



A Lineage of Service

By Kenneth Zack



It was a bit late in my career when I joined the Prince William County Fire Department at 40. Fulfilling a deep desire, I followed the legacy of my father and grandfather, who were both fire captains. As the captain of a station and leader of a nine-person squad, my chief motivation has always been to help people and to give back. The days are long. The shifts follow a pattern of 24 hours on, 24 hours off for three days, and then a four-day break.

It can be an intensely physical and emotional 72-hour period over the five days. We are trained to see things most people never see and to be ready to step into challenging, and potentially dangerous situations every time we get a call. Running head-on into experiences of real suffering, I have learned that situations of suffering are primarily opportunities to do the right thing.

As a firefighter, I have experienced the joy of helping a mother give birth and the grief of watching a mother see her

son dying from a drug overdose. When you go into this work, you have to be ready to accept hard things; situations that are not right or good. The squad experiences this tension often, and it takes a toll on them all.

Most of the guys are younger than me—just starting out with their family lives and careers. My job is to make sure that their needs are met as we share station life, meals, and good conversations. Running calls 24/7 depends on our connecting well. I work hard to get to know the others by listening to and relishing their stories.

As I come to know my team, they ask me questions and hear my stories. It's a wonderful exchange that proves invaluable in times of intensity and danger. Most people want to relate to something or someone real. The team wants to do good work and our connectedness is key.

Part of our training is to not internalize the tragedies. It takes

Continued on page 5

INSIDE: REFLECTIONS

A Culture of Respect

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus...being made in human likeness...he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death (Philippians 2:5-8)

The ministry of Jesus was not just the story of what he did in history but our vocation today that we should be the presence of Jesus to the whole world.

Paul encourages us to look not only to our interests but to those around us, valuing them above ourselves. Only by the transformative power of the Holy Spirit is it possible to act in love.



Each of us knows how our own pride, insecurities, and self-concerns get in the way and undermine our ability to foster a culture of respect by putting others' well-being ahead of our own.

The Holy Spirit is the living flame of the divine love of God. As we read these reflections, let it burn in us a new love and respect for those we work with and serve.

September Reflections: Pg 2-4

5 *The Last Flight Out*

6 *Anatomy of a Betrayal*

7 *Working for Our Father Goes Virtual*

REFLECTIONS WEEK 1

Being Christ in Turbulent Times

By Jon Cassady

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.” (Matthew 5:9-10)

Thrust into isolation, economic hardship, and a loss of freedom by the COVID-19 pandemic, we have experienced difficult situations at home, in the workplace, and in society. The death of George Floyd sparked riots in Minneapolis and around the world. However, even when anger is justified, as Christians we are called to respect the dignity of life and love our sisters and brothers.

In the early days of the pandemic, the parish where I work cancelled public Masses. Suddenly parishioners had to adjust to a new way of worshipping God—individually and online. Another dramatic change affected our families when we closed the grade school and switched to distance learning.

In my role as director of advancement, I’ve had discussions with parishioners who were angry, depressed, confused, and frustrated. On the day of the memorial service for George Floyd, our pastor invited parishioners on Facebook to join him in prayer on the church lawn. One parishioner misconstrued it as an act of protest when Father was instead taking both knees in prayer for the tragic death and social unrest. I listened to the parishioner’s concern and by being compassionate and available I was able to better understand his position and come together in prayer for unity.

Even when our Christian faith is tested, we can create a culture of respect. Some people just need to be heard and we need the Holy Spirit to guide our conversations and to preserve peace. I show respect through active listening and offering spiritual encouragement and prayer. I have the honor to pray with each person after every engagement.

Living in a broken world, we are not called to judge but to offer hope. Our parish has reached out to our neighbors affected by the recent violence and COVID-19. When we hosted a successful donation drive for several local mission partners we were overwhelmed by the generos-

ity of our parishioners. We continue to offer weekly material help to a catholic parish in Minneapolis. These acts provide moments of joy to our community. By listening to others and donating our time and treasure, we can help them feel comforted, validated, and respected as beloved daughters and sons of God.

Minnesota native **Jon Cassady** is the director of advancement at a parish in the Minneapolis suburbs. He can be reached at cassadyjon@gmail.com.

PRAY

Father, encourage me to respect the dignity of all human lives and appreciate our unique gifts and talents.

REFLECT

Am I an active and compassionate peacemaker by creating an environment of respect and trust during these turbulent times?

DISCUSS

How can you influence a culture of respect, and bring Christ into these times of unrest?

New Website - WorkLight.org

Through the new website, WorkLight works to spark a movement of the Holy Spirit by:

- + Using the power of personal stories of the Gospel being lived.
- + Providing practical, adaptable and on-demand resources.
- + Fostering small groups across traditions, occupations and positions.



Visit worklight.org today!



REFLECTIONS WEEK 2

Dignity Makes a Difference

By Rachel Goodling

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. (Proverbs 31:8)

I have seen firsthand how being treated with dignity and respect can be a life-changing experience. In 2017, I was working in DC as a case manager working with individuals experiencing homelessness. I was assigned to work with Mr. Wyatt, a gentleman who had been homeless for some time and was staying at a local shelter. He was required to meet regularly with another case manager through a mental health organization. That case manager would pull up in front of the shelter and call Mr. Wyatt on the phone. His case man-

ager would ask him if he was ok and then have him sign a piece of paper to show they had met.

By contrast, when I worked with Mr. Wyatt I referred to him by his last name as he had asked. I was transparent with him about the process of finding housing for him and any barrier he might face. Most of all, I listened to his story with respect. He saw that I could relate to his struggles with PTSD and that I had compassion for his situation.

Describing a life filled with abuse and neglect, he opened up to me about his suffering, his mental illness, and his struggles with substance abuse. I was then able to assess him for a permanent supportive housing voucher for those who experience mental illness and chronic homelessness. Connected with a new mental health case manager, Mr. Wyatt was eventually able to move into a place of his own—and it all started with being treated with dignity and respect.

person on his team—whether they wore a tie, scrubs, or a janitorial uniform.

In spite of his discomfort with the sights and sounds of the recovery room, Wade frequently made visits there to make sure nurses had what they needed and patients felt cared for. During busy times Wade would step in to transport a patient to a waiting family member—a task usually relegated to a more junior staff member. He would pick up a mop when something needed to be cleaned up. His humility was evident in the way he approached team members and asked how he could make their jobs easier.

Wade understood what Jesus meant by “blessed are the meek.” The meek are not lacking in confidence or authority. We can be meek when we prevent pride from ruling our hearts and by remembering how Christ humbled himself to the point of death on the cross (Phil 2:8).

Within a few years Wade was promoted to regional VP. Shortly

Rachel Goodling has worked for 8 years in homeless services and currently works as a case manager connecting homeless veterans with permanent housing. She can be reached at rachelgoodling@hotmail.com.

PRAY

Lord, open my eyes to those I encounter who are in need of compassion, dignity and respect.

REFLECT

How is the Lord calling me to show respect to those I meet both within and outside of the workplace?

DISCUSS

How can we work together to speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves?

thereafter he quit his job and became a full-time pastor. We still talk about Wade years after he left—a leader who loved and respected everyone around him.

Buckminster Farrow is a general surgeon in Houston, TX. He can be reached at nothumbleyet@gmail.com.

PRAY

Jesus, help me to see opportunities to respect others by humbling myself, even to where I am uncomfortable.

REFLECT

Are there coworkers who you normally don't interact with that would be blessed by your showing a concern for them?

DISCUSS

How can we submit more of our work life to the Lord?

REFLECTIONS WEEK 3

Blessed are the Meek

By Buckminster Farrow

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. (Matthew 5:5)

Hospitals operate with groups of highly specialized individuals performing in sync for the best possible outcomes. Doctors write orders to guide the care that nurses and staff provide. Administrators are usually sequestered in offices far from the drama of the operating room, the chaos of the ER, or the hard work being done on the hospital wards.

Our former CEO, Wade, had an air of confidence and was always well-dressed and well-spoken. He could not stand the sight of blood so he knew his calling was in administration and not in a clinical role. He cared about every

REFLECTIONS WEEK 4

The Right Fit

By Rachel Goodling

For, whoever would love life and see good days must keep their tongue from evil and their lips from deceitful speech. (1 Peter 3:10)

In October, I attended a meeting that I both expected and dreaded. I had just gotten back from a weeklong vacation and was almost immediately called in to meet with my supervisor and director. After months of struggling to keep up with the workload and discussions about how I could improve my performance, management had finally decided to force me to resign.

I had worked as a project coordinator supervising four case managers for a program that helps homeless veterans move into permanent housing. There were many aspects of the job that I loved: mentoring the case managers, networking with county offices and

other organizations, and working directly with the veterans. Then there were the struggles of the job: managing the grant requirements, reviewing paperwork, and dealing with client complaints. I had been struggling for quite some time to keep up with all the demands of the job and it finally caught up with me.

I knew the job wasn't the right fit for me, and this meeting showed that management had come to the same conclusion. They were gracious and respectful, and were allowing me to leave with dignity. I was given two and a half months to find a new job. Management offered to provide good references for me and allowed me to go on interviews during the weekday.

Most importantly, they were discrete about the reasons why I was leaving. There was no gossip about me being forced to leave and nothing was discussed with other members of the management team. I was also given the opportunity to tell my colleagues and my case managers that I was

leaving before it was announced to the rest of the staff. I was grateful for the respect and consideration I was shown. In the end, I was able to quickly find another job and was unemployed for only a week.

PRAY

Lord, help me to appreciate those times I have been treated with respect and help me to find the grace to show respect to all those I work with.

REFLECT

Recognize those times that you have not spoken about coworkers with discretion and respect. Seek to be aware of opportunities in the workplace to act with respect and integrity.

DISCUSS

How can we avoid gossip, judgement and complaining in order to build a more respectful workplace?

START SOMETHING

Are you a Christian business owner, active member of a church or other Christian network, or simply an individual who wants Christ to shine brighter in workplaces across the world? Consider hosting a WorkLight small group or event in your community.

Visit our new website at

WORKLIGHT.ORG/START-SOMETHING

to learn more!

The Last Flight Out

He says, “Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.” (Psalm 46:10)

The words “last flight out” appeared before me. I have never known a greater distance than the one birthed by these words. It stretched from east to west, stretched further than the news of births and deaths, seemed to stretch until eternity.

This was my new reality; cities closed, the United States seemed worlds away and our planet was flung into a crisis for which none of us were prepared. Soon there would be no mere hopping on a plane and going home—if I stayed in the country, it would be indefinite.

I consider myself fortunate, many of my friends who took last-minute flights were forced to pack up their entire lives in 24 hours. Others left their host-countries for conferences and were never allowed to return. My work was here; if there was ever a need for the gospel, surely it was now. And yet, I had never felt so far from home, and the work had never felt harder.

The last flight left and the world ground to a halt. The universities closed and our students scattered. Police patrolled the streets, enforcing quarantine and my team and I, like the rest of the world, familiarized ourselves with Zoom. But what does ministry look like from behind a computer screen? How do you meet students when the university campus has become a ghost town?

At times the going was rough. Our creative attempts with digital strategies and online seminars met with bad internet, the limitations of living in a closed country, and apathetic students. Some days, the stress of riding

out a pandemic 6,000 miles from family and familiar healthcare overshadowed any thoughts of ministry. But if there’s one thing I’ve learned from living overseas, it’s that there is power in a consistent video call.

I’ve watched my nephew and niece grow up over Skype; now I witnessed my disciples’ spiritual growth. We prayed and read the Word together, and were able to meet more habitually than we ever had in person. Our online English Club gathered a small but faithful group of students, and over the months of quarantine we had several spiritual discussions which couldn’t have happened during on-campus meetings. Our Bible study, too, found its faithful few, and was even joined by one of our students who was studying abroad.

All the same, it was definitely not the successful, world-changing semester we had planned. I often felt that I should somehow be doing more. But time and time again, God brought my team back to the theme verse from our conference in January, one we were still struggling to embrace.

Busyness is much more comfortable than stillness. But even good work can become frantic and meaningless if we do not allow it to be marked by rest. It is when we pause from activity that we remember who really changes hearts and keeps the planets spinning.

The Lord was the one who called me to remain overseas during a global pandemic. But maybe his desire was not for me to work harder, but rather to see the ways he was already working.

I haven’t the slightest clue what the coming months will bring. Universities may still be closed. Our cities slip in and out of quarantine. Infection counts fall and rise. Borders remain impassible. God still reigns over the nations.

And when we find ourselves wearied by social distance and new masked normals, may we remember to be still and know that he is God.

Due to the nature of her work in central Asia the writer would like to remain anonymous.

*Continued from page 1
A Lineage of Service*

a concerted effort to achieve the necessary balance. Following the Lord’s lead, I often retreat to lonely places in nature. When I am off, I am not very sociable. Our work requires us to always put others’ needs before our own. If I am to do this work well, I have to be refreshed. Taking hikes, tending the garden, watching with awe the natural world, brings me back into focus and puts everything in a better context.



The challenges and blessings I encounter as a firefighter have opened my heart and mind to become the person I am created to be; to see the good around me and work to address what is not right. I once held the hand of a shooting victim, around my own child’s age, and encouraged her with expectant faith and hope that no, she was not going to die. I said it for both of us.

There are times when we have the opportunity to illuminate the darkness. It’s a choice we make in our actions and how we comport ourselves. Part of my journey is seeking the strength I need to deal with the realities of life. In Christ, I know that I’m not alone and I’m grateful for that.

Kenneth Zack is the captain of a fire station in Prince William County, Virginia.

Anatomy of a Betrayal

By David Hataj

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

Dad hardly ever called me, especially in the evening after dinner. Besides, what couldn't wait until tomorrow when I would see him at work?

"We have a problem," he began. My stomach lurched. He then explained he had just discovered our assistant manager had been secretly setting up his own gear shop and lying through his teeth for the past six months. Right under our noses, he was making sweetheart deals with our customers and vendors to siphon away business from Edgerton Gear.

How deep did this plot go? How many other employees were involved? We would soon find out the conspiracy was deeper and more widespread

than we could imagine. Would the business survive?

When I came back to the family business almost three decades ago, I recognized it as one of the most hurtful places I knew. My sister was being treated badly. The staff was divided into warring factions, and everyone seemed to be grasping for their "rights," while displaying a level of cruelty far worse than what one might see on the playground.

In the midst of all the brokenness, I had to know the answer to one thing: Could the God of the Bible and Jesus of Nazareth fix any of it, even in a little Midwest, family machine shop? Was the Kingdom of God relevant at all, or was it just some theological mumbo jumbo? My world was busted and I needed to know if there was any hope.

Coming back to the family business was a grand experiment to see what would happen if we brought kingdom values and faith into a dirty and dark factory and to try to salvage the future of the business my parents started with blood, sweat, and tears. The first two years were hell—and then things got worse. My little corner of the world was not just broken; it was coming apart at the seams.

Could we have sued the three employees that betrayed us? Sure, we could have tried. Would it have done any good? Probably not. In fact, in the upside-down world of God's kingdom, it turned out they did us a huge favor. Without the parting of ways with them and the vendor who helped them, we would not have needed to find an alternative gear material, which led us to start another business, which became the vehicle for some of Edgerton Gear's biggest customers to find us.

Not all acts of betrayal lead to prosperity and success. What's really at stake is whether we will allow the crime to hurt us over and over and over by holding on to the bitterness and desire for revenge. As I'm sure Jesus had in mind when he taught on forgiveness, holding on to our anger is the gift that keeps on giving, and not in a good way. Let it go, let it go, let . . . it . . . go.

David Hataj is president and co-owner of Edgerton Gear, Inc. This story is excerpted from his book "Good Work," How Blue Collar Business Can Change Lives, Communities, And the World.

Nine to Five Podcast

Nine to Five podcasts are conversations with Christians who are actively seeking to align their careers with God's mission. They are meant to challenge and encourage others through personal testimony and sharing.

Listen and learn how you might bring Christ into your workplace.

To learn more go to bit.ly/9to5-Podcasts



NEWS

VIRTUAL WORKING FOR OUR FATHER EVENT

On July 16 and 23, WorkLight hosted a virtual Working for Our Father (W4RF) online event. In an effort to reach all of our members and new participants from all over the country, the event was hosted in east coast and west coast time zones.

WorkLight’s virtual program consultant, Kathryn Elliott, is creating a toolkit that will make it easy for your group or Chapter to host a virtual event. If your group is interested in hosting the next Working for Our Father event, please contact Remote@WorkLight.org or visit us online at worklight.org.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM W4RF:

Congratulations on pulling off a well-done Zoom Working for Our Father. I thought the small group breakouts took place effortlessly and the discussion worked almost as if we were physically present with one another. The witnesses also had nice stories... I have been involved in doing three or four of these in person locally, and this was just as good, and perhaps better because you have more choices in picking your witnesses.

Bill Dalgetty (Northern Virginia Chapter)

(I) wanted to express my appreciation for all your efforts in putting on the event. I can assure you that in my 34+ years in CIC, there has never been a “gathering” like this one!

Greg Aitkens (Orange County Chapter, California)

W4RF not only presented a convincing message but bonded our sharing group as new sisters in Christ. It was also a wonderful opportunity to get to know our new WorkLight leadership team and their heartfelt love for our mission.

Diane McGinty, (Gilroy/Morgan Hill Chapter, CA)

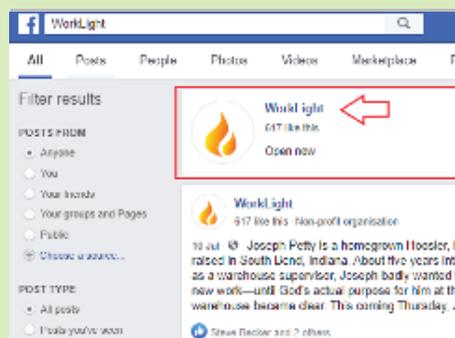
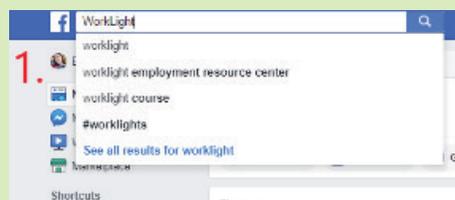
SOCIAL MEDIA CHALLENGE

In the month of July WorkLight increased followers by nearly two hundred people on Facebook!

Why the sudden influx? The WorkLight staff and the Communications Committee started a challenge to invite our individual Friends lists to “Like” WorkLight on Facebook. This allows for people who have never heard of WorkLight to see our name, learn who we are and hopefully make a connection! And now, we challenge you!

Take Part in the Challenge - Invite your friends!

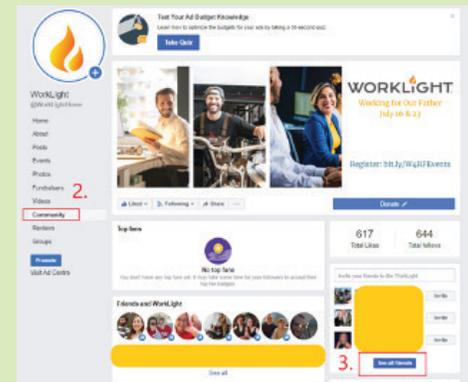
- 1 • Search for WorkLight on Facebook



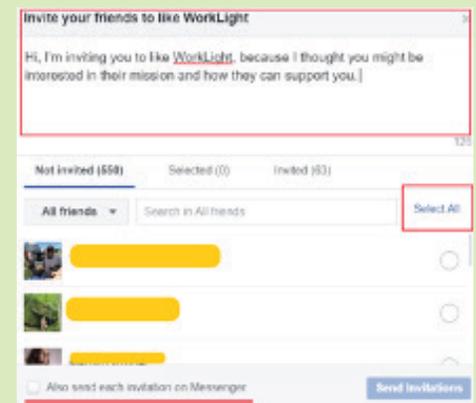
- 2 • Once you’re on our page click “Community” on the profile section on the left side of the screen

- 3 • Next, on the right side of the screen there should be a list of your friends. Select “See All”

- 4 • “Friends”



- 5 • A box should pop up that allows you to tailor your message to your friends and when you’re ready to send click “Select All”



- 6 • Hit “Send Invitations!”

- 7 • Done!

Not on Facebook? That’s okay. We’re also on Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn. Follow us on the social media platforms of your choice to find out the latest happenings, encouragement and events that WorkLight has to offer!

2020

SEPTEMBER

*"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

The Flame is published monthly for WorkLight by Christians in Commerce International. WorkLight is an initiative of Christians in Commerce. All material is copyrighted and owned by WorkLight and Christians in Commerce International. Material may be utilized when WorkLight is formally acknowledged as the source. All scripture taken from the Holy Bible: New International Version ©1978 by the New York International Bible Society, used by permission.

FOUNDERS

Louis Grams
John Mooney
Cyril Rose

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rich Preuss (Chairman)
Stevan Becker
Luke Cahill
Vanessa Cooreman Smith
Jennifer Frankenberg
Art Klaum
Dan Kuplic
Dave Mazanowski

CIC STAFF

Wesley Farrow, President
Therese McNichol, Director of Administration
Becki Lonnquist, Communications Director
Sharon Teitelbaum, Editor
Margaret Crimmins, Membership
Beth Preuss, Communications Associate

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Managing Editor: Becki Lonnquist
Editorial Board: Stevan Becker, Sharon Teitelbaum
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