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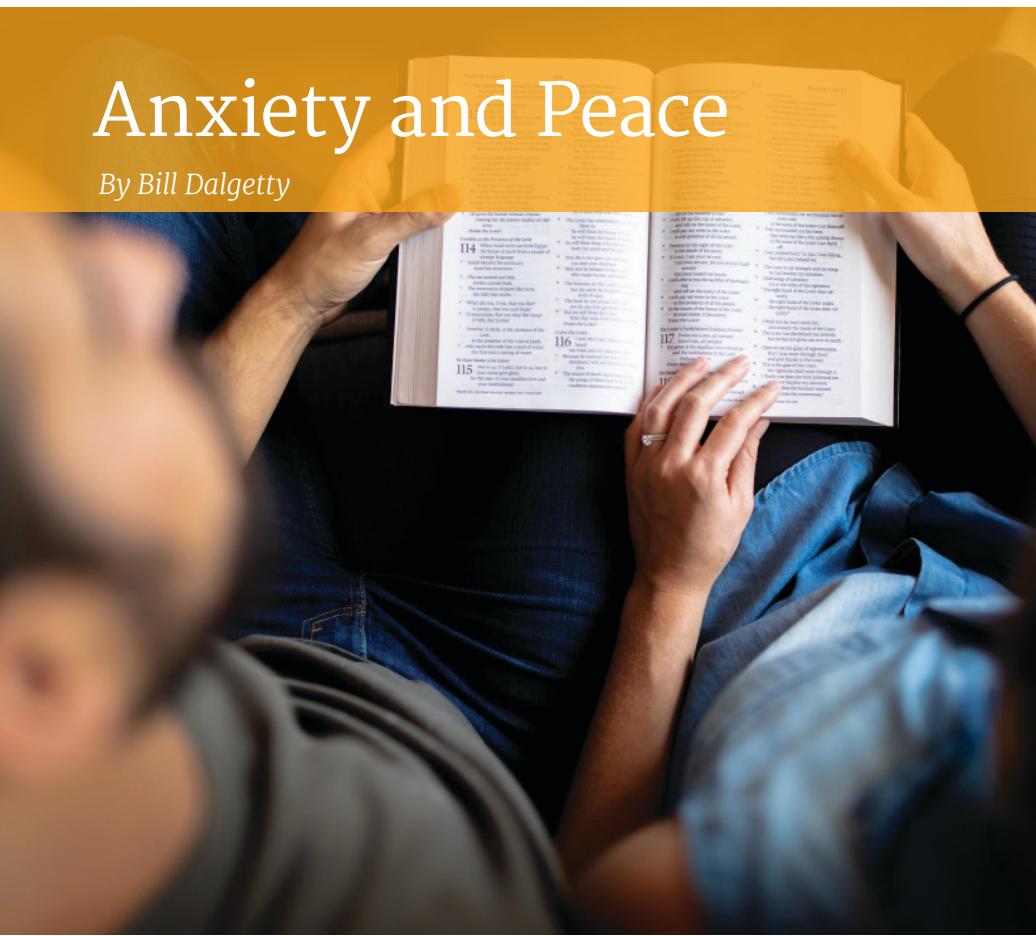
FLAME

WORKLIGHT

February 2021

Anxiety and Peace

By Bill Dalgetty



Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:6-7)

St. Paul is basically telling us that prayer guards our hearts and minds against anxiety.

After returning to work following a week off for the Christmas holidays a number of years ago, I faced several deadlines that all of sudden seemed

impossible to meet. That night I was unable to sleep because of my anxiety over all the pressure I was facing.

Appraisals of performance were due by the end of the week on employees reporting to me. A speech for the annual kickoff meeting of our entire marketing department of over a thousand people was also due. The finalization of our litigation budget for outside counsel covering a docket of over 1500 cases was yet another item. On top of these things was the general negative fallout from my having declined to accept a promotion

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INSIDE: REFLECTIONS

Facing Anxiety

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)

This month's reflections illustrate the key to facing anxiety is growing in confidence in God.

In prayer, we foster our relationship with God. When the difficulties of our lives and this world come upon us, we persevere, trusting in the Lord. The result is a first-hand growth in experiencing his personal faithfulness to each of us. We learn he will never say, "You hoped too much in me."



We discover that in God, who is love, there is only good; he can will and do only what is good for us. In the end, he proves himself bigger than anything we can face.

We will have our troubles each day. We will face our own inadequacies and failings. He will make up for what we lack. And so, let us pray throughout each day, "Jesus, repair what I have done badly, supply for what I have left undone," leaving anxiety behind.

February Reflections: Pg 2-4

REFLECTIONS WEEK 1

No Faith, No Mission

By Laurie Primavera

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. (Galatians 6:9)

"No money, no mission," is common rhetoric in the business world. While we must balance money with mission, it is easy to lose sight of the relevance of faith in the business world.

One of the highlights of my career was my appointment as CEO for a health clinic for the poor and uninsured in Fresno County. Our mission was to provide and improve access to quality health care regardless of one's ability to pay. Over several years, we almost doubled our service in the community.

Then we began to experience cash flow crises as costs exceeded revenue. The clinic board and I first considered the logical business decision—reduce access to clients by reducing hours of service. This strategy is the prudent business

approach to services exceeding revenues. "No money; no mission." However, that would require staff layoffs as well as reduced care to patients and families. Thankfully, a local bank extended a line of credit that allowed some time to consider alternative strategies to our financial crisis.

During a sleepless and prayerful night, I felt that God was leading me to meet directly with our primary federal funder. The clinic board didn't believe this strategy would work because funding increases were rare. However, they supported my decision to follow God's lead.

Our medical director joined me as we appealed for more financial support. Within three weeks, the Federal Bureau of Public Health Services informed us that our clinic would receive a \$3 million funding increase. It was nothing short of a miracle. We continued our mission without staff layoffs and increased dental services that were sorely lacking in our community.

None of this success was possible without God's leading. We took a risk and followed a path of faith—a path that has contributed to the continuation of quality of services to low-income residents in our community 20 years later.

Never doubt God's savvy in the business world. He leads us to impossible realities that serve his Kingdom on Earth.

Laurie Primavera is a member of the Fresno Women's Chapter. Married for more than 25 years, she enjoys friends, family, West Highland terriers and travel. Laurie is an RN with 40 years of experience working in healthcare. She can be reached at lauriepmsn@aol.com.

PRAY

Heavenly Father, thank you for continuously leading us through any challenge that may arise. Keep us coming to you in every situation.

REFLECT

Think of something that at the time, seemed so impossible. Did you turn to the Lord to get through?

DISCUSS

When has your faith been challenged or considered foolish? How did you respond?



Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. MATTHEW 5:16

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**WORKLIGHT IS SPARKING
A MOVEMENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

- 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

WORKLIGHT.ORG/SUPPORT-US/

REFLECTIONS WEEK 2

Damage Control

By Charlie Singleton

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. (Philippians 4:6)

A couple of years ago, our company partnered with a warehousing company to handle the unloading and loading of many of our trucks. As the software engineer on the project, it was my job to set up a data exchange between our two companies to automate information flow. This information included critical shipment data, including shipping and receiving locations and product volumes.

This was the first time I had worked on a project like this and the learning curve was steep. I was anxious about getting everything right. However, I was confident that I would be able to learn what was needed to get the job done well.

After the project was implemented, I looked for opportunities to optimize some of the data exchange routines. Soon after, I received a call from the warehouse confused as to why the information coming across to them all had the same receiving location. I found the problematic code and determined that for about two weeks all shipments were sent to the wrong receiving location.

My blood pressure soared and the self-accusations began. I worked feverishly to fix the underlying problem and sized up the scope of the damage to report to our president, Mark. I laid out my report and awaited a tongue-lashing. However, he responded to my anxiety with a cool, calm, and measured response. We successfully mitigated the damage and resolved the issue without any major problems.

I returned to my office and said a prayer of thankfulness for the way that Mark reminded me of God's love for me, thankful for the reminder that I needed to trust in God, and

thankful for how Mark lovingly carried the burden of the problem with and for me.

Charlie Singleton lives in Minneapolis, MN, with his wife, Kris, and their four children. He is the lead of the Engineering team at Trademark Transportation. He can be reached at csingleton06@gmail.com.

PRAY

Lord, I am thankful for your great love. Help me place my trust in you when I am anxious.

REFLECT

Where are the areas in your life that God is asking you to lay down your anxiety?

DISCUSS

How can we be vessels of God's grace to others struggling with anxiety?

REFLECTIONS WEEK 3

Leading with Love

By Dan Farrar

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. (Romans 12: 9-10)

My company believes in building community and enhancing lifestyles for the homeowner associations we serve. This can be challenging when we get calls from homeowners with problems. When my team members feel personally attacked, stress levels rise, resulting in irritability and a lack of cooperation.

During one of our morning meetings, a team member was angry and frustrated after a troubling call from a homeowner. Sensing an opportunity to be Christ-like, I shared a tip that had worked for me. Instead of getting

angry and adversarial with the complaining homeowners, I suggested that we try to love the people we come into contact with each day.

We often are too quick to remind people of the rules and regulations and not empathetic to their situations. Alternatively, if we try and love these homeowners and understand their concerns, our hearts are changed and we are able to find common ground and solutions that would not otherwise be feasible.

The following week I heard favorable reports. Calls were more helpful, frustration levels reduced, and complaints not as heated. I urged my team to continue to work on this.

Since then our team has become more cooperative. Visitors to our office find it warm and welcoming. We have even started receiving referrals. Leading with love has truly made a difference for us and those we serve.

Dan Farrar has been a member of the Palm Desert Chapter for more than 10 years. He and his wife, Maryellen, have one daughter. Dan is a general manager for a Homeowner Association and can be reached at danielkfarrar@aol.com.

PRAY

Jesus, we pray that you continue to teach us to love like you do and be there for our coworkers in times of need.

REFLECT

What consequences have resulted when you have failed to love at work?

DISCUSS

How can we be more aware of moments of opportunity to be Christ-like in our work?

REFLECTIONS WEEK 4

Invitation to Prayer

By Charlie Singleton

Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous be shaken. (Psalm 55:22)

A couple of years ago, I served as supervisor of our operations team. Our team worked long hours and dealt with constant stress and anxiety from juggling multiple tasks while keeping records with critical customer information up to date. My anxiety was compounded not only by doing much of the work myself but also trying to make sure the whole operation was flowing smoothly. This caused me to constantly rush and oftentimes set aside things happening within the team. I found myself becoming annoyed by any distractions not related to getting the work done.

At this time, one of our team member's work had started to suffer.

She seemed to be getting frazzled easily and was making mistakes in some simple tasks. One morning, she came into the office visibly distracted. Normally she would walk in with greetings for everyone but on that day she was quiet and had her head down as she sat at her desk. I was in the process of getting things set for the day and did not want to be pulled away from the work, but I felt the Holy Spirit was nudging me to have a conversation with her.

Already starting to feel anxious about the work that was surely piling up behind me, I asked if she would step away for a moment to touch base on some things. When we went into an empty office, I asked her how she was doing and she immediately began to sob. It turned out, she was in the middle of an ongoing legal fight with her ex-husband for custody of their young son. She was resentful of her ex-husband and it was clear that there was a deep wound from that relationship on her heart.

I felt the Holy Spirit moving me to pray with her. "Would you like to pray?" I asked. She emphatically said

yes. I prayed that the Lord would take all of the cares of her heart upon himself and fill her with his peace. We finished praying together, hugged, and returned to our work. By this time, the anxiety I felt about "missing work" was completely gone. It had been transformed instead by a peace and desire to better serve those around me.

PRAY

Lord, help me to set aside my "busyness" so that I might be filled with your Holy Spirit and open to Your work.

REFLECT

How open am I to allowing the Holy Spirit to lead my life?

DISCUSS

Think of a time when you opened yourself to the promptings of the Holy Spirit in your workplace. What did the Holy Spirit offer you?

Share your story: The Flame Newsletter



We are currently accepting story submissions for *The Flame* newsletter. Here are the upcoming monthly themes:

- Having Hope
- Influencing Workplace Culture
- Fruit of the Spirit
- Doing The Right Thing
- Overcoming Jealousy and Envy
- Humility at Work

If you have a workplace story that fits with these themes and would like to share, please contact communications@worklight.org.

Not a writer?
That's okay, we can help!
Your story has power, we want to give your story a voice.

Walking in Reverse

By Terry Nightingale



In talking with a friend the other day, I learned that he had been offered a role in an organization where his unique abilities and connections would be vital for the next phase of their vision. He was flattered by the offer but reluctant to accept it. He had worked for the company several years previously and, although under different management, they had not been willing to embrace his ideas. In fact, his feelings of rejection were still raw.

The organization had new leadership that was taking it in an exciting new direction. But my friend could only see the pain he felt eight years ago.

While we were talking, I was reminded of Moses. Moses had left Egypt out of favor and under a cloud. After a misguided attempt to win justice for a fellow Israelite, he felt the rejection of his own people and the sentence of death from his adoptive father, Pharaoh. Moses had no choice but to close that chapter of his life and move on.

Years later, and now with a wife and family, God called him back, *'I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt... the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. So now,*

go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.'
(Exodus 3: 7-10)

The first question Moses asks God is, 'Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?' In other words, "Lord, I burned that bridge decades ago, they didn't want my help then; I'm sure as heck they don't need it now." But God had to reassure Moses that things were different: there was a different Pharaoh on the throne and the elders of Israel would listen to him.

A lengthy conversation ensued between the Lord and Moses and he reluctantly agreed to do the job. The end of the story is worth noting: Moses led his people out of slavery, away from the threat of the Egyptian army, to the mountain of God where the community was effectively re-born as people of the living God. History as we know it flowed from that moment.

Moses submitted to the pain of revisiting the past and a nation was established amidst miracles and wonders. For God's purposes to move forward, one man had to step back into a place he thought he had walked away from. For Moses, returning to Egypt would have felt like going backwards, opening old wounds, but in God's master plan it was the key to a significant advance of his purposes.

Consider if God is calling you to return to something or someone. Life may have moved on, but God is a God of history as well as the future and the two are more than linked. In order for God to bear his fruit in and through you in the future, maybe he is calling you to walk through an old familiar door—if only for a season.

Terry Nightingale is a pastor serving in Perth, Western Australia. He and his wife, Sue, have two grown children, and three grandchildren, plus one on the way. Terry is also an author of "Looking Back to Move Forward", and has a weekly blog: terrynightingale.com. He can be reached at pastor.terry@southernriver.org.

Continued from page 1
Anxiety and Peace

a few months earlier because we believed it would have had a negative impact on our family.

I shared my anxiety with a small group of Christian men with whom I met every Tuesday evening. They encouraged me and prayed with me for peace and wisdom on how to practically deal with each task. After seeking my own prayer I was able to establish a plan for the group of tasks. By week's end all but one of the appraisals were completed. The speech was finished and our staff was able to do most of the work on the litigation budget.

In looking back it is easy to see that I had lost my peace because I had not taken my anxiety to the Lord. I started worrying and condemning myself for letting things slide. I was not guarding my heart and mind with prayer to Jesus as St. Paul suggests.

Jesus encourages us not to worry but to seek his kingdom and righteousness first. He says, "*Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself*" (Mt. 6: 33-34) When Martha complained that her sister was not helping with the preparations for a meal, Jesus said, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and upset about many things, but only one is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken from her." (Luke 10:41-42)

What was Mary doing? She was listening to Jesus.

The boundary between peace and anxiety is a thin line and easy to cross, but we have Jesus as a sentinel to guard our minds and hearts if we choose to call on him.

Bill Dalgetty is the former President and former Chairman of the Board of Christians in Commerce. He is the author of Hope for the Workplace – Christ in You about the Holy Spirit empowering us to transform our workplaces. He and his wife, Marilyn, have five children. Contact him at dalgettybill@gmail.com.

Welcoming our Ministry Program Manager

With the onset of COVID-19, WorkLight's plans to pivot from in-person meeting structures to a dynamic digital engagement model have been accelerated from year-on-year to week-to-week. In this acceleration we identified program and ministry as a critical area of need for WorkLight's growing audience.

In October, WorkLight began a search for a brand-new position, Ministry Program Manager. After four interviews and a questionnaire assessment, WorkLight is excited to announce that Justin Lassen joined the team in early December.

Justin earned a bachelor's degree in business from Bethel University, in

St. Paul, MN. Prior to joining the WorkLight team, Justin worked for the YMCA of the Greater Twin Cities in a variety of capacities growing programs and events. Most recently he oversaw their Christian Principles Network, an initiative to spread the Love of Christ to the Twin Cities. He is thrilled to continue on this journey in bringing the light of Christ to the workplace.



"I love the opportunity to connect people to programs and networks that lead to a deeper and more fulfilling relationship with God," Justin said. "Inviting people to have honest conversations about real life

challenges, and spreading the love and hope we have in Jesus is so important."

As Ministry Program manager, Justin will oversee strategic and operational program development in support of the WorkLight mission. He will work to enhance current program offerings (like Working for Our Father, WorkLight StoryNight, small groups, etc.) for a growing and diverse audience and will have direct oversight for the development and management of new programs as well.

In his first few days Justin has spent time researching and learning all there is to know about the rich history of Christians in Commerce and this ministry. He can't wait to see what God has in store in the months and years to come.

Justin and his wife, Alexa, enjoy going on adventures, spending time outdoors, or staying home to watch a movie. In addition, Justin loves playing sports and being active.

Please join us in welcoming Justin, who can be reached at justin@worklight.org. Continue to pray and walk with us on the exciting path God has placed before us.

PRESIDENT'S NOTE



Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6-7)

Dear WorkLight brothers and sisters,

It's been nearly a year since the arrival of COVID-19. We have each had our own experiences as individuals, families, church members, communities, and residents of a particular city or state. But no matter how we might have navigated these past 12 months, anxiety of some form has been all but unavoidable.

In his Epistle to the Phillipians, Paul reminds us to not be anxious.... about anything! Challenged by poor performance at work? Do not be anxious. Struggling loved ones? Do not be anxious. Positive test for COVID-19? Do not be anxious! In a world full of distractions and troubles, such a feat still seems impossible. But of course, as Paul reminds us, such a transformation in perspective is only possible through Jesus Christ.

We pray that this month's *Flame* brings the peace of God to guard your heart and mind. Come Holy Spirit! As WorkLight Remote completes its first year we give thanks to Jesus Christ for how readers and participants like you have adapted this ministry through virtual meetings, digital media, online programs, new small groups, telling your story, sharing the Word,

and more. Please join together in ongoing prayer for Justin Lassen, our new Ministry Program Manager, as God puts him to work in reaching the next generation of believers with this movement of the Holy Spirit.

WorkLight is made possible by the grace of God and the generosity of those he has entrusted with stewarding the resources of this ministry. As of 1/14/2021, Our Annual Gift Campaign has raised approximately \$147,800 in committed gifts toward our goal of \$450,000 by the end of March. If you haven't already joined the campaign, please take a moment to pray about how you might grow closer to WorkLight as a sustaining contributor. May the peace of Christ shine bright in your heart and mind.

God bless,

Wes

NEWS

WORKLIGHT REMOTE GROUPS TO CONTINUE!

In mid-March 2020 we made the difficult decision to recommend cancelling all in-person gatherings for Christians in Commerce and WorkLight. Later our recommendations would be extended in accordance with many state guidelines.

Across the country, many found themselves not only missing out on their small groups and chapter meetings, but also on interactions with friends at work, meals out with loved ones, and even time with extended family. In response to these challenging times, WorkLight Remote was launched.

Nearly a year later, most of our groups and chapters are still meeting virtually, so we are extending WorkLight Remote Groups into 2021.

WorkLight Remote has three main objectives:

1. Supporting WorkLight and Christians in Commerce activities and relationships to continue with technology when in-person connection is not an option.
2. Increasing access to on-demand resources and content that support each other in walking more closely with God through challenging times.
3. Launching new opportunities to learn and grow in the Spirit through distance learning and online program delivery.

WorkLight Remote groups are hosted weekly by WorkLight staff and are open to all who would like to participate.

To join these weekly zoom meetings, go to: bit.ly/WLgroups and look for the **WorkLight Remote Small Group** on the map.

Men's WorkLight Remote Group

Hosted by Wesley Farrow
Every Tuesday at Noon
(central time)

Wesley@worklight.org

Women's WorkLight Remote Group

Hosted by Becki Lonnquist
Every Thursday at noon
(central time)

Becki@worklight.org



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Just visit smile.amazon.com and search for Christians in Commerce.



2021

FEBRUARY

"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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