



Creating a Culture of Love

By Richard Preuss

I am fortunate to be an owner of a company whose ownership team takes their faith seriously. We understand that what we do is part of the bigger plan of building the kingdom of God.

An annual Healy Group tradition since 2013 has been to give each employee a \$100 bill with the charge to go help someone or some group with it. I was inspired by a friend who shared the idea with me. When I shared this idea with the owners, they all supported implementing this at the Healy Group.

There are no questions asked and there is no accountability. If an employee feels their family needs the money, they can certainly keep it. We also hear some amazing stories of how employees creatively care for people around them. It is a wonderful moment in our culture.

It is heartwarming to hear the stories and the love that our employees put

into choosing how to share their money. They embody the true spirit of Christmas. From the employees' view, they are incredibly grateful for the funds. Many tell me it is the best thing we do at Healy Group.

Last year we continued our annual tradition of the Healy \$100. Inspired by a client who doubled the tips of service staff to help those whose incomes declined during coronavirus restrictions, we did the same with our team, and doubled the gift to \$200.

I shared about the giving tradition in my Christmas letter to clients last year. One client told me she and her husband were so excited about the idea that they tried it with their children and their children's spouses for a total of \$900 to help others during the Christmas season. They all agreed they would talk about what they did with the funds at Christmas dinner and she said it was

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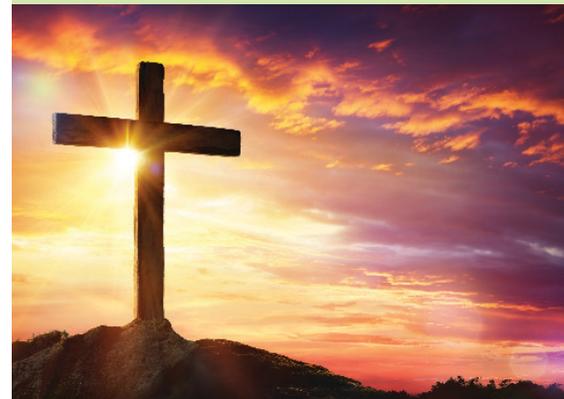
INSIDE: REFLECTIONS

Humility at Work

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

The atmosphere of our workplaces can be very competitive and success oriented. Its emphasis on achievement, recognition, and position makes us vulnerable to self-absorption, self-assertion, and self-exaltation.

Focus on self is an addiction in our society. No greater preoccupation threatens the light of Christ shining through his disciples.



"Should you ask me, 'What is the first thing in a virtuous life?' I should reply, the first, second, and the third thing therein – nay, all is humility." St. Augustine

Humility is a hallmark of Christianity. It is the antidote to our self-centered pride and sets us free from its hold.

Humility is not a feeble virtue, timid and weak, it is courageous and generous because it is the very character of God who humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death.

September Reflections: Pg 2-4

REFLECTIONS WEEK 1

Caregiving with Humility

By Angela Farrow

“Do to others as you would have them do to you.” (Luke 6:31)

I knew through the community grapevine that a former teacher and parent of my child’s friend was very sick with blood cancer. We were very different and not very close but I had a nagging feeling and wondered how she was doing and what I might do to help. Then, for the first time ever, I met her husband at the grocery store. He mentioned she wanted him to go to Penn State Homecoming weekend, which they had done together every year, but he was loath to leave her alone.

I felt the Holy Spirit speaking for me as I told him I would be glad to have a sleepover with his wife. Part of me later felt I had no idea what I had agreed to, other than being a friend to a friend in need. The night was full of snacks, laughs, serious talk, old TV shows and

not much sleep; but God had equipped me for it all, including walking their dog.

Another former teacher of several of my children was in the final stages of cancer. Her husband worked full time and they had two teen daughters. A small group took turns making meals, doing errands, and keeping our friend company. As caregivers, we are called to give selflessly to others, and help out our friend’s family for needed reprieve.

I consider many of the nurses and aides who work in “old folks’ homes” to be angels on earth. Models of humility, these angels are often hollered at or even hit by patients with dementia or out of plain meanness. Humbly, and by the grace of God, when the staff members return and try again, the patients are often cheery and compliant.

When my mother had beginning dementia and needed to be in assisted living, I found that every place required full knowledge of her finances and she was not telling me or anyone else. A church-run assisted living facility invited us to lunch and a nurse in plain clothes sat with us for a few minutes and to my great relief, my mom was accepted. I was concerned that they would never get her to comply with

twice weekly bathing; but an angel smiled and described her humble way of asking multiple times—with kindness—and getting good results. There is a lesson there for us all.

Angela (Kiki) Farrow and her 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

Lord, please give me the humility to serve others with grace and selflessness.

REFLECT

Has the Holy Spirit prompted you to help someone even if it didn’t make sense at the time?

DISCUSS

What are some strategies to staying humble in a challenging situation?

THE 2021 ANNUAL CONFERENCE IS ALMOST HERE!

ARISE & SHINE

2021 WorkLight Annual Conference
Streamed Live to Regional Gatherings

“Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory rises upon you.” Isaiah 60:1

Our society is changing dramatically, but our mission remains the same. Together let’s explore today’s challenges and revive our two greatest gifts – the Challenge Weekend and the Power of the Holy Spirit.

Friday – Day, Oct. 15: Being the Light in a Darkening World
9:00 am – 2:00 pm CST*

See darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the people. (Isaiah 60:2)

Friday Night, Oct. 15: WorkLight StoryNight
6:00 – 8:00 pm CST*

It is my pleasure to tell you about the miraculous signs and wonders that the Most High God has performed for me. (Daniel 4:2)

Saturday, Oct. 16, 2021: More of Christ in Us
9:00 am – 5:00 pm CST*

But the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you. (Isaiah 60:2)

Questions? Please reach out to info@worklight.org.

REGISTER NOW! Find information and register at bit.ly/WL-2021-AC

*Central Standard Time zone

REFLECTIONS WEEK 2

Trusting Despite the Odds

By Linda Mooney

When I was an undergraduate, I joined a Christian community near my college. I loved it and was excited to participate in the rich life it offered after graduation. When I began looking for a job, a placement office told me it would be impossible to find a teaching position in my area. I decided to find a job myself.

I was confident that I was where the Lord wanted me. I had prayed and discerned where I was supposed to be and had been following the Lord with the choices I had made with regards to my career. I would rely on the Lord to meet my needs and I chose to focus on him and not the dismal job statistics in my field.

In a time before the internet and cell phones, I sent my resume to all the school corporations in the area. I didn't even have an answering machine. This was a problem, because I was working a 40-hour a week summer job, and if a school administrator called while I was at work, there was no way to leave a message. Still, I decided to trust the Lord.

One day, my mom was at my house doing a small painting project, and a school principal called to offer me an interview. At the interview, I noticed a stack of folders for other candidates—many people were hoping for this job. I was hired, and two days later, the school year started. Though my position was initially temporary, filling in for a teacher on sick leave, it became a permanent position. The Lord faithfully provided for me when the odds weren't in my favor.

Linda Mooney is an administrative associate at The Healy Group. She and her husband, Patrick, have one daughter and live in South Bend, IN. She can be reached at Linda.mooney@sbcglobal.net.

PRAY

Lord, thank you for caring for all our needs, and ask simply that we trust and respond to you.

REFLECT

Consider an area of your life that you haven't completely yielded to the Lord's care. How can you let go of your worries and act in faith?

DISCUSS

Share about a time when the Lord provided for you in an unexpected way.

REFLECTIONS WEEK 3

Constructive Criticism

By Kathleen Shaffer

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves... (Philippians 2:3)

Having been a realtor for over 15 years, I enjoy working with repeat clients. We have a common bond, a growing friendship and are comfortable with one another. One client had been with me for over seven years and we had completed several transactions together. In my mind, we had a close, honest, and open relationship. So, when I received an email from him informing me that he was going to purchase property with another realtor, I was taken aback. I immediately called to discuss with him further about this unexpected decision.

When I asked why he was letting me

go as his realtor, he said it was just a lack of communication. I pushed him for a more in-depth answer and learned that he felt I did not keep him well informed of my actions on his behalf. Since he didn't see me on a daily basis, he felt left out of the process. He questioned whether I was truly working on his behalf.

My pride took over very quickly! I started to explain to him all the benefits I was offering and that he should appreciate how I was working tirelessly for him and his family. But the Holy Spirit reminded me that my client's perception needed to be acknowledged. I stopped and realized I had not made a concerted effort to contact him often enough and engage in conversation to help him feel connected and well served.

Through the Holy Spirit, I was able to humble myself, admit my fault, and ask forgiveness. The client did move on to another agent, but I came away smarter and wiser, having learned how I could improve my communication

and strengthen other client relationships.

Kathleen Shaffer is a retired realtor living in Gilroy, CA. She volunteers and believes that community is important. She and her husband, Steve, have 2 grown children. Kathleen can be reached at kathleen@kathleenshaffer.com.

PRAY

Lord Jesus, help us to accept feedback from others, even when it hurts or tears at our ego.

REFLECT

Consider a time when you've been given constructive criticism. How can you take that feedback and give it up to the Lord?

DISCUSS

Do you respond with humility to constructive criticism in the workplace?

REFLECTIONS WEEK 4

Prayers at Lunch

By Stieg Strand

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)

One thing that has been ringing true in my life in Christ, is to be faithful as Christ compels us, and let the Holy Spirit take care of the results.

I was having lunch with a friend I have known for many years. He is an evangelist, and one of the most genuine people I know. When our food came to the table, he talked to the server and said, “Thank you! We are followers of Christ, and we will be praying for our food in a moment, and is there anything that we can pray about for you?”

The server, in her late 50s, said without much of a pause, “Yes honey, you can pray that I make a lot of money in tips today! I could use the money.”

We smiled and prayed that God would help her to make some good tips that day, and that she would be blessed in some way.

A few weeks later we were together in a different restaurant having lunch. When the food came, he asked the server the same question. “Thank you! We are followers of Christ, and we will be praying for our food in a moment, and is there anything we can pray about for you?” Based on the last experience, I was not sure if God was calling me into this form of ministry.

The server paused and started to tear up. She said that the previous week she had been baptized after giving her life to Jesus Christ, and had recently been going through a rough time with her family after the loss of a loved one. Our presence was a sign and a gift from God she desperately needed, as she was discouraged and needed to hear from the Lord.

Through my friend’s faithfulness in being open to the Holy Spirit and a simple act, she did hear from the Lord.

Be faithful, and when the Holy Spirit compels you to do something outside of your comfort zone, leave the results to God.

Stieg Strand lives in Eden Prairie MN, has 3 adult children and a grandson. He has been involved in real estate sales for over 25 years, he is an adjunct instructor for Kaplan Professional Schools for 18 years, and has been involved in a variety of church ministries for about 30 years. (including WorkLight/Christians in Commerce since 2011).

PRAY

Lord, please grant me the humility to share my faith freely with others.

REFLECT

Consider how can you be more open for the Holy Spirit to prompt you.

DISCUSS

How can you step out in faith and humility and leave the results in his hands?

PRESIDENT’S NOTE



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

Humility at Work

Many of us seek to be humble in our lives. But have you ever thought about the work of humility? Humility is not the absence of action, it is a Christ-like way of action. Humility doesn’t keep you on the sidelines, it puts you squarely in the middle of the game. Humility works harder than we realize.

Seeking first the Kingdom of God is humble work. In response to such a calling, WorkLight traces its roots to

our first-ever Challenge Weekend in 1983. Sure, a lot has changed since the early 1980s. But Christian humility has never stopped working to put his kingdom first in our lives.

As we prepare for our first ever live-streamed Annual Conference, October 15-16, regional gatherings are being secured, speakers are preparing their stories, technology is being calibrated, and brothers and sisters are inviting friends new and old to join this movement of the Holy Spirit.

Meanwhile, chapters across the country are beginning to meet again in person with support of the updated Chapter toolkit. Board and staff alike are on fire for the return of the Challenge

Weekend! We pray that you will download the toolkit and answer the call to calendar at least 10 Challenge Weekends before the end of 2021.

Lord Jesus, be with us all as we gather face-to-face and screen-to-screen from coast-to-coast to reunite in your Holy Name. Help us to witness the power of Christian humility as we get back to basics at our Annual Conference regional gatherings, in Chapters and Small Groups, and on Challenge Weekends. Let us indeed seek first the Kingdom of God.

With you in Christ,
Wes

A Servant's Heart

By Paula Lent

In 2001, Gail Smith, a board-certified psych nurse, was a stay-at-home mom of two young children living with her husband in Rockford, IL. When the September 11 terrorist attack occurred, she felt called to offer her services to the Red Cross. They accepted her, and asked her to take a number of training classes.

After only 8 hours of classes, Gail was in line to sign up for more classes when the Red Cross director caught her eye and beckoned her into her office. "Are you ready to serve at Ground Zero?" she asked. Gail said yes, and immediately phone calls were made granting her security clearance and arranging transportation. Prompted by the Holy Spirit, Gail offered to take the director out to lunch.

Over their meal, the director started to talk about her impression of Gail when she had taken a number of classes. Gail had never taken those classes and she let the director know. "Oh my goodness, I got you mixed up with someone else," the director said. "Well, you're going. For some reason, you are supposed to go."

The Red Cross was largely sending people who were qualified with PhDs and more training than Gail had received, but she went to New York and began by working phones in a warehouse, calling people who had lost loved ones. "Dodged a bullet; I can make phone calls," she thought. Overhearing her calls for a couple of days, her supervisor made her a team leader.

Gail led a team that visited the homes of survivors or families who had lost someone in the attack. She had a specific approach to leadership. Visiting suffering people in their homes, "we the team didn't stand. We sat or we sat on the floor," Gail recalls. "I wanted us

to go in with the mentality of serving, rather than being heroes. In my mind, there was no other way. We were pastoring and listening: letting people talk, listening well and showing them we were there for them."

By listening and asking questions, they were able to figure out what needs the survivors had—including rent, grief care, funerals, childcare, and contacting family members—and if they were being met.

Gail also led a team that attended the funerals of firemen. Her team was the first to arrive and the last to leave the churches, greeting the spouses and children, letting them know they were there for them and then being attentive to their needs throughout the service. At the funerals, her team remained standing and discreet—poised and ready to serve behind the scenes. They brought items the families might need such as tissues, water, and umbrellas.

Sometimes, the Lord calls us to do things that we feel underqualified for. "I was told by my supervisors that those being sent had Masters and PhDs. But that can often lead to very clinical interactions." If we're responsive to the Lord and have trained ourselves in him, we can be assured that we can trust him to use us where we're called. "Whatever I did, it was what they were looking for. I was given more and more responsibility."

Reminiscent of Job's friends at the beginning of his trial, "What my team ended up doing was sitting with people, in their pain, being present and hearing them."

"It was the Lord who taught me to sit at the person's level or lower," Gail says. "We were servants, there to serve them."

Paula Lent is a caregiver for retired nuns from the Sisters of the Holy Cross and a lifelong South Bend resident. She also is a volunteer writer for WorkLight. She can be reached at paulalent16@comcast.net.

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the best Christmas dinner they have ever had.

Another client who read my Christmas letter was moved by a story I shared about an employee who helped a daughter's friend in need. This friend delivered a baby 2 1/2 months prematurely and things were touch and go with the baby girl who had been in intensive care at a Kalamazoo hospital for a month. Things quickly turned worse for the family when doctors discovered the mother had a volleyball-sized mass on her intestine. The tumor was removed, and tests indicated she had lymphoma. Initial tests indicated it was a stage 1 lymphoma, but later tests determined it was stage 4-B lymphoma. The baby's father had been working day in and day out as well as driving to Kalamazoo to see his daughter and then to South Bend, an hour away, to see his wife. Upon reading this, the client and his wife sent me \$100 each to give to this family.

Creating a culture of love and caring is central to our mission. We are always looking for opportunities to strengthen that culture. The daily Spark emails and the monthly *Flame* newsletter often provide us with good ideas. We are grateful for others in the workplace sharing ways of being Christ's presence at work.

Rich Preuss serves as Chairman on the WorkLight board of directors. He has been married to his wife, Beth, since 1983, and together they have 10 children. He, along with four others, is an owner of the Healy Group, a financial and risk management firm. Rich can be reached at richpreuss@alumni.nd.edu.

Be-Attitudes vs. Me-Attitudes

By Steve Becker

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! (1 Corinthians 5:17)

We live in a world that acts as if Christ does not exist. As Christians, we can prove this behavior wrong by revealing in our lives the reality of Christ to the world, in our time and in our place.

Letting the Beatitudes come to life in each of us makes Christ visible. The Beatitudes are a radical, counterintuitive response to our own nature and the world's approach. In fact, they're in direct contrast.

Being Christ means having a life that reflects his self-portrait, the Beatitudes. When we do, not only is Christ more visible, we do it in a way that is admirable because it's courageous. Amazingly, it is also very attractive, just as Christ was. In it we illustrate a mysterious joy of choosing the way to eternal life.

A life in the Beatitudes is more persuasive than apologetics. We don't need better arguments for the existence of Christ; we need better examples and greater holiness. Perhaps it's so easy for the world to ignore the existence of Christ because they see so few examples in his disciples.

Let's look closer by rephrasing and comparing the "me-attitudes" of the world and our fallen nature with the "be-attitudes" of the Kingdom of God. What's the tragic result of a life centering on itself? On the other hand, how are we to "be" in Christ and what good fortune does that offer those who do? Then let's ask the Lord, "How am I doing?" Talk about it with your Small Group.

Me-Attitudes

Poor in Spirit

How tragic for those who long for a life of worldly abundance, personal pleasure and accolades, for they will find themselves impoverished from anything of real or lasting value.

Mourn

How tragic for those who protect themselves from emotional attachment, insulate themselves and are lost within themselves, for they are doomed to know only discomfort.

Meek

How tragic for those who rely on their wit and abilities to get ahead at other's expense, who see life as a competition between winners and losers, for they will find themselves alone and disinherited.

Hunger & Thirst for Righteousness

How tragic for those who are satisfied in their ethical behavior not seeing their own hypocrisies, for they will never be satisfied, always left hungering for what they can never obtain on their own.

Merciful

How tragic are the self-centered who are unwilling to forgive, drinking the toxins of grudges and revenge, for they will experience their self-destructive effects.

Pure in Heart

How tragic for those who create their own imagined identity based on worldly desires, for they will find themselves on the outside looking in.

Peacemakers

How tragic for those who seek to divide and foster conflict in order to control and get what they want, for they will only sow seeds of hatred, fear, anger, and mistrust wherever they go.

Persecuted for Righteousness

How tragic for those who seek popularity, concerned about being disliked and going with the flow, avoiding conflict or ridicule for the fullness of life they seek is slipping from their grasp.

Be-Attitudes

What good fortune for those who are not attached to the things of this world but live not only for the splendor of God's love but his love for others, for they are now tasting heaven's sweet, rich flavor.

What good fortune for those who mourn the results of their sins, the fallen nature of this world and are compassionate to others who suffer as a result, for they will know true comfort and consolation.

What good fortune for those who humbly seek God and are neither too bold or too timid, but kind and considerate to others, for they are members of God's family destined to inherit his creation.

What good fortune for those whose daily yearning is for a deep, intimate relationship with God and act out of a desire to please the one they love, for they will know the satisfaction only this relationship provides.

What good fortune for those who show forgiveness and put others interest ahead of their own, for they will experience the Father's love, compassion, and forgiveness.

What good fortune for those whose true identity is found in God, who join feelings and mind to live for the Father, for they will know him as true sons and daughters do.

What good fortune for those who can walk into the most contentious situations and bring understanding, respect, and love between individuals, neighbors, coworkers, and fellow citizens.

What good fortune for those who put themselves at risk, are willing to face ridicule and conflict, and even suffer persecution to bring about true peace for they now know the joy of the kingdom.

NEWS

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The 2021 Annual Conference is almost here, taking place on October 15-16. This year's conference will be streamed live to regional gatherings happening all over the country. You can now find more information and purchase your ticket at bit.ly/WL-2021-AC

This year will be the first conference hosted by WorkLight, formerly known as Christians in Commerce and will be on the theme: "Arise & Shine."

"Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory rises upon you." (Isaiah 60:1)

Our society is changing dramatically, but our mission remains the same. At the conference we'll address today's challenges and revive our two greatest gifts—the Challenge Weekend and the Power of the Holy Spirit. As we emerge from the pandemic, let's come together to fuel the fire for a movement of the Holy Spirit.

TOOLKITS AVAILABLE

Is your Small Group or Chapter looking to host a WorkLight

StoryNight or Challenge Weekend? The WorkLight Home Office has made it easier than ever by providing streamlined guides and supporting materials in an event toolkit.

Also available is our Chapter and Small Group toolkit. These toolkits are great resources to keep your Chapter or Small Group in operation as well as some helpful hints and tips for outreach as well.

Find the toolkits at worklight.org/toolkits

We pray that these toolkits help your Chapter or Small Group host successful programs and events in your area.

WEBSITE UPDATES

As part of the name and brand transition from Christians in Commerce to WorkLight, we continue to expand and update the new website (worklight.org).

The latest effort to include the important history of Christians in Commerce and add elements from the old website (christiansincommerce.org) to worklight.org was completed in

late August, and the site has now been rerouted to worklight.org.

As a reminder to our longtime 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 in the workplace, reaching further generations of coworkers in Christ.

For Chapters or members who have documents saved to the Document Repository you can now find these documents easily at bit.ly/WL-PUB-DOCS

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

CHAPTER TOOLKIT AVAILABLE NOW!

The Chapter Toolkit provides support to Chapters and Chapter Leaders with operations, promotion and outreach, as well as some other helpful resources, like the Zoom toolkit.

Check it out now!

bit.ly/chapter-toolkit

Challenge Weekend

Have you found yourself asking these questions?
Why is work important to God? How do we develop a loving relationship with God?
What does it look like to receive the power of the Holy Spirit?

Then you should attend a Challenge Weekend! Challenge Weekends are Christian retreats that offer an opportunity to take stock and see what God has in mind for us in the workplace. Experience the love of God through Jesus Christ, a life in Christ, a life in the Spirit, a life that is transforming and lived in power, a life rich and full of purpose, and a life bringing love, integrity, and excellence to the workplace.

WorkLight Events: <https://worklight.org/events/>

2021

SEPTEMBER

*"I have been crucified
with Christ and I no
longer live, but Christ
lives in me."*

Galatians 2:20

THE FLAME

WORKLIGHT PRAYER

Father,

*Fill us with your Holy Spirit
that we may be made new
and bring the presence of Christ into all we do;
That we may grow in love for you, and for all;
That we may be humble and wise stewards of your creation;
That we may bring your light into our workplaces;
That we may lead all to unity in you;
Through Jesus, our 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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