



Leading with Love

By Becca Hoeft

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. (Proverbs 3:5-6)

The velocity by which technology is growing in our workplace is striking. Our office relationships are often reduced to instant messaging, emails, and text messages as we're racing to the next meeting or flight. And, while technology can make this world a better place, leaders of faith can get lost in the whirlwind and the relationships we have at work or with our customers can become impersonal.

When I think about our calling as Christians, there are three concepts that have impacted me personally.

Be Human

Someone recently told me, "Be interested. Not interesting." By taking the moments to open your heart and get to know someone, an understanding is built which is the foundation of any relationship.

A commercial lender that I work with

put it this way, "The very best leaders I've worked for were motivated by a desire to do good, to do the right thing. Even when it was hard, or unpopular, or awkward. I could see if it was genuine by the way they treated others, especially the 'unseen.' The tellers. The front desk receptionist. The catering staff at a gala. The customer who wanders into their office asking for help with a consumer account when that banker has nothing to do with consumer accounts."

Be interested in others. Put your phone down. There is so much we have yet to discover together.

Be Vulnerable

In *The Five Dysfunctions of a Team*, Patrick Lencioni talks about making yourself vulnerable to your peers, your team, and your personal relationships. Vulnerability doesn't mean one of those "trust falls" they make you do in leadership camp. It's more about ripping the bandage off of all your flat sides you hide daily and letting others see every one of your flaws without hesitation.

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INSIDE: REFLECTIONS

Do the Right Thing

And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. (Micah 6:8)

Sometimes it's hard to know what the right thing is. The world and our flesh seek to go its own way and do what's right in its own eyes. They tell us to do our own thing and follow our emotions and personal preferences. We have chosen a different and better life.

We don't want God to just rubber stamp our plans. That never really goes well. We truly want to do his will.



Like Jesus, we're working for our Father. He knows what the right thing is for us. For our part, we need to be willing to do the right thing more than our own thing.

It's easier to know the right thing when we're growing in our relationship with God, being guided by the Holy Spirit and seeking the counsel of our brothers and sisters. At WorkLight we are committed to acting justly, loving mercy, and walking humbly with him.

July Reflections: Pg 2-4

REFLECTIONS WEEK 1

Faith & Love

By Angela Farrow

“But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.” (John 14: 26)

Sometimes, perhaps usually, what is “the right thing to do” may not be readily apparent; but sometimes the right thing to do feels like the Holy Spirit has put you in just the right place at just the right time to do the right thing.

I was once working as a volunteer postpartum doula for a woman whose legs were paralyzed by the epidural during labor. This new mother was determined to breast-feed her newborn even though she needed assistance to get to him and lift him. At the same time she had two other boys, ages 3 and 4 at home. Her husband worked full time and was going to school. Her incapacitation, child care costs, plus medical bills made them unable to “make ends meet.”

One day I was helping at their home and answered the door to find a bill

collector for the electric company. He said they owed \$400 in arrears and if not paid immediately, power would be shut off. I am usually quite cautious, deliberate and even shy; but at that moment I felt taken over by the Spirit and offered my nearby credit card, and that deal was done.

This family continued to struggle financially but maintained deep faith and love throughout many hardships. They had to abandon their home when it was overcome with mold and they lived in a motel for months. One of the children was hit by a car.

Now, 18 years later, the father has his PhD and is a college professor. I was delighted to be invited to the high school graduation of the youngest child. The eldest child is headed to law school. The middle child is a filmmaker. The mother is walking again and pursuing a second career.

It was easy for me to see at the time that I should pay the electric bill. It was easy for me to do so. This family is the far better example of “doing the right thing” in faith and love. They persevered together through thick and thin, always close to their church community and raising their sons to be godly men.

Angela (Kiki) Farrow and husband Jack have been married 51 years and are blessed with 4 children and 8 grandchildren. Volunteer childbirth and postpartum doula work in metropolitan Detroit has provided opportunities to learn about the myriad life experiences of others. She can be reached at kikifarrow@aol.com.

PRAY

Dear Lord, thank you for opportunities to serve “as your hands and feet” in this world amongst your suffering children. Please help me open my heart and mind to the Spirit you send to guide us.

REFLECT

Is it better to “wish you had” acted in a certain way or “wish you hadn’t”? When have you acted in each way and what would you change if you could?

DISCUSS

Why is “doing the right thing” sometimes difficult to discern? Do we worry what others might think about our choices?

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

WORKLIGHT
COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT

We are currently looking for:

“Story Seekers” – A story seeker finds Christian workplace stories from people around the country. This person may have their own leads, and/or have leads provided to them from WorkLight.

Writers – WorkLight is always looking for people to share their own stories, however we are also looking for writers who might be interested in helping others tell their stories.

If you are interested in any of these volunteer opportunities, please reach out to becki@worklight.org



REFLECTIONS WEEK 2

Bearing the Name of Christ

By Max Kerr

Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold. (2 Corinthians 3:12)

At the start of my career, I was young and excited to get out into the workplace and was looking for my first full-time position. I got a call for an interview. The interviewer was friendly and asked me some typical questions about myself to start off the discussion. Shortly into the interview, I told him that I was a Christian.

I said if I was asked about my faith, I wouldn't shy away from talking about Christ. I was convinced that was appropriate for the first time meeting someone I had only spoken to on the

phone once before. He nodded and went on with the interview. It ended up being a pretty short interview. A week went by and I thought I had surely blown it. I put it in the hands of the Lord and kept looking for work.

Sunday rolled around and I went to church. I walked down the hallway full of people. Suddenly I saw a familiar face. It was the guy who had interviewed me! He saw me and seemed surprised, but I reintroduced myself, and he remembered interviewing me. He said, "I think I can find something for you to do. Come by this week." I thanked him and went to worship. God knew what he was doing.

Boldness is part of being a Christian. We can't all be Paul, but we can all bear in mind the hope that we have and carry that identity as a Christian with pride. In humility, we can let others know the Name of grace we bear, so that if they are interested in our message, they know where to come.

for those around them, but for themselves too.

One of the values was "Do the Right Thing." The value's definition included a description: leading by example, honesty and humility, trust, consistency, and courage to make hard decisions when hard decisions need to be made. I always felt like this value was especially important because it essentially defines what it means to be a good worker and a good leader.

As Christians, we have received wonderful gifts to be the best workers. When we accept God's offer to dwell in us through the Holy Spirit, we can serve God and care for his creation when we do our jobs to the best of our abilities no matter how insignificant we may consider them. I like to tie that in with the values that I learned. When we are acting and accepting of God's plan for us, we can easily work to do the right thing.

Max Kerr is a student at Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary. He can be reached at mkerr@blc.edu.

PRAY

Father, thank you for the position you've given me. Help me see where I can be bold. Give me the words to speak.

REFLECT

Think of ways you can be bold in the workplace that are more in line with where God has put you.

DISCUSS

How does the way Jesus lived and died for you inform your boldness in the workplace?

REFLECTIONS WEEK 3

Workplace Values

By Becki Lonquist

Our people must learn to devote themselves to doing what is good, in order to provide for urgent needs and not live unproductive lives. (Titus 3:14)

At one of my former workplaces, the CEO was passionate about hiring positive, kind, and hardworking people. That was evident when I went through the hiring process. During my interview everyone was so warm and welcoming. They were all invested in the brand and culture there. I remember thinking, this place is different. A good kind of different.

Within my first week I learned about the company's values. These values were not cheap words thrown out to make the organization look good, they were established as a guide and measurement tool for the employees on how to be their best not only

Becki Lonquist is the Director of Communications for WorkLight. She lives in Minneapolis, MN, with her husband Peter and their cat. She can be reached at becki@worklight.org.

PRAY

Lord Jesus, guide me to follow and trust in the path that you have established for me. Help me to continually do the right thing, so that I might be a better worker to those around me, but most importantly for you.

REFLECT

Invite the Holy Spirit into your work and callings. Look for opportunities to serve God.

DISCUSS

What is a workplace value or nudge that God is giving you right now? Does it come easily to you or is it an area where you need a little work?

REFLECTIONS WEEK 4

Advocating for Others

By Max Kerr

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

Love it or hate it, technology is something we all need to succeed in the workplace. Recently, I had to upgrade my setup to facilitate more productivity. So, I traded in my old computer and got a new one at a discounted price. Little did I know God would use this to remind me of his kindness.

A few weeks passed by, and I got a strange charge of \$268.50 on my credit card from Apple. It turned out my old computer was damaged in shipping, and they were holding me accountable

for it. “I’m not going to pay this,” I thought. But it didn’t matter. I was at the mercy of one of the largest tech companies in the world.

If you’ve ever experienced anything go wrong with tech, you know what it’s like sitting on hold, talking to person after person, feeling like you’re not being heard. But this time was different. After escalating the issue up to the senior customer service rep, I heard, “I’ll advocate for you.” It was a little strange to hear, but this guy, Greg, was taking my side and was going to do everything he could to do the right thing.

When he found out I was a Christian, he said, “You know, I was doing my devotion this morning asking God to show me some value in my work. I didn’t want to come in today.” God used Greg to advocate for me and to encourage me by his honesty and self-disclosure. It encouraged Greg too. Advocating for others is being Christ

to others in the workplace. Keep an eye out for how you can advocate for others. Ask him, and I’m sure God will give you the opportunity.

PRAY

Father, thank you for the position you’ve given me. Help me see where I can advocate for others. Give me the words to speak.

REFLECT

Think of ways you can advocate for others in the workplace that are more in line with where God has put you.

DISCUSS

How does the fact that Jesus is your advocate encourage you to speak up for others?

PRESIDENT’S NOTE



And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Colossians 3:17)

Doing the Right Thing

Doing the right thing in 2021 is becoming more difficult than ever. How do I know when to stand up for what I think is right and when to listen to those I believe are wrong?

When I played football in high school I would plead with teammates not to use the Lord’s name in vain. I went to a public school and, to put it nicely, our

football locker room was a very secular environment. I was more likely to be mocked with profanity than listened to, and yet I persisted.

This gridlock continued throughout each season without resolution. Looking back now perhaps I can better understand why. I was trying to do the right thing by my own understanding, but I wasn’t acting in the name of Jesus. Rarely if ever did I stop to pray or reflect on what was happening. I simply kept pushing for what I thought was right. I was trying to do right on my own terms instead of in the name of Jesus.

Where in your life today are you facing adversity alone? Trying to do right

on your own terms? Jesus calls us to bring him into our struggles. Not only to overcome them, but to have them transformed by his divine presence and wisdom.

Maybe your Chapter or Small Group is starting to meet in-person again. Perhaps one of your brothers or sisters wants you to wear a mask. Perhaps one of your brothers or sisters wants you to take your mask off. Whatever the situation, how can your actions be done in the name of Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father?

With you in Christ,
Wes

Housing the Homeless

By Linda Jo Devlaeminck

In 2006, while feeling unfulfilled in my teaching career, I began praying for opportunities to do more for the Lord with the gifts he'd given me. Specifically, I was hoping to use my social work degree.

In 2012, I had been volunteering for the Church of North Portland's AllOne Community Services and was actively searching for a social services job when a friend on the board of AllOne referred me to a job opening.

After conducting a survey of services available to the community the year before, AllOne learned of a need for transitional housing for the local homeless and advertised for someone to both start and run that program. Though another candidate was more qualified and offered to physically do more, I was hired. I saw this as a good and clear answer to my prayers.

When I was hired, AllOne thought they had secured a building for the shelter and expected that I could simply run a fundraiser and open it, but they did not have any money to pay me: I learned that I would have to raise my own salary. I was crazy to agree, but I knew God had led me in this direction, and my husband supported me. It was a financial risk for us, but we prayed and discussed. The decision was made, and the Lord blessed it: He ended up earning more in his job that year than he had before—more than enough to balance what I gave up financially. (AllOne did however lose the building they planned to use.)

I raised a little at a time so I could work part-time as I built relationships within the neighborhood, with businesses, churches, and government officials in charge of serving our home-

less neighbors. With no background or training, I figured it out as I went. I talked to people who ran similar programs, and was mentored by a woman who had once done similar work in another part of the city. At the time, this transitional housing project was just an idea, but I could say I was hired by the Church in North Portland and that gave me credibility.

A local church allowed us to use some of their space to operate, and so, Community of Hope opened in 2014 with one space for the day and another for the night. I was the only non-volunteer.

Gradually, we were able to stay open full time, had enough funding to hire other staff, and grew to what we are today. There were times when I went without a salary to make needed improvements but God always came through.

Our building is unique in that it is designed to foster supportive life together for the residents. Each family has their own bedroom, but the rest of the spaces are communal. By building a community, we are able to provide residents with a sense of belonging.

Community is especially important for people healing from trauma. Many people struggling with homelessness have experienced traumas, so I did a lot of research on trauma-informed care before opening the shelter.

I also brought with me my experience of living in a Christian community where we understand the importance of shared life. Throughout my career at Community of Hope, I have had the steady support of my community—emotionally, spiritually, and physically. I could not have done this alone.

Running a homeless shelter is hard and stressful work, but the Lord has given me the desire of my heart: to do a job that's meaningful and impactful, building the Kingdom of God and providing the opportunity for lots of others to do the same.

Linda Jo Devlaeminck has a passion for serving her North Portland neighbors.

She has a BA in Social Work and Masters in teaching. She belongs to an ecumenical Christian Community called the People of Praise. She and her husband, Jerome, have raised four daughters and enjoy four grandchildren.

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Leading with Love*

It's not easy to do—especially for someone like me who is somewhat of a control freak. But, by making myself vulnerable and understanding my unique ability as well as my flat sides, it leads to me being a leader who not only leads with love but uplifts those around me.

Be Courageous

Dwight D. Eisenhower once said, “You do not lead by hitting people over the head—that's assault, not leadership.”

Leading with love doesn't mean everything is cotton candy and rainbows. There will be times you have to have difficult conversations. Your days might suck. And you will feel wound up tighter than a ball of yarn.

And, yes, you will be tempted to shoot off that email in the middle of the night. But, stop.

If you understand what it means to open your heart to others, if you make yourself vulnerable, and build trust with those around you, these courageous conversations will be fruitful (and not as painful).

In the end, leading with love is not easy. Trust that God has a path for you. Let yourself have an open heart, an open mind, and an open will and you will be surprised by what you might find. And, just to be clear, I don't have it down. I'm still learning every day.

Becca Hoeft lives in Maple Grove, MN. She and her husband, Tim, have five kids who live from Washington, DC to Vancouver, WA. She is Chief Brand officer at Sunrise Banks. You can find her on Twitter @becca_morris.

Aligning Your Career to God's Mission

Let each of you lead the life that the Lord has assigned to which God called you. (1 Corinthians 7:17)

The perspective of working for our Father changes everything. Success is in God's hands, faithfulness in ours. God wants our joy to be complete no matter how challenging or hostile our work environments might be. As stewards of his creation all the details of our lives are important and of concern to God. Humbly we cry out with the Psalmist:

May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us; establish the work of our hands for us – yes, establish the work of our hands. Psalm 90:17

The work begun by the disciples continues in our day. Over the centuries it has done well, it has done poorly. Doing what is right is a long and unfinished process. The solutions lie rooted in us, what we do, how we choose to use the resources entrusted to us.

The areas we influence are assigned to us, areas in which God calls us to faithfully maximize resources both human and material.

We should start by ensuring that we do our work with excellence. The reality is Christians should be the best workers in the world. We've been freed from sin and filled with the Holy Spirit. We should continue to grow in our practical skills and abilities as well as the fruit of the Spirit. If we are to be faithful in responding to God's call, these critical areas should be incorporated in our lives.

Daily Appointment with God

Our relationship and friendship with Jesus is our doorway to a relationship with the Father. We need regular conversations together. We need to grow in understanding and affection.

If we are to live in Christ and he in us, we must come to a new level of intimacy with him and our Father. The Father and Son want to engage us in their conversation, the Holy Spirit gathers us into the conversation. They want us to speak openly and freely with them.

Seeking God's Will

Seeking God's will isn't about obtaining a detailed plan. God responds to what is happening around us. He

doesn't always operate in a straight line. Often, we're afraid of making a wrong turn, or bad choice, and being left out, missing the boat. It's more about trusting God and responding to the choices in front of us.

Joining with Others

Join with others who share the same commitment and dedication to working for our Father. It's good to be mentored by others. It's important to have objective perspectives. We want others to help who know both our abilities and our liabilities. People who can help us, be sure we're hearing God, and not just ourselves.

Evangelize Christians

What if you started by evangelizing the Christians you work with. Joining together to support each other in working for our Father around the clock. Living a life of faith, integrity, and excellence at work.

Would we not hear our Lord say, "Well done good and faithful servant...enter into the joy of your master"?

Excerpted from the Working for Our Father video series Video 3. To find out more, go to worklight.org.

CONTEST Share Your CIC Memories!

WorkLight has an important, spirit-filled history since its founding as Christians in Commerce that we want to celebrate on our new website! From now until July 30, please consider sharing your memories of CIC to be shared online. Those who enter will get a sneak peak of the gallery and will have a chance to win WorkLight branded swag!

Seeking: • Historic information about CIC • Photos (with names or descriptions) • Stories of how CIC has made a difference in your life • Chapter/group memories and stories

Submit your memories to <https://bit.ly/CIC-History> or at communications@worklight.org

NEWS

ANNOUNCEMENT

The WorkLight staff, board, and community bid farewell to **Margaret Crimmins** who has been a part of our staff as an office assistant since 2018.

Margaret has been an integral part of operations within the organization and a heartfelt supporter of the Work Light mission and vision throughout her time with the organization.

Margaret began working for CIC as a volunteer in the Virginia office. Prior to that, she served what she says was her “dream career”—a stay at home mom, homeschooling her children. Later, when her children were grown, her husband encouraged her to pursue volunteer opportunities.

Soon after, Margaret was asked to fill in as an art teacher at a nearby school and became a full-time teacher for a year. Then her long-time friend Therese McNichol offered her a volunteer position at CIC and she accepted. She was later hired as a part-time office assistant.

I learned a lot!” Margaret said. “And after a while, I was helpful enough to receive pay for my time and work, and I made a commitment to be on the staff. A few years later, I prayed to be ready for whatever change the Lord might ask of me next. It wasn’t a shock, then, when Therese got called to change of employment, it was confirmed that our office space was needed for a different worthy cause, and the impressive and Spirit-filled Work Light team has been growing at the office in Minnesota and would shift the office functions to their location.”

Margaret said that God has helped her to get used to changes and that she has really enjoyed her time with the ministry and team.

“It has been edifying to get to know the newer team members as they have

come on. Every single one has been a blessing to work with, and I have every confidence our good Lord will continue to expand this connection of Christians to help us all shine his light more brightly in this world.”

Margaret plans to stay in touch with friends from the WorkLight community and prays that the Lord will continue to reach further in building God’s kingdom in the workplace. She looks forward to spending time with her daughter’s family and their first grandchild, Ava, who was born March 4.

Margaret’s last day will be in late June. If you would like to send her a note or card, please email her at margaret@worklight.org or write to her at WorkLight, 5775 Wayzata Blvd., #700, St. Louis Park, MN 55416.

WEBSITE UPDATES

As part of the name and brand transition from Christians in Commerce to WorkLight, there is continued work and updates being done to the new website (worklight.org).

Currently the team is working to include the important history of Christians in Commerce and add all elements from the old website (christiansincommerce.org). These changes will be completed by August 31, 2021. Once all changes have been made and elements from the old website have been moved and/or transitioned, the WorkLight team has scheduled to close the CIC.org site down and reroute the site to worklight.org.

To remind our long-time members and community, nothing is changing in the vision, mission, or values of Christians in Commerce. WorkLight extends and brings to life what we have been doing together since 1983. WorkLight is designed to tell the stories of Christ

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.

in the workplace, reaching further generations of coworkers in Christ.

For Chapters or members who have documents saved to the Document Repository you will still be able to find and access these documents, please stay tuned for more information and instruction.

This movement has never been about just building a ministry or organization. Rather, we wish to help spark a movement of the Holy Spirit. The name WorkLight emphasizes our mission and encompasses all traditions, occupations, and positions. It’s the call to be the light of Christ in the world, especially in the workplace.

Questions? Please contact us at communications@worklight.org

2021

JULY

*"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 WorkLight is an ecumenical workplace ministry committed to:

- Growing and being transformed in Jesus Christ
- Working for our Father, 24/7, 365 days a year
- Building a strong sense of community
- Living life in the power and gifts of the Holy Spirit

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Design/printing: Andy Grams Design Solutions

For further information about WorkLight
call or write:

WorkLight
5775 Wayzata Blvd #700
St Louis Park, MN 55416
Phone: (703) 205-5600
info@worklight.org