

Rescued from COVID-19

By Danny and Michelle Reyelts



While the world has struggled to combat the challenges of COVID-19, our personal experience is a testament to God's faithful healing. I'm a retired Marine Corps veteran, and my wife, Michelle, and I live in Laughlin, NV, outside of Las Vegas. In early March, I experienced shortness of breath and a slight fever. I was diagnosed with bronchitis and given antibiotics. I returned to urgent care a week later with a higher fever and body aches and went on steroids. By Monday, March 23, my fever reached 105. I was told to get to the VA hospital, one and a half hours away. Michelle was not allowed to accompany me.

I was met at the triage tent and tested for the virus and within two hours,

admitted to the hospital in isolation. I was the second COVID patient to be admitted. Pneumonia set in and I was moved to ICU. The next three to four days I was so weak that I was unable to call or text Michelle. It was impossible to breathe and talk at the same time.

Michelle waited anxiously at home, unable to visit or talk with me. She clung to Isaiah 41:10: "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." She reached out to friends and family, and CIC brothers for prayer support and care.

I relied on God—nothing else. I spoke with him as my friend and though I

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INSIDE: REFLECTIONS

Building Relationships with Coworkers

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. (Philippians 2:3-4)

"Wanting the good of the other" is an excellent description of what true love is. It's also a good reminder of the type of love each of us is called to—regardless of our feelings and preferences.

Seeking the good of the other is God's great attribute of love, described eloquently in the great hymn in Philippians 2.



Like us, every person we meet is made in the likeness of God and for eternity. We live and demonstrate the divine attribute of God's love when we take a personal interest in our fellow coworkers' well-being.

Our reflection authors share their accounts—compassionate, caring, and even a little fun. May the fullness of Christ's love we have received overflow into the lives of all we meet.

August Reflections: Pg 2-4

REFLECTIONS WEEK 1

A Deeper Connection

By Christine Ziegler

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” (John 13:34-35)

One Thursday afternoon in March we learned that all the office staff would start working from home the following Monday. The first week was rough as everyone tried to find a setup that would work as the new normal. It was not unusual to call a coworker, have it ring several times, and then accidentally get hung up on.

People experienced the requirement to stay at home in different ways. Two of us lived in a house with eight other women. Three families had babies born. Several people had children come home from college to finish out the year. Others managed their

elementary school children’s distance learning while working their full-time jobs.

Personal interactions became limited as everyone was just trying to survive and get the job done. Our company uses collaboration software to stay in touch. I wondered if people would be interested in a non-work topic, so I initiated a question-of-the-day channel. I asked, “Would you rather talk like Yoda or breathe like Darth Vader?”

It turns out that almost everyone had a strong opinion. The next day, I asked for interesting facts about our hometowns. Again, everyone had something to say. The questions have ranged from the sublime to the ridiculous. My coworkers have answered each one.

We have come to know one another in a whole new way. Henry’s attention to detail began when he topped off coffee cups at his family’s restaurant as a young boy. Joannie will always give a well thought out, interesting, and considerate response. George probes the boundaries of a question (Can I bring anything to defend myself against snakes?).

My relationships with my coworkers will never be the same. We have shared parts of ourselves that we never thought to share before. I have a better understanding of what amazingly complex, interesting people I work with. Each one of us is so much more than what we add to the bottom line.

Christine Ziegler is the president of the WCIC South Bend-Elkhart Chapter. She is the Director of Operations at the LaSalle Company Inc. She can be reached at cziegler@gmail.com.

PRAY

Lord, increase my love for my coworkers. Give me eyes to see them as you do.

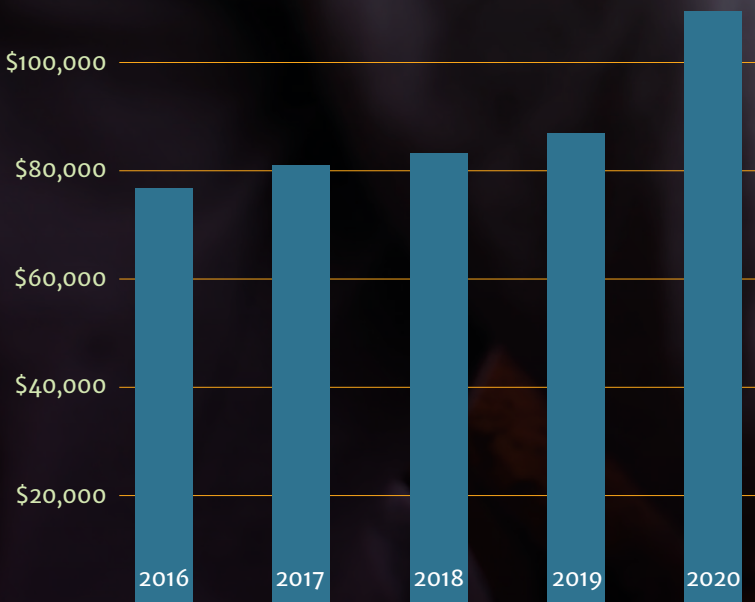
REFLECT

How can I build relationships in less than ideal circumstances?

DISCUSS

How does knowing someone personally affect your work relationship?

Fundraising Highlights



Member Donations YTD*

- 2016: \$76,368
- 2017: \$80,900
- 2018: \$82,913
- 2019: \$86,710
- 2020: \$109,583

Thank you

for helping us foster a movement of the Holy Spirit illuminating our workplaces. Your generosity makes it possible to create and share new resources free of charge.

*All figures represent Jan 1 - May 31 YTD

REFLECTIONS WEEK 2

Reaching Out

By Chris Dietz

Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. (Romans 12:15)

Many of us have spoken to or heard of friends who recently lost a loved one to COVID-19. In early May, I got a call from Sheila, a work colleague at the EPA for almost 20 years. It was clear from the beginning of the call she was distressed and exhausted.

Within a few minutes she shared with me that one of her brothers had died the previous week of COVID. Prior to this we had a good business relationship, but it was clear to me that the Lord wanted me to take it further by supporting her and praying for her.

What would have normally been a five-minute call stretched on for 20 minutes as she poured out her heart and so much grief. I just listened, and then let her know how sorry I was and that I would be praying for her and her family. She was thankful, and I could tell that she just needed someone to talk to at that moment.

A week later I reached out and asked how she was doing. I let her know I was still praying for her and her family and she was grateful. Our work relationship has become a trusted friendship. And I'm more aware that God may call on us to be ready to support people in their struggles at a moment's notice.

May the Lord open our eyes and help us be ready to help others when we least expect opportunities to come our way.

Scripture and nothing jumped out at her. She wasn't sure where he was.

I responded that I had gone through something similar recently. The thing that cracked things open for me was reading a new-to-me translation of the Bible called *The Message* by Eugene Peterson. I grabbed my Bible and read Psalm 23:3 to her in both the NIV and *The Message* "True to your word, you let me catch my breath and send me in the right direction." I shared with her how the different translation had given me a new way to pray about our situation.

She grabbed her phone and downloaded the translation while we continued to talk. She said, "You and that verse are an answer to prayer. I told the Lord this morning that he needed to let me know he heard me and was leading me even if I couldn't hear him. You called and told me he

Chris Dietz works for the EPA in budgeting. He is married to Gina Dietz and they have two adult sons. Chris can be reached at BigTig1165@gmail.com.

PRAY

Lord, help us be aware of those in need who you want us to encourage, listen to, and help.

REFLECT

Are we keeping our minds and hearts open to people God might bring to us to encourage, pray with, or just listen to?

DISCUSS

What's stopping you from talking and listening to people who are in need and who the Lord wants you to minister to?

was sending me in the right direction. He really *does* hear me. And I heard him answer me through you."

The Lord sent both of us in the right direction during our conversation together.

PRAY

Lord, open my heart to new ways of relating to my coworkers. Give me eyes to see you among us.

REFLECT

How has the Lord spoken to me this week?

DISCUSS

What have I learned during this time that I can share with others?

REFLECTIONS WEEK 3

The Right Direction

By Christine Ziegler

He refreshes my soul, He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake. (Psalm 23:3)

After six weeks into sheltering in place and working from home, I was willing to admit that perhaps I was not as extreme an introvert as I had thought. I missed calling people just to chat. I also decided that I would not multitask during those conversations. I wanted to be fully present to the other person. One day, I talked to a coworker who shared that she was having a rough time. It seemed to her that God had been very quiet lately. She read

REFLECTIONS WEEK 4

Life with the Lord

By Chris Dietz

For this is what the Lord has commanded us: "I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth." (Acts 13:4)

I had known Troy, a young work colleague, for almost 15 years. He was a paraplegic and always had health issues. But he was always joyful, and it was clear that he loved life.

In early 2019 he was diagnosed with leukemia. When I found out I reached out to him. I tried to encourage him and let him know several times that I was praying for him. He was working from home full time at this point. Troy let me know that he was a Buddhist

but appreciated my prayers. I knew the Lord wanted me to bring him to Troy.

As the year went on, Troy couldn't work full time because of his illness. We continued to have email conversations. By the fall of 2019 we were told that Troy's treatments weren't working. It wasn't looking good. I felt the Lord wanting me to reach out to him and tell him about Jesus and encourage him to give him his life.

Troy passed away in early January 2020. But while he was at home on hospice, I sent him an email hoping that he would get it, read it, and give his life to the Lord.

I have no idea whether Troy accepted Christ from what I said or from other Christians who might have been talking to him, but I continued to pray for his salvation before his death, and I continue to pray for him today.

In hindsight I wish I had asked him to give his life to the Lord sooner. In the

federal government where I work, we must be careful with evangelization. Still, I believe that Troy received and read my email, and my hopes are that he gave his life to Christ. I learned that sometimes we need to take a risk to evangelize to help save a person's soul and not be afraid of the repercussions.

PRAY

Thank you Lord for the opportunities to bring others to you. Help us to be bold and not be afraid to speak to others about you.

REFLECT

Is the Lord calling you to speak to coworkers who are not Christians and who need to give their lives to Christ?

DISCUSS

Why is it so hard for us to tell others about Jesus and his salvation?

Share your story: Create a Spark!

We are currently accepting article submissions for Spark workday reflections emails. If you're interested in sharing a reflection, please email communications@worklight.org for more information.

Spark reflections are emails sent each workday that include stories and personal insights, Scripture reflections and testimonies. These daily reflections will help us gain greater understanding of how to be Christ in the workplace.

To sign-up to receive Spark emails visit worklight.org.



Working with My Shepherd

By Becca Maslow

*The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
(Psalm 23)*

Working as a nurse during COVID-19 has often been a surreal experience. I have found real peace in trusting God and believing he is caring for us. This has been particularly poignant alongside those who are dying. It is a humbling opportunity to accompany patients in Christ as they move from this life to the next.

One of my patients was dying. The attending physician shared with me that the gentleman was a former pastor. I took that as a green light. I went to his bedside as he was slowly losing consciousness. I held his hand and got really close to his ear. "I heard you were a Christian," I whispered, "I am too." I told him I was going to pray over him for God's blessing.

I traced a cross in his forehead and just sat by his bed, holding his hand. He passed away a little while later, pretty calm and comfortable. It was unusual that I was able to stay with him the whole time as I was not busy with other patients. I really saw the Lord working in this heartbreaking situation. We were both blessed.

I also witnessed a family say goodbye to their loved one on an iPad during a

chaplain service. Our chaplains have been amazing. The family was on a Zoom call and I was holding the iPad in front of the man. Each family member was weeping and saying the things that they had to say. He was pretty heavily sedated. He had a breathing tube and was unresponsive and the ventilator hummed quietly in the background. I was aware of the agony of not being present with a dying family member. Still it was clear to me that God was working at that moment.

The patient's daughter spoke her forgiveness for all the hurt he had inflicted. She told him how much she hoped he would accept God's mercy and love, telling him how much his faith had meant to her. She didn't know that I was by his bedside, interceding silently for peace and union with the Lord. In some

way, by the Lord letting me be there, the Lord answered her prayers for her father. I don't know what the Lord was doing in the patient's heart, but he had an advocate in my prayers too.

I find myself praying, "Come, Holy Spirit" throughout the day and it brings peace to others, and to me.

I pray that I can serve the people in my work-

place—both coworkers and patients—knowing when to speak and when to stay silent. Knowing how to encourage without minimizing the struggles and walk alongside as a source of joy and peace. I am comforted by the power of intercessory prayer.

Rebecca Maslow lives in St. Paul, MN, and works as an RN at a metropolitan hospital. She can be reached at rlmaslow@gmail.com.

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was fearful, I was not afraid. Dying, in some ways, would have been the easiest way, and, at that time, I was okay with that. I found peace in Hebrews 13: "I will never leave you, I will never forsake you."

Michelle and I were both widowed six years ago. Michelle experienced a surreal moment when I asked her to get our will from my office. "Please Lord," she said, "Please tell me we won't have to go through this again."

"The worst was when he was too weak to talk with me," she said. "I didn't want to go to the same place of bitterness I had felt after my first husband died, so I leaned into God and prayed, 'Thy will be done' and I meant it. God gave me hope."

The doctors were exploring experimental treatments. One told Michelle, "I don't know if it will help, but it can't hurt." Later we learned these were last-ditch efforts to save my life.

I am grateful for two nurses who prayed for me. They suited up like astronauts before coming into the room, but they were kind. When I returned from ICU, both greeted me warmly, telling me they had been praying for me. What a blessing to have strangers praying for me.

Fifty days later and 26 pounds lighter, I was the first patient with COVID to be released from the VA hospital. For the next three weeks, I relied on oxygen. Quarantined at home, at least we were together again. On May 1, I was finally cleared and as we approach our second anniversary, we thank God for the gift of more time together.

Danny and Michelle Reyelts live in Laughlin, NV. They can be reached at mwagner0916@gmail.com



Rejoice with the Truth, Even at Work

By John Kyle

Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. (1 Corinthians 13:6)

We long for love, joy, and truth. And yet, we often feel the pressures of the workplace require us to hide and misrepresent the truth.

In this passage, the word truth extends beyond spoken truth. The word Paul uses indicates a broad concept of truth—something like sincerity or moral truth.

Love searches out the truth and rejoices when love is triumphing over wrong. Love and truth are inseparable partners residing in God himself. – Simon Kistemaker

Love, joy, and truth are inseparable in our lives because they are three of the inseparable qualities of God's character. God is love (I John 4:8) and truth (John 14:6) and in him there is joy (Psalm 16:11).

Where there is no truth, joy is fleeting and there is no love.

The Absence of Truth at Work

In our fallen world, we face the lack of love, joy, and truth every day. Half-truths and insincerity are commonplace—especially at work. As we and our colleagues pursue our idols of success and are dominated by our idols of failure and insecurity, we obscure the truth by commission and omission.

Unless pushed, we often avoid revealing the full truth about ourselves, our projects, and our products.

To get a pet project approved, we are tempted to sell all of the pros of the initiative, while not revealing all of the risks and downsides. Rather than giving full disclosure, we feel compelled to make projects and investment opportunities sound better than they really are.

To protect our image, we might not admit the amount of work time we spend surfing the Internet, developing our side businesses, or just staring out the window. We want to be seen as diligent and fully committed, but sometimes we're not.

And then there are resumes. A best-selling career adviser actually encourages young professionals to stretch the truth on their resumes. She says, "...a well-written resume to one person is a pack of lies to another. Make sure yours falls somewhere in between, which is no small feat."

We have unrealistic expectations of ourselves and others, meaning our expectations are often not rooted in truth. Our self-made idols lie to us and relentlessly and cruelly steal our joy.

Rejoicing with the Truth

To help us understand God's timeless truth, Paul offers this simple and profound statement: Love *rejoices* with the truth.

Truth enables us to be truly known and loved. And in that, we can rejoice.

When we know the truth and share it with others, we are better equipped to manage our lives. We know what works and what doesn't work. We make better decisions. We know how to help and serve one another. In all of these ways—and more—we can see God's intended plan and rejoice in it.

We can't stop our colleagues from obscuring the truth by commission and omission. But, we can, by the power of the Holy Spirit, control ourselves. And, we can love—by rejoicing in the truth.

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NEWS



WORKLIGHT WELCOMES VIRTUAL PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANT

With the onset of COVID-19, Christians in Commerce and WorkLight has pivoted from a focus on in-person membership to a dynamic digital engagement model.

In response, **Kathryn Elliott** was recently hired as the virtual program development consultant. Starting on June 15, Kathryn has taken on many creative projects in relation to programs and events. Entrepreneurial and self-driven, she will help lead CIC and WorkLight along this new path through August.

Kathryn is based in Indianapolis, IN, and her background is in journalism and consulting. She earned her bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Minnesota. Recently, she launched her own writing and consulting business. She has initiated and participated in spiritual retreats, ecumenical discussion groups, formational programs, prayer groups and service opportunities and looks forward to bringing her gifts of creative strategy and storytelling to build on WorkLight programs and events.

As virtual program development consultant, Kathryn will work closely with internal and external stakeholders to develop, grow, and implement inspiring programs and events. These will be designed to foster small groups of Christians supporting and encouraging one another, particularly when in-person meetings are not an option. This role will also develop relationships and partnerships with other organizations and ministries to capitalize on complementary strengths and insights.

Please join us in welcoming Kathryn, who can be reached at kathryn@worklight.org, and continue to walk with us on the exciting path God has placed before us.

SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATE

As part of the WorkLight initiative, Christians in Commerce changed its name on social media and is now named WorkLight on all platforms.

WorkLight emphasizes our call to be the light of Christ wherever we work. It implies a purpose and mission beyond "Christians in Commerce." Our tagline "Sparkling a Movement of the Holy Spirit" succinctly states the mission of our ministry.

WorkLight is filled with passionate and caring Christian individuals who share their stories of Christ in the Workplace. These stories create unity and build relationships through the glory of God. WorkLight lifts up voices and personal sharings, so that the power of the Holy Spirit might connect decades of testimony to all generations.

A new social media strategy brings more posts, events, and resources to our social media sites. Be sure to follow us, if you don't already. Just search "WorkLight" and look for our logo.

For any questions or to provide feedback, please contact

We would love to hear from you!



2020

AUGUST

*"I have been crucified
with Christ and I no
longer live, but Christ
lives in me."*

Galatians 2:20

THE FLAME

CHRISTIANS IN COMMERCE PRAYER

Father,

You are my Lord and Creator.

You entrust me with a place of stewardship in your creation.

Fill me with your Holy Spirit:

That he may teach me to pray and live in Christ and as Christ;

That he may teach me love for family, friends and all people.

A love that is selfless, humble, and wise;

*That he may teach me stewardship of the talents, time, money and
possessions you have given me.*

A stewardship that serves, is generous, and brings honor to your name;

That he may teach me faithfulness to your call to Christians in Commerce.

A call that unites us and builds your Kingdom in the marketplace.

Through Jesus Christ who is Lord.

Amen

VISION Being Christ in the workplace

MISSION To encourage and equip Christians to be God's presence in the workplace by the power of the Holy Spirit, exercising faith, integrity, and excellence

VALUES Christians in Commerce is an ecumenical organization committed to:

- Growing and being transformed in Jesus Christ
- Manifesting the gifts of the Holy Spirit
- Building strong brotherhood and sisterhood
- Serving God and expanding his Kingdom in all aspects of our lives

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Design/printing: Andy Grams Design Solutions

For further information about CIC call or write:
Christians in Commerce
7515 Lee Highway, Falls Church, VA 22042
Phone: (703) 205-5600
Fax: (703) 205-0485
info@cicintl.org