



Challenge Newsletter

Being Christ in the Workplace

Galatians  
2:20

May, 2014

## Christ in the Workplace

### "Triumph at the Annual Conference"

by: Bud Rose

The following article was originally published in the May, 2012 issue.

*We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.*  
(2 Corinthians 4: 8-10)

Steve made a Challenge Weekend in the fall of 2009 and was moved by the Holy Spirit. His life started to change – his spiritual life was coming alive in Christ, his business life was quickly changing for the better, his self-discipline began to help his financial position, sales were increasing, and his family took on a greater importance in his life. Prayer became more of a daily event.

He came to the October conference and experienced an even greater outpouring of the Holy Spirit, along with the strength that comes from our brotherhood. He had found a new peace in his life. He stood strong in Christ even when the enemy attempted to disrupt his spirit.

His wife, Vanessa, saw these new changes in Steve. Vanessa had managed their women's boutique shop and they had struggled with sales for a few years. They moved to a new location that helped sales, but because of some indebtedness, life was not simple.

Steve wanted to go to the 2011 CIC Annual Conference in Phoenix and invited Vanessa to join him. Vanessa agreed to go because she had seen such wonderful changes in Steve.

When they arrived in Phoenix, Steve was having a great time. However, the enemy decided this would be a perfect time to use the store as a distraction for Vanessa. His plan was to distract her

from the conference and what the Lord was doing. It started with a call from her manager telling her the assistant manager was quitting. Vanessa became very upset and restless. Employees started relating to each other very poorly. However, the Holy Spirit was at work.

Vanessa returned home, started praying, and within 24 hours she started receiving prophetic words from the Holy Spirit: "This is how I want you to restructure the work staff; this is how I want you to relate to your staff; this is the business plan I have for you." She received words about how to organize her family life. She found she was called to a personal prayer time.

Vanessa is now enjoying a completely new staff at their store. Each staff member is a blessing to her, including the new assistant manager. They are a team. Her manager is a good Christian lady and they pray together. Vanessa and Steve reorganized the sales counters and moved to a computerized inventory system. This all happened after their return from the conference.

They had a great Christmas season with a huge increase in sales. An important part of their mission now is to introduce clients to the Lord through playing Christian music in the store and sharing about the Lord when the opportunity arises. All this has greatly impacted their employees. Vanessa is experiencing the peace of Christ in both her business life and the life of her family. Glory!

*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 [cfrose39@gmail.com](mailto:cfrose39@gmail.com).*

### Upcoming Events

#### Men's Weekends

**Greater Phoenix Area**

May 23-25, 2014

**South Bend/Elkhart**

September 19-21, 2014

**Salinas Valley**

November 14-16, 2014

#### Women's Weekends

**WCIC-Fresno**

August 22-24, 2014

**Annual Conference**

October 17-18, 2014

### Christians in Commerce News

**Snapshot:  
Living the Life**

**WCIC-Gilroy/  
Morgan Hill CWE**

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# Life Pleasing to God

week 1

## "The Lord Has a Plan"

by: Walt Seale

*My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. (John 10:27-28, ESV)*

Early in my sales career I developed the bad habit of imagining all the terrible things that would happen to me if I didn't succeed. Heading out to an important sales call, I sometimes would find myself thinking if the call didn't go well, I'd probably lose the account, and if I lost the account I would probably get demoted, and if I got demoted, I'd probably end up losing my job, and if I lost my job then I'd probably default on my mortgage, and if I defaulted on the mortgage then I'd lose the house and then what? I'd probably end up homeless and alone.

Amazingly, this downward spiral might take less than a minute!

In nearly every episode like the one I just described, the facts of the matter told a different story. In fact, I prepared well for sales calls. I knew what I was talking about and was confident that if I could help a client, we would decide to do business together. Even if things didn't go well, it wouldn't be a disaster, but a chance to learn how to do my work better.

Over time I have realized that not every thought that crosses my mind is from the Lord. With the help of wiser brothers in the Lord, I have learned that I need to discern the thoughts that come to mind.

Discernment is the ability to judge well and correctly. An important question in the process of discernment is, "Where does this train of thought take me if I follow it long enough?" In my case, I could go from the possibility of doing poorly on a single sales call to homelessness in less than a minute!

The Lord has a plan for our lives, but so does the enemy of our souls. The enemy wants us dead. The enemy uses any weapon handy to accomplish his work, but fear is often his weapon of choice. As we learn to discern, we learn to distinguish the voice of the Lord

from the voice of the enemy. One simple way to discern the voice you are hearing is to ask this question: "Does this train of thought increase faith, hope or love?" If the train of thought you are riding on doesn't increase faith, hope or love, then it is not the voice of the Lord.

Let's take my thoughts about the sales call going poorly as an example. As I descend along the downward trajectory, I could ask myself, "Does this train of thought increase faith, hope or love?"

Well, it didn't increase my hope. I began to focus more on the poor outcome than on the task at hand, which was preparing for the sales call. Instead of daydreaming my way toward disaster, I should have been focusing on doing the job the Lord had given me to do.

And what about faith? Does this downward spiraling train of thought increase my faith? Not exactly. In fact, this way of thinking might be the result of not acting in faith. I could just as easily have been thinking, "Lord, you've always taken care of my needs and I put my trust in you no matter the outcome of this sales call." The fear that had arisen in me was the result of a distinct lack of faith. The fear came from thinking I was completely on my own.

Hope is dimming and faith is fading. What's the diagnosis? Is that train of thought from the Lord or from the enemy? What to do?

Before I learned to discern well, I thought that I had no real control over my thought life. I now know that I do have control and I can take action to think differently. I have enough sense to resist those patterns of thought that decrease faith, hope or love. I have also learned the value of getting these thoughts into the light. Often just bringing these thoughts to light is enough to dispel the darkness.

*Walt Seale is coordinator in the Mission Program Office of the People of Praise Community. He works with college students in Indianapolis, Indiana. You can reach Walt at [waltseale@gmail.com](mailto:waltseale@gmail.com).*

**Pray:** Lord, give me the gift of discernment that I might know your voice.

**Reflect:** Am I prone to letting fear destroy the peace of the Lord? Where am I most vulnerable to fear?

**Discuss:** Share with one another situations in which this discernment tool could have been helpful. Talk about any situations where you've personally been able to take your thoughts captive to be obedient to Christ. (2 Corinthians 10:5b)

# Men's May Reflections

## week 2

### Personal Sacrifice

by: Steve Crocker

*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.* (Hebrews 11: 1, KJV)

The very first moment I met Christ on March 29th, 1969, I was 18. A friend shared and I spoke a sinner's prayer, but it was not the prayer that mattered. Somehow I already knew and believed and wanted him in my life. I've never for a moment forgotten that astonishing recognition. He was Jesus, the face so long shadowed in the crowd, the one behind the long arc of my life. But the most amazing part of the experience was my profound sense of coming home, of traveling across an entire universe to finally be inside my Father's house, and knowing instantly that his Spirit dwelt within me.

I often hear brothers talk about wanting to gain more faith. But my walk has never been about faith. Faith has always belonged to his imparted divine nature within. He is faith. For most of us, our walk is more about intimacy and surrender; about our faithfulness and reading the signs, discerning what he is trying to tell us, and about his touch seeking to awaken our hearts. It's about hearing his voice before choosing anything, about mending souls, and about finding true rest in his presence. It may sound mystical, but it is as concrete as anything in my life. Repeatedly, I come home after work and talk with my wife, Carolyn, about the strange and wonderful things God hid behind throughout the day.

In our brokenness, even in our momentary losses of faith, we gain something far greater. We gain true faith, which isn't the result of our own manufacturing, but a bestowal. His faith becomes the atmosphere we walk in, the air we breathe, and the ground on which we move toward him. The one absolute longing is never about faith, it's about Christ; longing for him in whom we were given all things from the very beginning.

**Pray:** Father, thank you for awakening us. Thank you for the faith that comes from you. Show us how to walk in the reality of your being all things to us.

**Reflect:** If faith is the air we breathe, how does this "substance" change us?

**Discuss:** What does faith do in your life? Talk about how faith has been realized and cultivated in your workplace.

## week 3

### Making a Difference in the Workplace

by: Steve Crocker

*His left hand is under my head, and his right hand embraces me.* (Song of Solomon 2:6, KJV)

The marketplace is center stage for most of us. It's where we perform in front of a live audience of people from our work, fellowship, family, friends, and even strangers. God is in each one of these circles under the Big Top. In fact, he owns the whole circus, doesn't he? How can we not simply bow and offer our gratitude for the love and wisdom he has hidden in the simple moments and friendships we have?

Years ago, during very hard times, I was given a simple vision of dancing with the Lord. We were spotlighted on the dance floor of a small nightclub. He and I were dancing in front of an audience that was watching every step. The Lord would turn one way. I would turn another. His feet moved beautifully. I couldn't keep up and my toes kept getting smashed. Some members of the audience began to laugh.

In my shame, I turned to the Lord. Speaking in a gentle, loving voice, he reassured me that those who were laughing were the ones who had never even tried to dance themselves. The real audience is made up of brothers and sisters who know how hard it is. They don't laugh or ridicule. They are the ones who encourage, the ones who believe in us, who see us learning the steps and figuring out how to move without stumbling too much.

It takes a lot of time and practice to dance the dance. And all the time, we learn from his embrace. We make small adjustments, learn the soft turns and quick moves he makes, and learn to harmonize with his guiding presence. And having tried, we offer encouragement, even when others don't know they are asking for it.

**Pray:** Lord and lover of my soul, teach me to encourage, just as you have encouraged me to follow after you.

**Reflect:** Do I criticize others as they seek to follow the Lord, or do I encourage?

**Discuss:** Share how we can find ways to encourage one another. Discuss how we can meet others better where they are in their relationships with the Lord, support them, and call them still deeper and closer to him.

## Men's May Reflections

(continued)

### week 4

#### Holding Each Other Accountable

by: Steve Crocker

*For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. (Hebrews 4:12)*

A good brother just finished speaking for 15 minutes and I have no idea if it came from his heart or just his head. We all get tired of the "talk". Yet we often speak in highly spiritualized language, and I'm as guilty as the next guy. We pepper our conversations with religious words, letting others know what we've learned about God.

We reaffirm what we believe and how God works in our lives. But if you are a Christian from a young age, then add 45 years, our talk can sometimes ring both false and true. It's important to know the difference between the "smoke and mirrors" words and what can lead us to the true heart of a person's life. Unfortunately, we sometimes need to awaken what is deeper by confronting the spiritual mumbo-jumbo.

In the Lord's encounter with Nicodemus, he said, "Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen" and raised the bar forever on how we share with one another (John 3:11). Over and over throughout scripture, he repeated to those around him, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear," as if to say we need to do more than listen; we must combine honesty with discernment.

The challenge in our speaking and hearing is to discern what is true between us, and never to pretend to be who we are not. For in the end, Christ becoming our reality is something far more than words. The scripture says living words penetrate, divide, and rightly judge the intentions of any heart. May our words be such a gift and such a tool.

*Steve Crocker is a member of the Santa Cruz Chapter. He is married to Carolyn and they have two adult sons. He is a project manager and designer whose real estate development company focuses on the natural food industry. Steve can be reached at [steve@cdmre.com](mailto:steve@cdmre.com).*

**Pray:** O Lord, search me and open my heart to you. Let me speak truly of what I know and testify to what I have really seen.

**Reflect:** Are my words true or false, living or dead, authentic or artificial?

**Discuss:** What makes our speech less true, less alive and less authentic? How can you make your sharing more true, living and authentic?

### "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.

# Women's May Reflections

## week 2

### Personal Sacrifice

by: Sandra Paiva

*I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy... (Exodus 33:19)*

One morning while driving to work, I got confused, ran a red light and was almost hit by a truck. We both stopped. Then I looked up and realized what I had done. Stunned, I began to drive off.

Soon I saw the red light of a police car. I pulled over and the policeman came over to talk with me. The first words that came out of my mouth were, "Did you see what I did? I ran a red light!" He said that yes, he had seen what happened, and asked where I was going. "To work — I must have gotten distracted," I replied. Then he asked me for my ID. As he took it from me, I said, "It was my fault and I deserve a ticket. I'm just grateful I did not get hit by the truck". He said, "I'm glad you didn't get hit too because it would have been a bad accident."

He then walked around the car, saw the child car seats in the back, then walked back to me and asked, "Have you ever gotten a ticket before?" I said, "No." He said, "I don't want to write you a ticket because it's expensive. I am going to let you off with a warning. I see you drive little ones. I want you to drive more carefully." I said I would and thanked him. I drove off in a state of shock.

That evening I watched a program by Billy Graham, My Hope America. I was deeply moved and wept. I am a sinner and I experience God's mercy even though I don't deserve it. I deserved a ticket but instead I was shown mercy. The next day I emailed my story to family and friends and encouraged them to watch this message of salvation.

**Pray:** Father, thank you for showing me mercy and grace even when I don't deserve it.

**Reflect:** The Lord is kind and merciful. How has God's mercy impacted your life?

**Discuss:** Share with others a story where God has shown you mercy.

## week 3

### Redeeming Our Father's Creation

by: Sandra Paiva

*So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ. (Colossians 2: 6-8)*

The above verse says that we should be rooted in Christ and built up in him. The word "rooted" means "to root, to become stable" (The New Strong's Complete Dictionary of Bible Words, James Strong). We once had a tree we had to cut down, and we discovered that the root system was as large as the tree. It took three men, three days and one machine to finally get rid of those roots. That is how Christ wants me to be rooted in him so that I can stand in the face of adversity.

God has placed me in a work situation on a college campus. Sometimes I find it difficult to be a witness for Christ, but I can be an example of his love to others. Because of budget cuts, our department has faced serious challenges and upheavals. I am in a position where I am working as a master teacher/director. My work day consists of time with children, parents, students, interns, staff and administration. It is crucial to the program that I remain stable, present and supportive in my work. What motivates me is Christ's love for these individuals. I have learned that if I do my best, God will do the rest!

**Pray:** Father, help me to be rooted in you so that I can be a witness to your love and mercy to everyone I work with.

**Reflect:** If we are truly doing our best in our vocations, we can feel good about what we are doing. Are you doing your best? What motivates you? Think of an example.

**Discuss:** Share your reflection.

# Women's May Reflections

## (Continued)

### week 4

### The Fruits of Our Relationships as Sisters

by: Sandra Paiva

*If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. (Matthew 16: 24-26, NAB)*

I have carried a cross in my life for many years. I am in a broken relationship with a close relative. Over the years I have tried to fix the relationship to no avail. I have cried and pleaded with God and suffered in my spirit.

Recently, I was at a WCIC retreat at Saint Francis Retreat Center. As I was walking the "way of the cross" path, I stopped under a balcony of trees to listen to the birds sing. A truck was coming up the road, so I stepped out of the way. I looked up and next to me was a relief of Jesus fallen with his face on the cobbled stone ground and the cross fallen on top of his body. As I meditated on this image, I reflected that Jesus had fallen because of the weight of the cross and had to be picked up again and walk that long road to his death.

I began to weep. I too had fallen down under the weight of the cross I my life. I was done, and I didn't know how to get up again. I needed someone to pick me up.

I decided to share my experience and my struggle with my CIC sisters. I was encouraged by their words of wisdom and their compassion for me. I realized that, like Christ, I too in a sense had died to my own desires. I will embrace my cross as he did, just as is described in Hebrews 12:2 (NAB): ... (f)or the joy set before him (he) endured the cross, despising its shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

*Sandra Paiva is a member of the WCIC-Santa Cruz Chapter. She has served as president and past president of the WCIC Service Council. She works at Cabrillo College in the Early Childhood Education department. She is married and has two grandchildren. Sandy can be reached at [sapaiva1@yahoo.com](mailto:sapaiva1@yahoo.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](http://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:** "Abba! Father! All things are possible for you; remove this cup from me; yet not what I will, but what you will." (Mark 14:36, NAB)

**Reflect:** Jesus walked the path of suffering and so must I, but I am not alone.

**Discuss:** Who walks with you on the way of the cross? Who picks you up?

# Christians in Commerce NEWS

Christians in Commerce  
Prayer

## Snapshot: Living the Life

*In honor of our 2014 Annual Conference theme, "Live the Life", here is a "snapshot" of one of our members doing just that! Send your "Live the Life" snapshots to [info@cicintl.org](mailto:info@cicintl.org).*

Yesterday afternoon, I noticed one of my car tires was low. So, I drove over to my tire repair shop. They jumped right on it and I took a seat in the waiting room. A young woman was already sitting in there. I told God I was available if he wanted to use me. The woman looked up from her magazine and said, "Fun, huh?"

God opened the door and I entered in.

She went on, "There goes today's wages."

I asked, "What do you do?"

"I'm a hair dresser in Los Gatos."

"You go to St. Mary's?"

"No, recently I've been attending Westgate Community."

"Nice. I'm in a pastors group with your pastor, Steve."

"Are you a pastor?"

"No. I'm involved with an international marketplace ministry called Christians in Commerce."

"What is that?"

Open door — Thank you, Jesus! I explained about CIC, gave her the CIC web page and my ACTS Ministry web page (both on one card) and then Kay allowed me to pray with her. What started out as a quick elevator testimony ended up being a bit more.

It's very important to be Jesus to the people he puts in our path. Be ready to hand them a card or something with the CIC info on it!

-Jack McCall, Salinas Valley Chapter

## WCIC-Gilroy/Morgan Hill CWE

The WCIC-Gilroy/Morgan Hill Chapter (formerly known as the WCIC-Central Coast Chapter) took place from April 12-13, 2014. There were a total of 30 attendees! Of those who attended, 7 were making their first Challenge Weekend. They also had two sets of mother-daughter attendees, and many of the participants expressed an interest in bringing their daughters next time.

Here are some comments from the weekend:

"I love that it is ecumenical and each of us lives our walk... We are one-family in Christ and we encourage each other. I loved listening to and learning from everyone's life experiences. There is such love and acceptance among these sisters."

"I experienced the continued challenge to commit all my talents to the work of the Lord. It isn't about my abilities or lack thereof, it is all about God in me."

Praise God for another successful weekend!

*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*



The Mother-Daughter Attendees

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



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