have gone unnoticed, or worse still, earned me negative criticism.

Two years ago, my wife and I consented to having a close relative's son stay with us while he attended a technical day school close to our home. For two years we took care of him. When he completed his course and returned to his home, we expected his parents to call and thank us. We never heard from them. This saddened us so much since we felt we were simply used. This consoling scripture came to my mind, assuring me, "You did it for the Lord and not for men. The Lord has surely rewarded you." I shared this scripture with my wife and we rejoiced.

When my wife and I decided to take in our two foster daughters, Martha and Resty, six years back, some of our relatives and friends asked us how we were going to benefit from the fosterage. They knew we had very limited resources. But we wanted to help the two little girls who were about to die for lack of food and shelter.

Martha and Resty are now grown, healthy girls going to secondary school this month. We are very fulfilled to have raised these girls for the Lord.

A while back, a fellow parishioner poured out to me her disappointment over a young lady she'd helped with accommodations and school fees. Instead of appreciating her, the young lady was speaking ill of her. I hastened to console this lady with Luke 17:10: *We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty*, and Matthew 6:4: *Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you*.

Pray: Lord Jesus, teach me to give of myself and my resources, without conditions and reservations, like you gave yourself to humankind, expecting nothing in return.

Reflect: Have I withheld charity because of people's ingratitude? Whose gratitude is the driving force behind my generosity - man or God?

Discuss: How freely are we able to give without receiving thanks? Share examples of your own disappointments. How can you reinforce the truth that there is more joy in giving than receiving?

week 3

Making a Difference in the Workplace

by: Aloysius Mugisa

... you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. (Acts 1:8)

After attending my first Challenge Weekend and the CIC conference, I felt a compelling zeal to live and spread the gospel. With the blessing of the local leaders, we decided to proclaim Christ over the radio. We made a one-year contract for a weekly half-hour evangelical radio program on the most popular FM station. In January, we started the seventh year.

We bless God for Christians in Commerce, which sponsors this program. I am humbled to say it is the longest running radio program with the largest audience in the region, with more than 4,000 listeners. By God's grace we are able to witness for Christ not only in our home area but also in very distant places.

Our radio program has popularized CIC very much and transformed many lives. We have numerous testimonies of people whose personal, marital and family lives have been transformed.

One Catholic priest said, "I go to the wash room with my small radio to listen to the CIC radio program for I can't afford to miss it!" Last December, over 900 of the 1,000 young people who came to attend the CIC Youth Conference said that they listen to our evangelical radio program and it had attracted them to the conference.

One lady said to me, "You will never understand the transformation this radio program has brought into my life and my marriage. I think I would be dead if CIC had not come to Uganda."

"I did not know that I was doing such harm to my children nor did I know I was enslaved to my destructive emotions," said another man.

We are very privileged to be witnesses for Christ.

Pray: Lord Jesus, make me an agent of your transformative influence wherever I live and work.

Reflect: How much effort do I give to making Christ known and loved? Am I absorbed in the struggle for my own welfare and that of my family in a way that limits me?

Discuss: How have we personally responded to the call to proclaim the gospel and worked for the salvation of souls? What has held us back? Do we keep Christ to ourselves or work to draw others into a relationship with him?

Men's February Reflections

(continued)

week 4

Holding Each Other Accountable

by: Aloysius Mugisa

*Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.
(Matthew 9:38)*

From November 2013 through January 2014 we were so loaded with CIC ministry work that my CIC colleagues and I hardly had a break. In the first year of CIC's inception in Uganda we did not have as many pastoral engagements as we have today. Now we get more invitations than we can honor from places where we have Challenge Groups. We do many weekends, renewal days, couples' seminars, etc. Many priests invite us to give retreats to catechists, lay movements and couples. Many times we turn down invitations for being overstretched. We pray that the Lord sends more laborers into his harvest field.

While the CIC membership is much higher than before, the spiritual giftedness for ministry has to be carefully discerned. The top CIC leaders sit to agree on who can give a talk at a Challenge Weekend, a renewal day or a couple's day. I am very happy with the progress with which many members are getting involved in doing CIC ministry. Those who are not directly involved in the ministry of teaching do mobilization work. They inform people about and invite them to the CIC ministry. Others engage in preparing the venue for our functions. They fetch water and firewood, cook food and offer hospitality.

One of our most recent big achievements was the CIC Youth Gospel Conference. We publicized the conference for more than two months, sending announcements to churches and using our radio program. Many parents called us confirming that they would send their children. An overwhelming 1,000 teenagers turned up for the conference. Our team, comprised mostly of the CIC Service Council members, worked tirelessly to ensure the program was a success. We had formed preparatory committees, each of which was headed by a CIC leader. I was very impressed by the synergy of the members. Some leaders took care of the kitchen, others oversaw health and sanitation, others security etc.

The harvest was indeed abundant!

Aloysius Mugisa is a secondary school teacher. His wife, Oliva, is a primary school teacher. They have four teenage daughters; two of them are both 17 and the others are 16 and 14. Two of their daughters are adopted. Aloysius Mugisa is the men's Chapter President in Uganda. He can be reached at mugisaalloysius11@gmail.com.

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.*

Pray: Father, rekindle in me the zeal for evangelization. Anoint me afresh with your Holy Spirit and make me an effective kingdom builder.

Reflect: How much of my time, energy, money and talent have I spent on the cause of building God's kingdom?

Discuss: Do I view Christ's call as a request or a command? How can we as a chapter or Challenge Group better respond to God's call to reach out to all creation with the message of salvation; to go and bear fruit that lasts?

Women's March Reflections

week 2

Personal Sacrifice

by: Lilia Croghan

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. (Colossian 3:12)

I love to watch history in the making. I like to be able to say that I was there when it happened; whether I saw it on TV or in person doesn't matter.

On November 1, 2010 history was certainly going to be made if our local baseball team, the San Francisco Giants, beat the Texas Rangers. The last time the Giants won a World Series was in 1954. My husband Mike and I were very excited. Mike came home early from work. I had prepared all our favorite game foods. We were ready to enjoy watching the game together. No sooner had the first pitch been thrown than the doorbell rang. I ran to answer it and there on the front step was my good friend. She looked sad and asked me if we could take a walk. She needed to talk. I wanted to say, "NOW?!"

I grabbed my jacket and told my husband I would be back soon. We walked for a long time. My friend was going through a rough time. When I got home my husband was ecstatic. "We won!" he exclaimed. All I could think about was the fact that I had missed this historic game.

Going to work with him the next day was brutal. Every time he picked up the phone, all I heard was talk about the game.

For Christmas that year one of our sons gave his dad a poster-sized picture of that monumental game. Mike hung it up proudly in his office. It's the first thing I see when I go there to help him. When I see it, I am reminded of how puny my sacrifice was compared to Christ's sacrifice on the cross. I could always go to YouTube and watch that historic game, but I could never go back and be there for my friend if I had chosen differently.

Pray: Dear Lord, please help me to always have a willing heart to help someone in need.

Reflect: How can I have more of Christ's peace in my heart?

Discuss: What disturbs my life and how can I respond in love?

week 3

Redeeming Our Father's Creation

by: Lilia Croghan

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Colossians 3:17)

I work in a Catholic bookstore one day a week. I have met some very colorful, if not a little different, people while working there. They are my friends and sometimes they come in just to visit. Some of them are on medication for different types of mental disorders.

On one particular day, I was working alone all day and had a lot of visits from my more "colorful friends". Sometimes I had two there at the same time, both wanting my undivided attention. That, mixed with the regular flow of customers, was a bit overwhelming. By 4:00 in the afternoon I felt tired and out of sorts. I had one hour left before I closed the store. For just a brief moment nobody was in the store. I felt relieved. I even turned off the background music that I usually find soothing. I just wanted quiet.

My peace and quiet didn't last long. I heard the door open and in came a customer. I greeted her, but didn't ask if she needed assistance. I just stayed behind the counter while she wandered around the store. Then I remembered the prayer that I say when I start work, "Father, use me."

I walked over to my customer and asked if I could help her. She told me that she was looking for a holy card with a picture of Jesus and the 23rd psalm. She told me that she had a rare form of cancer and was dying. Her doctor had given her two months to live. Her only family was a daughter who lived out of state. Convicted, I gave her my phone number and told her to call me anytime. We prayed and hugged.

As she was leaving she said to me, "You are a good listener. Not too many people are." I am when I allow God to use me.

Pray: Dear Lord, please help me to be loving and patient with everyone I encounter today.

Reflect: Where do I need the word of God to enter my life?

Discuss: What kind of soil am I? Where do I have rocky ground or thorns?

Women's March Reflections

(Continued)

week 4

The Fruits of Our Relationships as Sisters

by: Lilia Croghan

In you, Lord my God, I put my trust. (Psalm 25:1)

I went on my first Challenge Weekend in 2006 with the WCIC-Central Coast Chapter. I live in Santa Cruz and at that time, we did not have a chapter. I enjoyed the retreat.

As I was leaving to go home I was asked if I would start a chapter in Santa Cruz. I didn't answer; I just smiled. When I was asked again some time later, I finally said, "Yes". With the help of Gail Penniman and Georgia Leonard, Santa Cruz had a women's chapter!

Being president of the chapter was not easy for me. I was scared and unsure of myself. I was a "comfortable loner" and now I was getting up to go to a WCIC meeting every Wednesday morning at 7:00. To make matters worse, I had to lead it! I can be shy under new circumstances, and this certainly qualified.

The most challenging thing for me was the sharing after we read the newsletter at our morning meetings. I felt I had to guard and watch what I shared. I didn't know these women very well and I was not ready to trust them.

One Wednesday, as life would have it, I was going through a very painful situation. I found myself very weepy and was not looking forward to our meeting for fear that the women would sense something was wrong with me. I showed up red-eyed and red-nosed. Before I could even say "Good morning" the tears began to flow. My CIC sisters did not ask me what was wrong. Instead, they held my hands and started to pray for me. I had never experienced anything like that before.

Their prayers healed me in more ways than one. I learned to trust my CIC sisters and, more importantly, I let go of all the fears I had. I thank God for all the amazing women I have the honor of calling my Sisters in Christ.

Lilia Croghan is a Past President of the WCIC-Santa Cruz Chapter. She lives in Santa Cruz, California with her husband Mike. They have been married for 42 years. They have six kids and 11 grandchildren. She can be reached at lccroghan@hotmail.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!

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

Salinas Challenge Weekend

By: Al Parolini

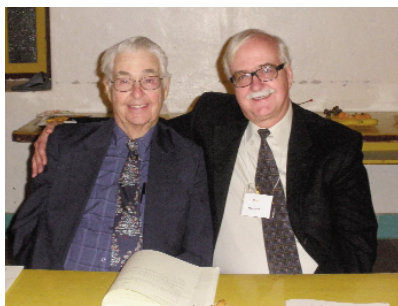
A total of 16 men attended the Salinas Chapter Challenge Weekend at Mission San Antonio November 15th-17th, including six first-time attendees. Three men were under the age of 40, one of whom was a college student.

We had a gathering of educators in this group - one retired principal and four teachers - with a commitment to creating a new Challenge Group, which will be held after school at a location convenient for all. This is a great opportunity, as instructors have been hampered in the past from attending many of the chapter's functions due to work and time constraints with their positions.

We also had one father/son combination. The weekend was well received by the son as this was his first time. It was a special time for them both.

Here are some of the closing comments:

- * "To see men committed to the Lord reinvigorated me."
- * "Come on in! We're in this together."
- * "Blessings through connections - We got into the deepest of issues."
- * "Thank you! I feel the presence of the Lord."
- * "As men, it's easy to talk in a superficial way, but to remove the mask is great."
- * "Great Emmaus Walk. Seeds were firmly planted. God is faithful, all you have to do is ask."
- * "Thank you, Lord, for changing me."



Jim and Tim Warnock

Santa Cruz Challenge Weekend

The Santa Cruz Challenge Weekend November 8-10, 2013 had a total of 15 attendees, one of whom was new. The new attendee described the prayer and reflections periods as "very intense" and expressed his desire that it could have been longer. He said his heart was "filled" during the group discussions and he came away from the weekend with a stronger spirit.

Other attendees also had strong experiences during the prayer and reflection periods during this particular weekend. One brother said they were "profoundly beautiful - sometimes painful", and another said it was "deeper than ever before."

Remembering Jim Warnock

(March 22, 1928 - January 30, 2014)

The following is an excerpt from the pamphlets from Jim's memorial service at First Presbyterian Church Salinas.

James Warnock passed away January 30, surrounded by his family. He was raised in Loveland, Colorado.

Jim and Marian were high school sweethearts. They were married in 1949 and attended Bob Jones University.

Jim dedicated his life to serving Christ and through the years ministered as a songleader, evangelist and pastor.

He was ordained in 1952 and presented an honorary doctorate from Denver Baptist Bible College in 1965.

Jim and Marian were blessed with 5 children. He loved his 14 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren.

In 1990, Jim moved from the pastorate and worked at a correctional facility until his retirement.

He had a passion for music and the outdoors. He sang in the Senior Singers and the First Presbyterian choir. He was active in Christians in Commerce and the 1-55 seniors ministry. Last year he was awarded the Ironman of the Year Award at First Baptist. He was diligent in his prayer life, memorizing Scripture and being a godly example.

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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