



A Path into WorkLight

By Paula Lent

As a high schooler, Brad Mundy wanted to become an optometrist and began to be mentored by a local doctor. His parents supported this dream and his hopes of one day owning his own practice. His dad, Pat, planned to help him through that process when the time came.

Then, in 2018, while Brad was an associate optometrist, his dad died suddenly from a heart attack. Brad rushed to his parent's house and was with his mom as emergency professionals arrived. "It was a very traumatic ordeal for my mom, to lose her husband of 47 years," he recalls.

They weren't alone in their time of shock and grief. Randy and Tami Raciti, the Mundys' neighbors, came right over. "They were there in the moment with us. They prayed with us. I'll never forget it."

For months afterward, Tami checked on Trudy daily, praying with her and having her over. This support had a profound impact on Brad. "I've always

had a strong faith, but not as palpable as laying hands on people and praying over them."

The help didn't end there. "My parents' finances were in good shape, but my dad was the only one who knew all the details. After the services were over, my mom and I were like deer in headlights," Brad says. So Randy, who's a financial advisor, and his coworker, Nick Liskey, helped organize everything and educated Trudy on her financial status.

The Mundys co-owned two condos that were in need of renovation after the previous tenants moved out. Pat had started the renovations, but now it was an additional stress for Trudy. Randy connected Brad with a contractor he knew who finished the renovations. It's something Brad thinks would have pleased his father on a personal level. "My dad knew this contractor from seeing him work on Randy's house. He appreciated the way

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INSIDE: REFLECTIONS

Avoiding the Spirit of the World

The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever. (1 John 2:17)

What is the spirit of the world? It is our personal desire for a life of worldly abundance, personal pleasure, and accolades.

The first beatitude is the antidote for avoiding being enslaved by the world's desires. Blessed are the poor in spirit.

The mystery of this poverty is at the heart of the Gospel and life in Christ. While there is a negative poverty (material or moral bankruptcy), there is also a good poverty Jesus invites us into. Poverty of spirit is the source for life and joy.



Author Jacques Philippe describes poor in spirit as a form of freedom, the freedom to receive freely and give everything freely. It is not an economic state of being.

Avoiding the spirit of the world by being poor in spirit requires an approach on two fronts. First, it is a call to humility and dependence on God; secondly, it is one of restraint and detachment from the things of this world.

March Reflections: Pages 2-4

REFLECTIONS WEEK 1

A Simple Life

By Annie Stutley

Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. (Colossians 3:2)

Touring a museum exhibit about Catholic churches, I turned into a gallery only to be met with a photograph of an altar that was personal to me. My father, Bill Argus, designed it for the 1987 papal visit to New Orleans, Louisiana. When I asked him about being featured, he just shrugged and said, “I didn’t even know it was happening.”

We live in an attention-obsessed society that tells us the more visible we are, the more credible. Pop was a gifted musician, an artist, and drove the creative spirit through every room he entered. He was “the life of the party,” but never an egotist. He was quick to admit fault and even quicker to forgive.

His suits weren’t expensive. His cars were always practical, and our home would never have appeared in Architectural Digest. Even when he finally designed a house for himself and Mom in 2008, it wasn’t elaborate. It was interesting, warm, and just enough.

Exposed beams created a craftsman sanctuary in the living room; decks encircling the house appealed to the climate; and quirky little windows here and there looked random, but framed the moon, the sun, and stars at their most vibrant hours.

There were more famous architects, more stylish businessmen, and swankier houses on the block. While it would’ve been neat to see his work remembered alongside the same spotlight as Frank Lloyd Wright, it was well in his heart without the fanfare. He told me before he died in 2018, “What difference does it make if someone is better than you? Work with what you have.”

For Pop, he had what he needed—a sturdy drafting table, a home, baked chicken in the oven, and a loving family

with whom to share it. He also had faith like I’ve never seen. It was as if he wasn’t a citizen of this world and that he knew living for the next with passion was the best attention to seek.

Annie Stutley is a member of the editorial team living in New Orleans, Louisiana. Find her at anniedstutley.com

PRAY

Heavenly Father, keep our eyes on your greatness and not self-admiration.

REFLECT

What kind of attention are we seeking professionally and personally, and for whose service?

DISCUSS

What is motivating our drive for exposure? Does it build God’s Kingdom?



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REFLECTIONS WEEK 2

A New Heart

By Marty Willard

We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. (Thessalonians 1:3)

“Lord, you are funny!” This was my first thought after my boss said, “There is no good way to say this, your job is being eliminated.” Four months earlier I prayed, “Lord, this job drains me of joy. I don’t want to be laid off, but I would like a change.”

After 22 years with this company and just having received an award for my latest work, I was laid off, no reason given. For years, my wife Fran had urged me to look for a new job, but I did

not trust God enough to leave. Now, I was 55 and afraid. “Lord, did you hear the part about not wanting to be laid off?” He did and he provided.

I had four months to look for a new job. I asked the Lord to change my heart to love his desires, not the world’s; to prioritize people, not the job. God gave me a new career at a new company with a new heart.

My first day a coworker shared his trial of infertility. I told him about my experience, how prayer changed our lives, and we prayed. Since then, Jesus has led me to pray with many people at work and filled me with love for everyone he put in my life.

In the world, I took validation (and desolation) from my job accomplishments (or lack thereof). God has given me the new heart I asked for. Putting my faith in the Lord, I love his people, and endure in the hope of being transformed into Christ.

Marty Willard lives in Burnsville, Minnesota. He and his wife, Fran, have six children. He works in pipeline marketing at Medtronic and can be reached at martywillard7@gmail.com.

PRAY

Father, please use me today to love your people, and remind me to pray for the salvation of souls.

REFLECT

At the end of each day reflect on all you are thankful for in what the Lord has done this day.

DISCUSS

What inspires us to be Christ? At work, what shows our labor is motivated by faith, love, and hope.

REFLECTIONS WEEK 3

Coworkers with Christ

By Paul Frenz

As God’s coworkers we urge you not to receive God’s grace in vain. (2 Corinthians 6:1)

At my first job, I was presented daily with the choice to live for the world or to live for Christ. I had good spiritual mentorship being a Christian in the workplace to help work through these decisions. This provided a good foundation.

First, it was a manner of working on right speech, employee interactions, social behavior, and avoiding situations that may lead to sin. This evolved to develop a clear set of priorities integrating my faith into work and family life. I set boundaries at multiple levels with an understanding in advance of critical priorities.

My coworkers recognized I was different and began to behave differently around me. The department’s speech became more professional. I would ask new employees to respect our culture of clean speech, and most did. Coworkers would share their struggles with me, occasionally providing an opportunity to pray or share Christ. I wasn’t always perfect, but walking in Christ allowed others to follow Christ as well.

As I matured in my walk with Christ, I learned the importance of praying in the morning. Now, not praying every day isn’t an option. When I don’t have my morning prayer, I feel naked—without the armor of the Lord. (See Ephesians 6:10-16)

This has led to the realization I should regularly invite Christ into my day when I’m walking between meetings, before a phone call, or even while working alone. I began inviting Christ into each situation, to be my companion, my coworker. The fruits of inviting Christ regularly into my day has been bountiful.

Paul Frenz and his wife Rita live in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where they have raised their five children. Paul works as a senior program manager for General Dynamics. He can be reached at paulfrenz@usfamily.net.

PRAY

Help me each morning and throughout the day to put on the full armor of God to stand against the schemes of the evil one in my workplace.

REFLECT

How is God calling you to be more of his coworker in your workplace?

DISCUSS

How can we invite Christ into our workday and experience the difference of having Christ as our coworker?

REFLECTIONS WEEK 4

Answering What and Why

By Greg Aitkens

You are a chosen people ... you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. (1 Peter 2:9)

After almost 40 years as a financial advisor, I retired. Praying about the next chapter of life, I asked myself, “Whom do I serve, and for what purpose?” I’ve been tempted to buy an expensive German sports car. (I deserve it.) I envisioned several cruises every year. (I’ve earned it.) The Lord had other things in mind. Based on my workplace experiences here are the new ways he’s led me to continue working for him.

My wife Ginny and I moved to a small town on the California coast in May 2017. I

got involved in the Lions Club and recently became president, which regularly positions me to practice the fruits of the Holy Spirit, especially patience, kindness, gentleness, and self-control. I get to exercise being a peacemaker among members who disagree a lot on how things get done. I did not envision being in this role in retirement.

I felt a nudge from the Holy Spirit to write a book on forgiveness. I began to write, and the “book” evolved into a workbook called *A New Mindset for Forgiveness*. I feel called to assist others who may still be stuck in unforgiveness. The process of writing a blog and preparing videos on YouTube has helped me a lot with my own forgiveness journey.

Daily prayer is important in discerning God’s will. Focusing on these key questions proved helpful. “What are you doing, and why are you doing it?” I believe our Lord has me doing what he has called me to do.

Greg Aitkens is a member of the editorial team who lives in Cambria, California, with his wife Ginny. He can be reached at greg.r.aitkens@gmail.com.

PRAY

Thank you, Father, for all the opportunities you place in front of us. Help us to clearly discern your will in our works in your Kingdom.

REFLECT

Is my current “service” in his Kingdom glorifying our Lord, or is it more about building my own image and reputation in this world?

DISCUSS

How are you being drawn into temptations in this world? How easy is it for you to “detach” from the things of this world?

PRESIDENT’S NOTE



So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. (2 Corinthians 4:18)

Avoiding the Spirit of the World

It is not easy to turn our attention to the unseen. Yet this is part of our call as Christians.

To bask in the sun or ponder a painting can allow us to witness a reflection of divine beauty. But if all we feel is sunshine and all we see is art, then we are missing the point. As Paul mentions in his first letter to the Corinthians, now all we can see

of God is like a cloudy picture in a mirror. (1 Corinthians 13:12) Nothing in this world comes close to God.

You’ve probably heard Rich Mullin’s lyrics, “Our God is an awesome God!” Nowadays awesome suggests God is amazing and remarkable. In the 1600s this same word meant more literally awe-inspiring. Go further back in time and you will find the word awe on its own describing the wonder of our Lord.

What’s happening here? As our language shifts over time Jesus is a constant. Whether we pray in Koine Greek or modern Esperanto; our God is an awesome God indeed.

None of the words we use or the sights we see are God. Many of them

are gifts from God, but they are not God. Our linguistic efforts to describe God are always limited by the fact that they are earthly.

In Christ we are called to see beyond our sight. Jesus makes it possible for us to know our Creator not by our understanding but by God’s grace. Hallelujah!

Where are you stuck on what you can see today? Perhaps God is calling you to look past your worldly perception, beyond your earthly understanding, and into the eternal light and love of Jesus.

With you in Christ,

Wes

Pride Can Overrun Success

By Bill Dalgetty

It is difficult to handle success without pride overtaking us.

Uzziah became king of Judah when he was 16 years old and reigned in Jerusalem for 52 years. At first, he did what was right in the eyes of the Lord. He sought God through the prophet, Zechariah. He built up the defenses of Judah, raised a large army that defeated the Philistines, and constructed public works. As long as he sought the Lord, God gave him success.

But then one day he presumed to enter the temple to burn incense, a duty reserved to the descendants of Aaron. They challenged him, he became angry and as he was raging at them, leprosy broke out on his forehead, which caused him to be isolated for the rest of his life. (2 Chronicles 26:16-21)

In my 38-year career with a large company, I saw a number of good men experience success while moving up the corporate ladder, only to see pride build up in them, leading them to



overreach their authority. Each one of them eventually experienced a setback in their career. I, too, struggled at times with pride in how I related to others, allowing my position to define who I was instead of viewing myself as a steward of whatever God had given me.

Our youngest daughter, Emily, has Down syndrome. I have learned so much about humility and the love of God from her. She does not presume any special status or position, only to love her family and friends and to experience our love in return.

One of the problems with how we handle success is its definition. The world views success in terms of position, authority, power, and wealth; while God views success in terms of whether we are fulfilling his will in our lives. If our focus is on seeking God's will, pride has less of a chance to take hold of how we view ourselves and how we do our work.

In my morning prayer I sometimes recite a Litany of Humility given me by a friend.

“O Jesus, meek and humble of heart, deliver me from the desire of being esteemed, loved, extolled, honored, praised, consulted, or approved. Deliver me from the fear of being humiliated, despised, forgotten, ridiculed, or wronged. Grant me the grace to desire that others might be loved more, esteemed more, chosen, praised, preferred, and become holier than I, provided that I become as holy as I should.”

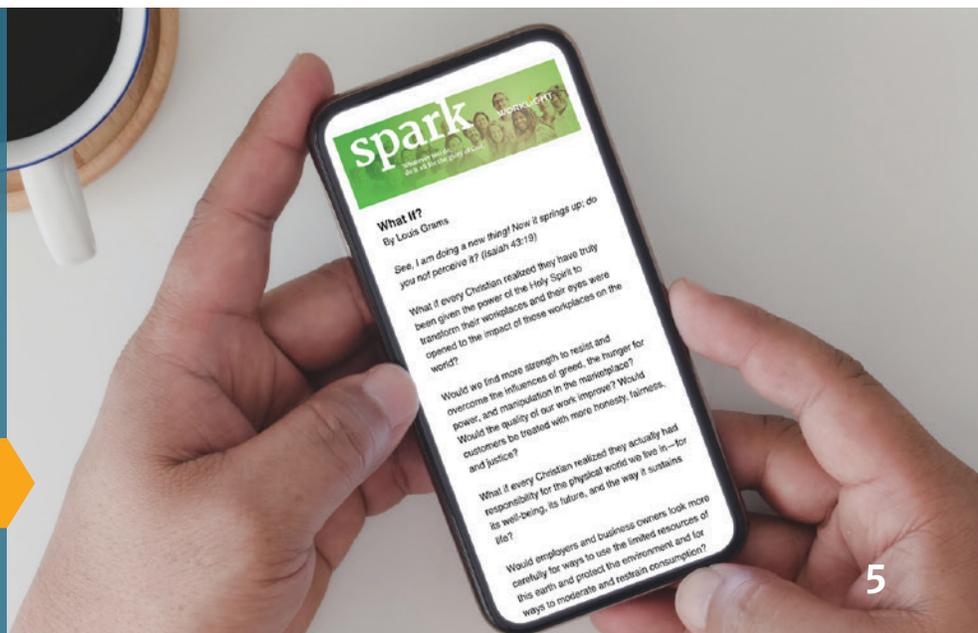
How do you deal with success and pride in your life?

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More Insights, New Stories

Rediscover The Spark Email Reflections. Additional, new stories and insights expand on the month's theme every workday morning. Encourage others to sign up.

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“Listen to Me”

By Paula Lent

Author Flannery O’Connor’s characters are often pursued by grace, which in a moment hits them with full force, leaving them with the choice to accept it or not. However, that moment is set up early in the story. Toby Clairmont, an Oahu native with over 40 years’ experience in disaster relief, experienced such a moment himself in his late 20s. But the moment was set up in high school.

As a teenager, Toby followed the footsteps of an older friend and joined his local Civil Defense group. One night, while performing the routine task of mapping a flooded area, he encountered a drowned pregnant woman on the side of the road. “At that moment I realized I could do disaster relief,” he recalls. “It put in my heart the desire to somehow always be involved in emergency response.”

In college, Toby left his faith and enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps to avoid the draft. He accepted the offer to train as a hospital corpsman and graduated with a certificate of science in Emergency Medical Service. This medical training shaped the trajectory of his career.

While studying for his nursing degree, Toby continued to pursue disaster relief opportunities by volunteering for the Red Cross. When he graduated, he became the director of Disaster-Emergency Services for its Pacific Division. He was offered the job without applying. “I have never applied

for a job in my life,” Toby says of his career. “I’ve always been asked to work somewhere.”

While working as the director, he also began working part time as an emergency department nurse and was in the Marine Reserves. Although he was building a life centered on serving people in need, the Lord was not, to his understanding, a part of it.

Then one day, as he was flying back from a routine training exercise with the Marines, the engine in the helicopter failed. Knowing the statistics for fatalities in crashes, he was sure he would die. He prayed. “It was the first time as an adult that I reached out to the Lord,” Toby says.

The moment had arrived for grace to show its face. “Within minutes, I heard the Lord tell me, ‘I’m not finished with you yet.’ It was as if someone came up to me and grabbed me by the shirt and said, ‘Listen to me.’”

“It gave me clarity. I felt that the Lord had been directing my life, and that I needed to start listening to him.” From then on, he pursued a relationship with the Lord, something that affected how he viewed and carried out his career.

As he took on increasing responsibilities at the hospital, eventually becoming the assistant administrator, and later, a Federal Disaster Medical Assistant Team leader, Toby called on the Lord’s help in the face of overwhelming disasters and

dire needs. “He makes it very easy,” Toby says. “When there are barriers, they just disappear.”

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A Path into WorkLight

Continued from page 1

he didn’t take shortcuts. It’s amazing that he was the one who finished the work on the condos.”

With these things squared away, there still remained the dream of Brad owning his own practice. Randy guided Brad along this process, introducing him to a lawyer and a bank, and offering spiritual support. Then, Randy invited Brad to join his WorkLight group.

“When he invited me, I told Randy ‘I don’t think I’m ready. I’m someone who keeps his emotions to himself. I have a good relationship with God, but I’m not comfortable being in a situation to talk about it.’” But after joining the following year, Brad says he loves the support and camaraderie of his group. “It’s something I look forward to every week. It’s nice to talk to one another and get grounded.” Nick is also in this group, and Brad supported him when he recently lost his father.

Thanks to the help of Randy, who employed both his professional resources and faith, the Mundy finances were set, the condos sold, and Brad became the owner of a multi-location vision care practice—all within three years of Pat’s death. The two have grown from just neighbors to strong brothers in Christ.

Both Randy Raciti, Nick Liskey, and Brad Mundy are part of a small group in the South Bend, Indiana, chapter. Randy’s wife, Tami, is the daughter of one of our founders, Bud Rose.

NEWS

WORKLIGHT BASICS

Through the grace of God, including hundreds of generous donors like you, our 2022 budget is on pace to reliably deliver the Flame Newsletter, Spark Workday Reflections, Online Resources (www.worklight.org), Chapters, Small Groups, the Annual Conference, Challenge Weekends, and more. The home office is committed to delivering these core elements of the ministry for years to come. As we continue to grow, further investment becomes possible to reach the next generation with this movement of the Holy Spirit.

CALLING ALL IGNITERS

In 1983 a small group of “igniters” hosted the first-ever Challenge Weekend. This group included the likes

of John Mooney, Louis Grams, and Bud Rose. The next week they returned to their families and jobs as changed men. Today, we are called to build on the legacy of Christians in Commerce not only by re-igniting our dedicated base of supporters, but to engage with new mid-career professionals who are on fire for Christ. Stay tuned for more on how new igniters find their way onto Challenge Weekends and into the heart of this ministry. Glory be to God!

SMALL GROUP GROWTH

March is the sixth and final month of WorkLight’s experiment with Small Group coaching and mentorship with the support of consultant Dan Clites. Perhaps you have worked with Dan or been impacted by his work through your Chapter or Small Group. Either

way, please join us in praying that the growth of WorkLight small groups across the country might reach the next generation of brothers and sisters in Christ. Thank you, Dan, for all your hard work. Come Holy Spirit!

NATIONAL GROWTH COUNCIL

WorkLight Chapters and Small Groups have been the hands and feet of this ministry for decades. May the good Lord continue to bless all those who answer the call to lead their local community! This year we are putting together a national group of local leaders to better understand, learn from, and inform the ground level of this ministry’s impact. Want to refer a local leader to join us? Send us your recommendation at admin@worklight.org.

Let Us Help You!

Our first-hand accounts of Christ at work inspire others. Subscribers to our Spark Workday Reflections want more. Let us tell them about yours.

If writing isn’t your thing, we’re here to help. It’s easy. Use the simple form on our website to send a brief description. One of our writers will be in touch.

And, always be eager to pass on a Spark reflection to anyone who needs a little inspiration.

bit.ly/WL-ShareYourStory

2022

MARCH

*"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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