

The Land of 10,000 Choices

By Mark Vizecky

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. (Matthew 6:33)

We are bombarded with choices—the best roast of coffee, best beer, best career, best investments to maximize return on investment, best workout program, best place to live... the list goes on. It's estimated that we make 35,000 choices every day. That makes me weary just thinking about it, but where are these choices leading us?

This motion has the ability to induce the feeling of momentum, but so does a rocking chair. The recent uncertainty, isolation, and unknown have brought all of this motion to a screeching halt, and the void can easily fill with darker thoughts and feelings.

Like a fuzzy photograph, a different focal point is transformational. He is here and he knows us by name. As Elijah finds at Horeb, not in the mighty wind, earthquake or fire,

but in a place that can seem without power, the stillness.

Before COVID (which seems like years ago) I felt compelled, pulled, or nudged to commit to finding stillness each day, to push pause and connect with God. Not, I'll wedge you in while getting the kids on the bus, sitting in traffic, attending a meeting, or fitting you in at the end of the day when I have time for you. But as my best offering—early, fresh, and eager.

Why this impetus now? I had plenty of other stuff cooking. I was in the middle of building a new team at work with more openings than team members, navigating legacy staff and program challenges, beginning a journey as a single parent, and engaging with kids in sports. But this need to act was following me like toilet paper on my shoe.

I found a page-a-day devotional, simple, easy, complete; built on the teachings of A.W. Tozer. To be honest,

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INSIDE: REFLECTIONS

Choosing Hope

Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God. (Psalm 20:7)

These are dark times. The outcome of the national election offers no hope things will improve. We can be assured one part of our country will be angrier than ever, and determined to work against, not with, the other side. Putting our faith in a political system offers no lasting hope.

As believers, our call is to choose and demonstrate hope in the practical day-to-day situations of our lives. We



Banff National Park, Photo by Louis Grams

entrust ourselves and our efforts to the enduring faithfulness of our Father, the redemptive work of his Son, and the power of the Holy Spirit.

In this, we have hope in all circumstances, even suffering.

Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. (Isaiah 40:31)

November Reflections: Pg 2-4

REFLECTIONS WEEK 1

A Sign of Hope

By Luke Cahill

Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will. (Romans 12:2)

Starting in March, I experienced my business go from a banner year to facing significant challenges and questions about our future. Yet, now I am filled with a gratitude that only came from confronting my greatest fear and seeing God lead me through the fire to a place better than I could have imagined.

I lead the team at a small market research company that specializes in conducting in-person research. As the coronavirus spread it became unsafe to conduct the research that translated to about 90% of our revenue. Faced with difficult decisions I wondered

what God wanted me to do. Did he want me to change careers or pivot the company in a whole new way?

I trusted in God to care for me and my family, but I knew that there were no guarantees of maintaining our same lifestyle. Change is hard for most of us but it has always been acutely scary to me. I often ran to the Father in prayer. Would I have to make staff cuts to an awesome team? Could we find a way to compete in a crowded marketplace with new-to-us methods?

I prayed and worked hard and the Holy Spirit was present in guiding my decisions and providing inspiration. I cut my annual salary in half, and we didn't have to make deep staffing cuts. As a team, we found ways to bring greater authenticity and effectiveness to online methods that provided value to our clients and was consistent with our brand. Word spread and we are getting more project requests than we have capacity for. We now have tangible reasons to be confident about our long-term stability and feel good about the quality

of work we are delivering our clients. God was so faithful. The Holy Spirit is so present. I am so grateful.

Luke Cahill is a board member of WorkLight. He lives in Eagan, MN, with his wife and five children. He owns a market research company, REAL Insight, based in Minneapolis and he can be reached at lcahill@real-insight.us.

PRAY

Father, please bless us with moments of hope. Help us know that you will provide, even when we are unsure or scared.

REFLECT

Where have you seen the Lord in your work?

DISCUSS

How has this challenging time shown you God's faithfulness and love?

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.

worklight.org/share-your-story

REFLECTIONS WEEK 2

Seeking Guidance

By Gail Gaffney-Smith

Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long. (Psalm 25:4-5)

When someone says they live with someone who is behaving badly, I struggle not to call them out for their judgmental tenor. Even with the invitation from God when I answer the phone in our psychiatric practice to be quiet in my spirit, it can be hard to know how to respond. Instead, I try to bring hope to clients by being patient and compassionate.

A father once called in exasperation that his adult son wouldn't get a job

no matter the consequences. The father's goal was to set up an appointment for his son, hoping we could do something with or for this young adult. Inviting the dad to look at the fears he might have for himself and his family, required me to listen, ask questions, and offer a bit of education: we cannot fix our adult children.

We can only change who we are and our reactions. Dealing with our own fears or shame can lead to creative ways to handle a situation. Inviting this dad to pray with his wife daily, for insight, and for whatever impediment stands in the way for their son was a way to show them compassion and bring hope. The dad agreed but wasn't sure how to address the issues in prayer. As a parent of adult children, I told him I understood. He went on to make an appointment for himself and planned to ask his wife to join him.

Gail Gaffney-Smith lives in Annandale, VA. She and her husband, Lee, have two adult children. She is a psychiatric nurse at a Christian psychiatric practice in Falls Church, VA. She can be reached at gailsmith@curtthompsonassociates.com

PRAY

Lord, show me how to pray for hope in situations that I want to control.

REFLECT

Consider when has the Lord shown you a better way of dealing with a situation when you stopped and prayed first.

DISCUSS

What situations would challenge you to ask God to bring forth hope?

REFLECTIONS WEEK 3

Finding Purpose

By Luke Cahill

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. (Ephesians 2:10)

Participating in the Working for our Father series I learned that work is a gift. Initially, that blew my mind, although I have since grown to understand the concept.

Throughout the pandemic, I have been dwelling on that more as I have seen my small market research business transition from a full project load to a cancelled project load. We've been fortunate to go into this transition from a position of fiscal strength that enabled us to keep our team employed and the bills paid.

What I have felt is the impact of losing my sense of purpose. The primary methods our company uses are in-person and in-store research. Losing our ability to do the work we are known for and that I believed so strongly in, has impacted me more than I anticipated. There is a financial security component to the struggle, it is really seeing our God-given talents go unused or underused that can feel as bad or worse. House projects initially benefited from my craving to produce something good, but as those have wound down, I need to rethink my job to determine what I can do to still use my talents to serve the needs of people during times where business is functioning differently.

Seeing factories pivot to producing masks or face shields is inspiring, so we kicked off an initiative to offer free research to two small businesses/nonprofits who needed critical insight to help them navigate this tricky time.

This served others and put our talents to good use. The long-term future and needs for our paid business to recover are still very present, but I have hope and trust that God will take care of us as we continue to strive to serve him through our work.

PRAY

Heavenly Father, continue to give us hope and help us to find purpose in our work.

REFLECT

How can I recognize my unique gifts or talents and use them to serve others and God?

DISCUSS

What opportunities do we have to give others hope in challenging times?

REFLECTIONS WEEK 4

Saved by the Holy Spirit

“For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me.” (John 6:38)

I am an accountant from the Middle East. When a civil war occurred in my country, I moved to Paris and studied beauty and cosmetics. I was trained and worked at the top Parisian beauty centers and became successful. When the war ended, I returned and started a beauty center business and married a successful, kind, and loving businessman.

For 16 years God was generous to us and blessed us with two beautiful children and three successful beauty centers. I was regularly on TV covering beauty consulting, hosted a daily radio program, and traveled first-class around the world.

In my first years of marriage, I prayed regularly and went to church. Sadly, fame and money can take you from the hands of God and it happened to me.

Four years ago, we lost nearly everything. Our money and properties were taken from us in an unjust way and we lost almost everything. I started praying again and heavenly peace was restored to me. I was inspired by the Holy Spirit to leave the country. My husband asked me to wait one or two years, but a voice inside me urgently insisted that we leave right away.

Within two months, we moved to California with little money, no home, and no school for the kids. I just kept praying: “Jesus I trust in you.”

As soon as we arrived, we experienced small and big miracles. I realized why God wanted us to move. Shortly after we moved our previous country experienced an economic crash. People told me, “God loves you, this is why you moved at the best time.” I was grateful for listening to the Holy Spirit’s promptings.

I have become closer to God in the U.S., praying constantly, reading, and attending conferences to know him more. I realized that even with all the money I once had, I wasn’t nearly as happy as I am now. I have peace, joy, and love that only God can

give—a love that I can share with the people around me.

My experience has taught me to grow close to God through prayer; to listen to his voice; to ask him for advice and for signs; to trust in him even with all the struggles of life; and surrender to his merciful heart.

Due to sensitivities surrounding the author’s move to the United States, she wishes to remain anonymous. She is a member of the Mission Viejo Women’s Chapter.

PRAY

Jesus I trust in you! You know what plans are best for my salvation.

REFLECT

Have you been open to God’s plan for your life?

DISCUSS

Share a time when you trusted in God’s wisdom and mercy.

Get Your Small Group on the Map!

Is your group or chapter accepting new members? Visit our website now and add your group to the map!

Help unite Christians who feel like islands in their efforts to practice faith, integrity, and excellence in the workplace.

Visit worklight.org/small-groups

True Riches

By Bill Dalgetty

“So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?” (Luke 16:11)

After sharing the parable of the shrewd manager, Jesus offers a number of comments about money and wealth, and suggests that there is a correlation between good stewardship of worldly wealth and the true riches available to us from God’s Spirit.

If we are careless with worldly things and wealth, why should God trust us with the true riches of faith in him



and his presence through the gifts and fruit of his Holy Spirit?

Jesus said, “Whoever can be trusted with very little can be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much.” (Luke 16:10) Some examples come to mind such as taking advantage of a sales clerk’s mistake of giving back too much change; overestimating mileage for personal use of a car for reimbursement on an expense account; helping yourself to office supplies for personal use. How strong is our integrity if we can’t be trusted with taking ownership of small things that don’t belong to us?

Petty theft erodes our integrity and faithfulness to truth in both our actions and beliefs. It dulls our sense of goodness and justice and how we relate with others, for the focus is in-

ward on ourselves instead of outward on God and others. Like a distant black hole in the universe we keep the light that Christ offers from shining outward. This self-focus is an obstacle to our truly experiencing God in a personal, close way through his son Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.

To all of this, Jesus adds the admonition that “No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.” (Luke 16:13) While God expects us to work in order to take care of his creation and ourselves he does not want this to become our principal focus to the exclusion of our love and pursuit of him.

Success in the workplace, moving up the corporate ladder and earning more

money are not bad in themselves, but they should not be our primary focus. Our first priority should be to love God and seek his will in all things.

As a young attorney for a large corporation my focus got out of whack early

in my career, detracting both from my relationship with God and my family. Fortunately by God’s loving grace and a personal encounter with Jesus, he opened my eyes to what was happening and helped me to change my priorities.

“So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.” (2 Corinthians 4:18)

Bill Dalgetty is the former President and former Chairman of the Board of Christians in Commerce. In 2013, he published Hope for the Workplace – Christ in You about bringing hope and transformation to our workplaces. He and his wife, Marilyn, have five children and 13 grandchildren. Contact him at dalgettybill@gmail.com.

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The Land of 10,000 Choices*

it was awkward to start, but as days turned to weeks and then months it has become a treasured part of my day. This deepening connection to him has been awesome, richer, and more complete. It has empowered me to be better centered in my attitude, approach, and response in so many aspects of my life. Why didn’t I do this sooner?

Find a way to let his light shine! It’s as easy as a smile and hello while out on a walk or run, sharing some treats with your neighbors, an open ear and kind heart to a friend or coworker on a Zoom call, tipping someone in the service industry at a level that makes them smile, or taking your pastor out to breakfast. Consider giving your bible away (not a bible, but yours) and buying another and sharing your talents at church. There are many options and the choice is yours.

Mark Vizecky manages a team of transportation professionals in St Paul, MN.



God Uses All Things

By Beth Preuss

“Guys like me,” said 36-year-old Calvin Swan, “We don’t stay alive. Statistically speaking, I shouldn’t be here.”

“And, I wouldn’t,” he said, “but that God saved my life, more than once, and he saved it for his purpose. I am just starting to understand that purpose, and it is exciting.”

A child of Chicago’s projects and foster care system, Calvin Swan’s life was marred by drugs, gangs, and poverty. His recently published memoir, *Faith of an Unwanted Child*, chronicles his experience growing up unloved, unwanted, and unnurtured. He resonates well with recent unrest and violence in America’s cities and the generational poverty that traps so many in the web of despair and death.

“I grew up in that environment. My dad was one of the biggest gang-bangers and drug dealers. He spent 22 years in prison. My mom was on the streets prostituting and things like that.”

“I grew up sleeping on the concrete floor with rats, roaches, and urine. And, I grew up watching my Granny pray for the food that we needed and seeing people drop it off, just at the right moment, or pay for the monthly utilities so we had heat.”

When she died in a fire, Calvin and his five siblings went into the foster care system where “I went from home to home to group home; where I went to five different high schools before I turned 18 and was turned out.”

Yet, he recognized God’s care. “I saw my best friend shot in front of me,” he recalled. “The gun was to my head, but it jammed so I got knocked out but not shot. That was the Lord!”

He moved for a better life. “I left Chicago for Michigan. I had some leftover drug money, so I rented a small place and started working at Wal-Mart. My grandparents, and the street, taught me to speak and act with respect and integrity. In gangs, you learn early on not to mouth off but to respect authority, even if it’s bad authority.”

And he knew how to work, with drive and purpose. Doors opened. He made

basketball, enabled him to start his non-profit Euro Hoopz Academy (www.eurohoopz.com). Working with church grade schools, Euro Hoopz provides a safe environment for kids to get tutoring, learn life skills and grow in fellowship through recreational athletic programs. And the kids trust him, because he has been there.

Recently, Calvin joined a WorkLight Small Group. One group member said, “Calvin has brought energy and



money to live and to share. “God is real,” said Calvin. “Mostly, I have lived from 24 hours to 24 hours. I don’t know well how to make plans because where I came from, I never knew if I would live to see the end of the day.”

He and his wife of 15 years married early after she became pregnant. “I wasn’t going to abandon my children; wasn’t going to be the kind of dad that I had.” But, he acknowledges, “I had never seen marriage. I struggled because her close family was church-going. I didn’t know how to do that. We have worked hard together, learned how to grow in trust, and talk out our differences. We have let God teach us.”

Calvin’s coaching history and passion for sports, particularly

passion for all that God is doing in his life and business. Our group has been able to bring experience and insight as he looks to shape his family and business life evermore around God’s kingdom-building plan.”

Calvin summed up his philosophy. “I wake up every morning, grateful for another day. I don’t ask for much, but I want to make it the best 24 hours I can.”

Beth Preuss is the communications associate for WorkLight. She and her husband, Rich, live in South Bend, IN.

NEWS



ON-DEMAND EVENT TOOLKITS AVAILABLE NOW

WorkLight has developed event toolkits for groups, chapters, employee networks, or community organizations to put on events like Working for Our Father or WorkLight StoryNight. These turn-key toolkits go through the entire event process from start to finish and make it easy to run an event in your location or online to a virtual audience.

The Working for Our Father toolkit offers instructions and insights on

how to run a successful event, an event survey, and a customizable video presentation hosted by our own Wesley Farrow, WorkLight president. The toolkits are designed to be customizable and can be presented both to a live audience and/or a virtual audience. There are also options for groups to find their own speakers to share stories or use our previously recorded videos that are already built into the toolkit.

A WorkLight StoryNight toolkit is also available to help coordinate a WorkLight StoryNight of real-life

stories of Christ in the workplace. This low-key event can be hosted during a happy hour, after work, on the weekend in-person or virtually. Choose from our story videos online (new stories are added monthly at worklight.org/worklight-stories) or work with a specialist to lift up stories within your own group.

To request a toolkit please contact us at remote@worklight.org. Starting November 13, online toolkits will be available on the [Working for Our Father](#) and [WorkLight StoryNight](#) pages.

PRESIDENT'S NOTE



Choosing Hope

I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope. (Psalm 130:5)

In this life we hope for so many things. Good health. Healing of a difficult relationship. Convenient parking spots. In this season the WorkLight

team has been hoping, working, and praying that our ministry might continue to spark movements of the Holy Spirit that reach the next generation.

Our Annual Gift Campaign is full of hope for what God has in store for 2021. This past year we have transformed from Christians in Commerce to WorkLight. You can see it in our new website worklight.org. Experience it through the now-virtual Working for Our Father series. Hear it in your own WorkLight Stories. None of this would be possible without the generous

stewardship and support of brothers and sisters in Christ like you.

But hoping as an activity only gets us so far. It is the choice of hope as faith in Christ that unites us under God. Our hope cries out for a foundation of truth that is our one true rock and redeemer.

Through Christ alone all things are possible. We hope you'll continue to join us in spreading this good news to the next generation. Come Holy Spirit!

God bless,
Wes

2020

NOVEMBER

*"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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