



Prepared to be Useful

By Steve Becker

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

All tragedies are unique in their own way. For our family, one particular tragedy has demands we never anticipated. In late January, our nine-year-old granddaughter suffered complications during her fourth open-heart surgery, causing brain and spinal cord injury. She is permanently paralyzed from the waist down.

Just one of many marvels of God's great love is how he prepared our family with the professional skills to provide trained, frontline care for Priya. Our care comes wrapped in the love of family and faith.

In early June, we realized some things were off for Priya. Her Aunt Joy was tutoring to help her in recovery from the brain injury. She noticed Priya was losing ground from previous sessions. She was tired and sleeping a lot. Her processing skills had declined. It took several days to determine the

underlying cause. Priya was having partial seizures.

A brain injury like she experienced is extremely sensitive to changes. Priya was given antibiotics for a low-grade infection and the antibiotic was undermining the effectiveness of the anti-seizure medication. It wasn't spotted until she came home on Friday from a visit to the emergency room.

Her Aunt Julie, a complex care nurse practitioner, witnessed the seizure when she stopped by to check on her. She videotaped it and sent it to Priya's neurologist who confirmed it and made the necessary adjustments to her meds.

Both Julie and Joy knew what they wanted to do after high school. Julie planned to be a pediatric nurse and Joy planned to work with children as a teacher. Joy ended up getting two degrees—elementary and special education. Nine years ago, Christy, Priya's mother, concentrated on being a personal care assistant.

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INSIDE: REFLECTIONS

Radiating Christ

Christ in you, the hope of glory. (Colossians 1:27)

There's a marvelous little book called *Radiating Christ*. It was written to young men in France during the second World War. The author, Raoul Plus, never mentions the war, but knowing the context makes what he says more impressive.

It describes our call to participate in the incarnation by making him visible, lovable, and admirable. We've used these lines many times to describe our call as WorkLight. This is what we mean by "shining bright."



Jesus fills us with the Holy Spirit not only so he may dwell in us, but so we might radiate his life through us into our world. Is Christ visible in our lives? Is he lovable, radiating the fruit of the Spirit? And, is he admirable?

If admirable means heroic: Are we heroic? We join together as WorkLight so we might support one another to live Christianity courageously in the midst of a changing and tougher society. Behind it all lies a battle between good and evil. We bury our old life, so that his life may rise in us.

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REFLECTIONS WEEK 1

My Secret Weapon

By Toby Clairmont

“But when the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.” (John 16:13)

As a college student, I joined the Marines and was asked to train as a hospital corpsman. I saw this as a career opportunity. A close friend, however, had a different perspective. He saw our work as a service to the Lord.

It took a near-death incident for me to see that the Lord had a call on my life for service and to get on board. This call, and my relationship with the Lord, are essential elements of my work in disaster relief. The Lord has become my secret weapon. I call on the Holy Spirit a lot, and God provides it.

Throughout my emergency services career—both paid and volunteer—I’ve served in the aftermath of over 200

hurricanes, earthquakes, transportation accidents, floods, and tsunamis. Working in disaster relief requires many sacrifices, including time away from family and jobs, forgoing showers for 5-6 days, surviving on 3-4 hours of sleep, and serving people who might not be easy to serve because of stress they are experiencing. Disasters can bring out the best, and the worst, in people.

The call to serve the Lord has kept me in the field. As I’ve faced situations with hardship, the Lord has kept me encouraged. It was clear that he cared for those suffering and wanted to love them. I was just a small part of that. The Lord doesn’t close the wound himself, but he gives someone the skills to do it. The medical care team offers spiritual support as well through our love, smiles, and compassion.

Anyone can offer this kind of support to those in need around them. Don’t underestimate the value of reassuring people with your presence, praying with them, and finding out and helping with their specific daily needs. If everybody did a little, the load would not be so high.

Toby Clairmont served for 40 years in disaster relief. He is now retired and lives with his wife, Susie, in Battle Ground, WA. They have three adult children.

PRAY

Lord, please open my eyes to those who are suffering around me. Through the Holy Spirit, please give me knowledge for how to help, and words of comfort and hope to speak. Help me to radiate your life.

REFLECT

How have you experienced the Lord through practical and spiritual support in tough times?

DISCUSS

What are some of the “disasters” that your coworkers are experiencing? How can you learn more of what they need and support them?

Your Gift is a Sacred Trust

As 2022 approaches, think of ways we can reach new people, workplaces, and communities with WorkLight. There’s so much more to do. We can’t do it without you.

Please make a tax-deductible gift to WorkLight by the end of the year.

Your support will make a lasting impact on the next generation of coworkers in Christ. We will honor your generosity by stewarding our resources to foster a movement of the Holy Spirit in today’s workplace.

WORKLIGHT.ORG/DONATE



REFLECTIONS WEEK 2

Translator for Our Father

By Annie Stutley

“Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him.” (John 13:16)

Before this year, busy schedules made uninterrupted hours with a good friend nearly impossible. Then came Wednesday afternoons in the chemotherapy chair when I was given loads of time with good friends who kept me company. It also granted me the opportunity to witness the impact their lives have on others.

Medical diagnoses and treatment plans can be hard enough to understand, but imagine adding a language barrier. Such confusion could lead to fear

and panic. Yet for my friend, Lina, a hospital translator and interpreter, this is her opportunity to be the image of Christ for others.

Most of us have been at the mercy of someone with authority, however few of us are so compromised that we are unable to advocate for ourselves. For Lina, this is her daily practice of living the gospel. Time and again, Jesus gave dignity to those separated from society norms. We see it in those he healed, those he invited to follow him, and ultimately when he gave his life so that one day sinners might stand before God without fear, but with reverence and hope.

I may not be a translator, but like Lina, I can bridge the divide between those who understand and those who do not, and those in authority and those who feel silenced. In the eyes of the Father, we are all his beloved children, regardless of our expertise. We are all promised the same blessings if we reflect his

actions and serve others in his name.

Annie Stutley is a freelance writer living in New Orleans with her husband, Bill, and three children. Find her at anniedstutley.com.

PRAY

Lord, open my heart to bring dignity to the poor in spirit. May my work reflect the hands and feet of your ministry.

REFLECT

Are there individuals you encounter regularly whose language, lifestyle, or background ostracize them from others?

DISCUSS

In what ways can you be a “translator” for the misunderstood, the fearful, and the disheartened? How can you be the image of the one who accepted the least of his people?

REFLECTIONS WEEK 3

Christ on the Loading Dock

By Jason Ahrens

I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. (Psalm 27:13)

Our business was tough before; now it’s awful. We move multiple-stop loads of temperature sensitive freight. With the driver shortage, it’s gotten worse.

Our drivers have dozens of stops with specific appointments. Any delays and the “dominoes” fall. Many locations have two entities working at cross purposes—a warehouse staff and a third-party to off-load.

At our carrier’s first stop, the dock worker refused the shipment. He said three of the 12 pallets were tipping. Our driver was told to leave the property and reschedule. It would mean increased

cost, hassles for our customers, the driver, and missed appointments, as well as a horrendous day for us.

The driver calmly told me, “Let me see what I can do.” He convinced the dock worker to let him restack the three pallets. He did it free of charge to us. Three hours later, they were acceptable, but now they were refusing the other nine. His photos showed there was nothing wrong.

I appealed to the warehouse supervisor. He just wanted us to leave and the problem to go away. Again, the driver took the information calmly and said, “Let me see what I can do.”

An hour later he called back. He had gotten another dock worker to take a look, who saw no problem at all. He was now off-loaded and on his way to the next delivery. The episode took 8 hours.

I was emotionally overwhelmed by what this driver did. I could not stop thinking about it. The Lord sent him to be Christ to me. In fact, that’s what I told his supervisor.

I now know first-hand the power radiating Christ can have on others.

Jason Ahrens is the operations manager for Trademark Transportation. He lives in Hopkins, MN, and attends a WorkLight small group in St. Paul, MN.

PRAY

Lord, in the stress of difficult situations, help me to remain at peace in you.

REFLECT

Where have you seen others radiating the love and generosity of the Lord to you?

DISCUSS

What opportunities come to mind where we can radiate the love of Christ and help bring his peace to difficult situations?

REFLECTIONS WEEK 4

Pandemic Kindness

By Nanci Panos

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. (Ephesians 4:32)

I manage a small medical practice with three locations. We know our coworkers well—many have worked together for years. We come from various backgrounds, cultures, and beliefs. Our day-to-day is pretty routine.

We don't have much time to socialize, outside of a short break, or annual holiday party. In March 2019, the pandemic would change us, our routines, and, most of all, our relationships.

Our physicians were diligent throughout. As the pandemic advanced, so did our

fears. The physicians made themselves available to anyone who was dealing with fear and anxiety. In spite of precautions several employees caught COVID.

One employee went to visit her father. He had contracted COVID and passed away a few days later. She too got COVID and was off work for three weeks. She could no longer continue to care for her special needs brother. She grieved the loss of both.

Employees were fearful of keeping elderly parents safe. Others lost childcare and couldn't come to work. Several caught the virus and having employees out of the office put a strain on the rest.

We saw a new side of each other, so much kindness—prayers being offered, staff bringing meals and purchasing groceries. A teenage daughter babysat a coworker's children so the coworker could come to work. Our physicians even continued to pay the staff as before, in spite of reduced hours.

We can always count on the Holy Spirit to inspire us by way of kindnesses, compassion, and support.

Nanci Panos has worked for a medical specialty practice in Northern Virginia for almost 40 years. She can be reached at NanciHey@aol.com.

PRAY

How can I show the face of Christ to my coworkers?

REFLECT

Who in my workplace is the Lord putting on my heart to help?

DISCUSS

How have I shown kindness and compassion to my coworkers?

PRESIDENT'S NOTE



And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. (2 Corinthians 3:18)

Radiating Christ

In Paul's second letter to the Corinthians, he speaks about the unveiling of faces undergoing the transformation of our Lord. At WorkLight we are committed to uniting Christians to shine bright. Our news section this month highlights

the blessings of the recent Arise & Shine Conference. Every day brothers and sisters in Christ gather to feed the flame of his light and love.

But what does this mean when I'm at work, without scripture in my hand and prayer warriors around me? Can I really radiate Christ into the lives of those around me?

Yes! Absolutely and without a doubt. Not only does your Father in heaven want you to join him by engaging the world. God wants you to be transformed ever more like him through the power of Jesus.

I pray this month's stories inspire you to reflect on how Christ radiates into your life. But more importantly, I pray that the Lord shows up in your life this month to nudge you into radiating action. Who have you been praying for that you can boldly pray with? When is your next Challenge Weekend? Who needs the love of Jesus you can show them at your next chapter or small group meeting? Come Holy Spirit!

With you in Christ,
Wes

Radiating Christ at Work

An authentic, beautiful and courageous Christian life at work lets the Spirit shine bright.

An authentic life is being a living sacrifice allowing us to be transformed into the likeness of Christ and not conformed in the ways of the world—a life lived honestly and humbly in all areas, especially our workplace.

A beautiful life emphasizes what is noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent, virtuous, and praiseworthy in thought and practice. It means being encouraging, offering solutions and alternatives where there are problems.

A courageous life counts it all joy when facing trials and, with perseverance, letting the Lord finish the work he has begun. In contrast to a superficial Christian life, the courageous life penetrates to our very bones, dwells in our heart, creating a soul aflame for the Lord.

Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all you do be done in love. (1 Corinthians 16:13-14)

As recovering sinners, we have experienced first-hand the mercy of God. With the increasing secularization of our culture and the subsequent loss of our moral moorings, we will encounter more injured and critically wounded individuals. As Jesus' love and character radiates through us, this life becomes more visible, admirable, and attractive.

We are called not to remain indifferent to the pain and suffering sin brings to others. They are members of the family of God. They may not see themselves as his sons and daughters, but God the Father has not forgotten them and loves them. Mercy is divine and compassion has a human face.



We must be ministers of God's mercy—learning how to encourage others to step toward God and away from sin. Just like we did, most rationalize what they are doing and are influenced by a self-serving and self-affirming culture driven in a conscience-warping world. We know that God loves them and is reaching out to them right now.

Father, let me be your human face to your love and mercy. Let me not be indifferent to the pain sin brings to others' lives. Rather, let my faith be exhibited in a life that is authentic, beautiful, and courageous.

Adapted from a Snapshot Podcast.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.

John 1:1-9



The Importance of Knowing

By Pam Seale

In my last year of high school I had the opportunity to work as a nursing assistant in a skilled nursing facility. I went after school and stayed until the last of my residents were bedded down for the night. I was in love with one woman in particular, Ella May. She probably had Alzheimer's, though the term never came up when I was working there in the 1970s.

Ella May didn't like to take a bath and when she didn't want something, she let you know without caring what would happen to her reputation. Her social filters were gone.

Older staff members showed me how to care for Ella May. She loved music. If you turned on her radio before starting her care—and even better if you sang—you could gently help her remove her garments and put on comfortable pajamas in preparation for a good night's sleep. She might sing with a favorite song, or she might even peck you on the cheek. It made my night.

After two years with Ella May, I spent 16 years at home before returning to work. By this time, I was a Christian nurse. I had met the Lord and gone to college while raising my family. Here's what God showed me upon my return.

God has made it clear from the beginning of time that he wants to be known. "Let the one who boasts boast about this: that they have the understanding to know me, that I am the Lord." (Jeremiah 9:24) God knows us, and he is actually proud of us for knowing him! Jesus says, "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me." (John 10:15)

This deep knowing is important. It's important for nursing professionals to

know their residents. Is it music, food, solitude, or a busy social setting that will make their resident feel more comfortable? Knowing others well is important to nurses, but it's also important for any of us whether we're working with coworkers or clients. It's key to radiating Christ in a personal way.

Being Christ in the workplace, nurses listen and respond to the needs of their residents to help them live the best quality of life they can. Christians know this. But, I found that not only were the staff being Christ to their residents, but the residents were Christ to them.

Ella May, all those years ago, had been shining the life of God toward me with her simple expressions of joy and gratitude about the littlest of things. The cloud of confusion and mixed up social skills could not squelch the pure love of God in her.

We are trained to see the humble, caring helper as the hands of Jesus. Do we have the bandwidth to see Jesus in those who are disabled? Those who can't take care of themselves? Those who don't plan their evangelistic endeavors? If we don't grow in seeing Jesus in the poorest of the poor, we will miss out on something extremely beautiful. We will miss seeing Jesus radiating his life toward us.

Pam Seale is a retired clinical nurse specialist in gerontology. She is part of a missionary team near downtown Indianapolis where she shares her faith and nursing knowledge.

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Prepared to be Useful*

All of them have had job histories giving special understanding and expertise that fit perfectly into Priya's complex needs. Julie's role last week is just one example. Julie has served as a pediatric NP for a neurosurgeon and, most recently, worked with complex care cases at the hospital Priya was transferred to for therapy and long-term care. Priya is assigned to a coworker in the complex care department where Julie works. As illustrated in the seizure incident, Julie has relationships with and access to the specialized team providing support. Her views and expertise are highly respected.

When we married, Carolyn and I had no idea what we were signing our family up for. Each of our children followed their own career paths. Yet all of the sisters feel that God prepared them for this time and has given them the gifts to provide practical, frontline, and heroic support. In addition, Christy worked for the past year as a full-time nanny for her daughter and Julie's two children who were forced to do online learning during the pandemic. The cousins have since grown close.

Hundreds of people follow Priya's CaringBridge site. Written through the eyes of faith and family, it's given me an opportunity to give glory to God and honor my family in a difficult time, relying on writing skills I've developed over fifty years. As the story continues to unfold, we know Jesus is in the mix.

Cover photo: (Left to right) Christy, Joy, Priya, Julie. Photo by CaringBridge

Steve Becker continues to serve on the WorkLight board. Priya's Caring Bridge is caringbridge.org/visit/priyasmith.

NEWS

ARISE & SHINE CONFERENCE

Thank you to all who gathered to be a part of this year's Arise & Shine Conference. Society continues to change dramatically, but our time together encouraged and invigorated us toward the unwavering mission at WorkLight. A special thanks goes out to all our task force members, speakers, regional Gathering hosts, and event sponsors.

Our pre-conference Friday morning dove into key talks from the Challenge Weekend. Friday night's WorkLight StoryNight highlighted new voices and faces of millennials' experiences

of Christ alive in their lives and workplaces. Saturday was an all-day exploration and revealing of God's plan for WorkLight.

We prayed together. We launched the Kingdom Builders campaign. We recommitted to new ways of engaging the world as Christians. Challenge Weekends are popping up on calendars from coast to coast, and it's been inspiring to hear stories of boldly praying with those who we were previously praying for.

Through the power of Jesus we are all blessed to witness this ministry's two

Conference Videos Available

2021 Conference playlist is available on our WorkLight YouTube Channel. (bit.ly/worklight-youtube). Be sure and subscribe.

greatest gifts—the Challenge Weekend and the Outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Missed this year's conference? Not to worry. Visit us at worklight.org to see highlights and get inspired to join this movement of the Holy Spirit.



2021

DECEMBER

*"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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