“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” (Jeremiah 29:11)

Seventeen years ago I was doing part-time work as a nurse and our youngest was entering private school with a costly tuition. With our other three children in college, I knew our income was going to need a significant boost. When I brought this to prayer, I asked the Lord to provide me with a full-time job with “flexible” hours. I told him I had no preference regarding which profession, if it afforded me flexibility to support our family life.

A week later I received a phone call from Bill Dalgetty—a friend of ours. Although he knew nothing about my intentions of finding a new job, he began explaining his vision for moving Christians in Commerce from California to Virginia. In order to make this happen he needed an Administrator for the office. When he prayed he said my name came to mind. I asked about the hours and he said they were flexible. With that answer, it was clear the Lord was leading us both and I accepted the position.

Earlier this year I began sensing the Lord was preparing me to do something new—but no other details. As time went on, I felt he wanted me to prepare for a possible new job, so I updated my resume. I had no idea where this would lead, nor was I applying for jobs. I was just waiting upon him.

In the middle of March, Wes asked each of us to prayerfully consider how we could shape our departments to support the growth trajectory he was envisioning. When I considered the description on one of the spreadsheets of our team as “committed, passionate and knowledgeable” I hesitated. “Knowledgeable”—I didn’t feel like my skill set would be adequate for what WorkLight will need to build the future. I had clarity that it was time to bring in someone with strong financial expertise to help and for me to move on. I was at peace and was actually excited to see how the Lord was confirming our future growth! My role in our work had been fulfilled.

Continued on page 5

Fruit of the Spirit

“No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. Each tree is recognized by its own fruit.” (Luke 6:43)

The word Paul uses for fruit in Galatians 5:22-23 is singular. What he then describes is nine attributes of that fruit. They contrast the works of the flesh that are previously referred to.

It is the life of the Spirit that transforms us and bears good fruit. In the series Working for Our Father, we are called to make Christ visible, attractive, and admirable. As much as ever, as believers, we need this fruit to radiate into a world increasingly manifesting the works of the flesh.

Through WorkLight, we foster this fruit in our lives by uniting together to accompany one another. WorkLight Small Groups and our resources enable men and women to support and accompany one another, helping us grow in our life in the Spirit.

In these relationships the fruit of the Spirit can blossom. We are not alone. Instead, we find ourselves fortified by the courage, commitment, and hope-filled lives of our brothers and sisters.
An Act of Mercy
By Tess Willard

Stand up and praise the Lord your God, who is from everlasting to everlasting. (Nehemiah 9:5)

Due to health reasons, I have been in and out of jobs—not holding one for longer than two years—since high school. Pain in my hands led me to leave my first job, and Lyme disease caused me to leave my second one. I worked hard yet slowly to get back into the workforce, moving from work that was several hours a week to working full time.

Along the way, I have learned that any job and circumstance can be used for and by the Lord. When I started working as a customer service representative, I felt overqualified. This attitude affected my work. I became annoyed when the phone rang, and I found myself not wanting to go to work.

Then I became a health coach. Calling people to ask them to take a health survey provided an opportunity to have lots of conversations, and some people shared heart-wrenching stories. I didn’t know what to say. I wanted to be able to comfort them and offer them hope, but they were talking about really difficult things.

Around this time, I began training with the Christian nonprofit Stephen Ministries. A Stephen Minister’s main job is to be a compassionate listener as you walk with others who are struggling with grief and hardships. One of the main focuses is learning to listen well.

I started applying this skill to my work as a health coach. Gradually, I realized the Lord had given me an opportunity to encounter him in the people I talk to every day. I started to recognize skills and gifts the Lord had given me that I didn’t know I had—such as being a good listener. For those who are hurting, sometimes just having a good listener can help to lift the weight of their burdens.

I started to pray between phone conversations and invited the Lord into those conversations, praying: Come, Holy Spirit, give me the words to say to this person. I also started to intentionally smile whenever I answered the phone to help keep me in an attitude of humbly serving others.

I realized that this job was an act of the Lord’s great mercy to me. It’s an incredibly supportive environment with good coworkers and a boss who does a great job of showing appreciation. This environment has enabled me to work despite my health challenges. It’s also taught me the type of coworker I want to be and has encouraged me to be more intentional in showing gratitude to others.

Tess Willard is a Health Coach and Admin Tech with Health Partners living in Burnsville, MN. Among her many hobbies, she enjoys cooking and teaching dance classes. She’s recently engaged and is busy planning her Fall wedding. She can be reached at afwillard@gmail.com.

PRAY
Father of mercy, thank you for giving us the opportunity to use all areas of our lives to build your kingdom and be transformed into who you made us to be. Please grant us the grace to recognize opportunities to love and serve others.

REFLECT
Being a good listener and showing appreciation are both ways of being Christ to others. Where do you have opportunities to use these gifts more in your life?

DISCUSS
Is there an area of your life where you are personally discouraged? How might the Lord be inviting you to respond with the eyes of being a servant instead?
WAITING FOR PATIENCE

By Ginny DeSanto

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. (Ephesians 4:2)

I thought I was a patient person. For years I worked with many young children and their parents and understood patience as a necessary virtue to be good at what I did. Eventually, I remarried and started a business with my husband. Come to find out, I am not as patient as I thought I was.

It seemed like I was always waiting—to go somewhere together, for clients to show up, or driving long distances to find a client who had forgotten the appointment or was no longer interested.

I started to think about how patient the Lord has been with me. As I stood in the kitchen, I could say to the Lord, “Lord, you have been so patient with me. Thank you. I can be patient, with Your help. Amen.”

HOW GREAT A LOVE

By Cyndi Smith

God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day. (Psalm 46:5)

Three years after retiring as an autism consultant in the public school system, I was asked to consult at a local high school. One of my students, Collette, needed help with algebra. It was hard going: she didn’t seem to understand any of the underlying math concepts.

Initially, Collette was petrified of fractions. Yet after working together, she got a perfect score on her test and her teacher began calling her his “fraction genius.” At the end of the semester she had mastered every concept leading up to algebra, scoring an 87 on the final exam!

When I retired, the Lord told me that he wanted me to help people whom he loved and who needed his help. It was the Lord who inspired me to create new materials and approaches for Collette. I was so touched by how much love the Lord had for her. He put me and others in the right place at the right time and equipped us with the right tools to help her.

Cyndi Smith lives in South Bend, IN, where she volunteers her time helping those the Lord has placed in her life after retiring from 39 years in the South Bend school system. She can be contacted via email at cyndismith02@gmail.com.

I asked Collette’s algebra teacher if I could teach her early math skills during her algebra lab. He agreed and created a curriculum for us. I taught her to create and read large numbers, to round numbers, to use negative numbers and decimals, order of operations, variables, etc. All new concepts were introduced using 3D materials and linking them to real life experiences.

When I retired, the Lord told me that he wanted me to help people whom he loved and who needed his help. It was the Lord who inspired me to create new materials and approaches for Collette. I was so touched by how much love the Lord had for her. He put me and others in the right place at the right time and equipped us with the right tools to help her.

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Lord, you have been patient with me. Help me be patient with others.

We believe we have a right to be angry, especially in regards to time. But God asks us for kindness and forgiveness.

Name an instance when you were surprised by someone's patience with you. How did it change you?

Lord, please help me to respond to your call to help others.

Consider a time when the Lord asked you to help someone. How did you respond?

Share about a time when you were asked to solve a unique problem where you had to create the solution.
“Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.” (Galatians 5:25)

Life in the Spirit

WorkLight’s mission is “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.”

Since the first Challenge Weekend in 1983, God alone has heard all the stories whispered in prayers, coffee shops, factories, Small Groups, and offices across the country. WorkLight lifts up these voices, that the power of the Holy Spirit might connect decades of CIC testimony to new generations.

Chapters and Small Groups bring brothers and sisters together in Christ to live together in step with the Spirit. We pray that this month’s Flame newsletter might encourage you to join one of these groups. If you already have a group, then perhaps there’s someone in your life who is waiting for your invitation.

As the Annual Gift Campaign push comes to an end, our work to expand this ministry continues. We seek to serve Jesus by doubling our audience size and number of program participants in 2021. Please consider joining us to pray for growth on Fridays from 11:30 am ET by calling 313-314-2699.

Come Holy Spirit! Let your presence guide us, teach us, and form us ever closer to Jesus.

With you in Christ,
Wes
Operating in the Fruit of the Spirit

The Spirit of the Lord shall rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of fear of the Lord—his delight is the fear of the Lord.” (Isaiah 11:2)

We Respond

“If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.” (Romans 8:11)

Work is God’s great gift to us. It’s a call to work for our Father, 24/7, 365 days a year. Are we fit, but to equip us in working for our Father, 24/7, 365 days a year. Are we willing to serve our Father humbly and with devotion?

Let’s say yes again today!

Excerpted from the Working for Our Father video series Video 4. To find out more, go to https://worklight.org/working-for-our-father/

Continued from page 1

New Beginnings

Much like how things unfolded with Bill, I received a phone call out of the blue from a friend a week later who was searching for someone to fill a position for this coming fall and my name had come to mind. It was a complete surprise, and not the profession I was expecting, and it would also be a big pay cut. But “your name came to mind” rang true in my heart and I accepted the job. I shared my news immediately with Wes so our team could plan accordingly. I will work part-time for the elementary school and on a contracting basis for WorkLight to assist with the transition. And I will trust in the Lord to provide for our financial needs.

It has been a great joy for me being such an integral part of CIC these many years, as well as supporting the transition into our future as WorkLight. I love all of our members and team deeply and will miss you, but am confident the Lord is leading the charge into a bright future. Amen!

Therese McNichol has been a member of CIC/WL for 18 years and the Director of Administration for 17. She and her husband, Tom, live in Fairfax, VA, where they share life with their children and grandchildren. She will be working at St. Veronica School in Chantilly this coming school year.
Fruit Of The Spirit Assessment

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. (Galatians 5:22-23)

Take this assessment that will reveal where the Holy Spirit is already at work and will highlight where God desires to continue to work in your life. Share your results with a friend or partner in your Small Group and ask them to partner with you in prayer that you may continue to grow in your relationship with God.

Circle your response:
1 - not true of me
2 - seldom true of me
3 - sometimes true of me
4 - often true of me
5 - always true of me.

**Love:** love, which centers in moral preference, benevolence, good will, esteem, typically refers to divine love. The ability to accept others; to give ourselves in service to others without expecting anything in return. (John 3:16, 13:34-35)

Are you being influenced by the Spirit in reaching out to others in a loving manner? Do you treat your family and those around you with love?

**Joy:** Joy, gladness, calm delight. A deep, inner gladness that comes from your relationship with Jesus Christ. (Rom 14:17-18, 15:13)

Is the Holy Spirit producing joy in your heart that overflows into your everyday life? Do you choose joy over worry?

**Peace:** peace, peace of mind, in the Hebraistic sense of the health (welfare) of an individual. An inner harmony and sense of wellbeing based on our faith that God is in control no matter what happens. (Jn 16:33, Phil 4:4-7)

Is your life full of peace in spite of your circumstances? Are you trusting God and not fearful about what may happen in the future?

**Patience:** patience, forbearance, longsuffering. The ability to show restraint and calm in waiting on God, despite circumstances that may cause us to get angry. (Col 3:12-13)

Do you accept interruptions and delays with grace and peace? Do you surrender to God when things don’t go your way?

**Kindness:** morally excellent (in character or demeanor) goodness, uprightness, kindness, gentleness. The ability to treat others with openness, sensitivity, and love, and to share the kindness that comes from God. (Rom 2.4, 11.22)

Is your first inclination to meet the needs of others, to be kind and avoid harshness? Do you have sensitivity to others and a willingness to put their needs ahead of yours?

**Goodness:** intrinsic goodness, especially as a personal quality, with stress on the kindly (rather than the righteous) i.e. virtue or beneficence goodness. Having the nature of God, able to tell right from wrong, doing good to others and avoiding evil. (2 Thes 1:11)

Are your thoughts, words and behavior of a high moral standard?

**Faithfulness:** moral conviction (of religious truth, or the truthfulness of God or a religious teacher), especially reliance upon Christ for salvation, faith, belief, trust, confidence; fidelity. Unshakable loyalty shows in being trustworthy, reliable, responsible and carrying out our commitments to God and others. (Acts 6.8)

Are you a person of your word? Do you follow through on what you start? Can others count on you? Are you faithful in your commitments?

**Gentleness:** mildness, gentleness, meekness. Showing consideration and thoughtfulness, putting my rights and strength under God’s control in order to seek peace. It requires openness, humility, a teachable spirit. (1 Cor 4.21)

Are you quick to listen and slow to act and speak? Are you healthily assertive yet non-aggressive in your relationships?

**Self-Control:** self-mastery, self-restraint, temperance. The virtue of one who masters his desires and passions, especially his sensual appetites. (Acts 24:25; 2 Peter 1:6)

Do you exercise restraint when tempted? Do you exercise discipline in your life?

Circle your response:

**Mark and score your top 3 strengths.**

**Love** • Score: __________

**Joy** • Score: __________

**Peace** • Score: __________

**Patience** • Score: __________

**Kindness** • Score: __________

**Goodness** • Score: __________

**Faithfulness** • Score: __________

**Gentleness** • Score: __________

**Self-Control** • Score: __________

**Mark and score your lowest 3 growth areas.**

**Love** • Score: __________

**Joy** • Score: __________

**Peace** • Score: __________

**Patience** • Score: __________

**Kindness** • Score: __________

**Goodness** • Score: __________

**Faithfulness** • Score: __________

**Gentleness** • Score: __________

**Self-Control** • Score: __________

Adapted with permission from Renewal Ministries of Colorado Springs. Learn more about them by visiting www.renewals.org.
STAFF ANNOUNCEMENT

With hearts of gratitude for her years of dedicated work and service, we wish farewell to Therese McNichol, Director of Administration, but not goodbye. Therese recently turned in her resignation from her full-time position, however she has agreed to stay on the team, working one day a week helping with a variety of projects and in training new staff.

Therese has been a part of the staff at Christians in Commerce/WorkLight for the past 17 years. She has also remained a part of her local chapter and Small Group for 18 years.

Therese will be taking on a new venture at a local elementary school in Chantilly, VA, where the Lord is calling her to do a variety of tasks.

“For the past couple of months I have felt the Lord preparing me for some kind of a change, but I didn’t know what it would be,” Therese said. “I didn’t go looking for a new job, and really had no idea what might unfold, but I received a phone call one night from a friend who is a principal at a local grammar school. He asked if I would consider the role of school nurse as well as other responsibilities beginning in the fall of this coming year. At first I downplayed my ability to him to do the job, but when he said “your name came to my mind” I knew it was something I needed to bring to prayer.

I also shared a prophecy that very day at a prayer meeting where the Lord said, “I go before you and am preparing the way for new things. Stay close to me and do not hold back from moving forward out of fear. Listen to my Spirit as he moves in your heart leading you to new things.” So, I decided to put my money where my mouth was.”

Therese has been a strong supporter of the organization’s mission and has become a friend to all who she encounters, whether she’s meeting someone over the phone for the first time, or speaking with a long-time member, her warmth is felt in every conversation.

Therese shared, “I’m excited about where WorkLight is headed and it’s been a privilege being such an integral part of the team these past years. I will miss the staff, as well as all of the chapter members who are like family. But I’m confident the Lord is leading this organization and have seen it confirmed over and over again for many years.”

If you would like to send a note or share a memory with Therese, please consider emailing her at therese@worklight.org.

OFFICE UPDATE

The WorkLight office in Falls Church, VA, will be closing on June 15. The office space had been rented from the Trinity School and they need the additional space. The office in Minnesota will become the new home office.

Minnesota Office Contact Information:
Email: info@worklight.org
Phone: 612-552-5656 or 703-205-5600
Address: 5775 Wayzata Blvd #700, St Louis Park, MN 55416
Hours: 9 AM – 5 PM Central Time

What does this mean for your chapter or group?

There will be some changes on the office/administrative end but WorkLight will be in continual communication with all Chapter and group leaders as we work towards this move.

What does this mean for WorkLight?
The Holy Spirit is moving in this ministry! We are also growing as an organization and adding new positions, including a Director of Growth & Development. This change is also an opportunity for WorkLight’s growth as we look to having all staff in one location again. We praise God for these challenges that turn into blessings.

Questions? Email us at info@worklight.org.

Weekly Prayer Calls
Join by calling: (313)-314-2699

Mondays at 10 a.m. ET
Start the workweek off in prayer with WorkLight! Let us continue to pray for blessings, moments of trouble, and challenge — all to draw us closer to our Father together.

Fridays at 11:30 a.m. ET
Join WorkLight staff in prayer for growth as we seek to reach further and continually build the kingdom of God in the workplace.
“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.”
Galatians 2:20