



My Failing. His Miraculous Recovery.

By Dave Mazanowski

Among the top three things you can do to destroy yourself in the business world is to commit Medicare fraud, and I did just that. Miraculously, my business is not only still standing, but doing better than before, and it has become a place where I live out the call to build the Kingdom of God. This is God's work.

When the Apostle Peter first met Jesus, he was in the midst of the details of his vocation. Following an unsuccessful night at work, he was regrouping and preparing for the next attempt, washing his fishing nets. Peter allowed Jesus into his boat so that Jesus could better preach to the crowds, and then obeyed his command to put out into the deep waters to fish, despite reservations about the likelihood of success. What resulted was a miraculous catch of fish. Peter responded by trying to distance himself from Jesus, however, falling to

his knees and saying, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!"

After Peter fell to his knees, Jesus said to him, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people." So, Peter got up, and joined Jesus in his mission, becoming a disciple—learning from his master and participating in his work.

The Lord told me that he had a plan for my business that would bring him glory and build his Kingdom, and he wanted me to join him in it. Now, after my case became public, we did a strategic analysis of how much business we would lose and estimated that would be around 30%. Instead, we only lost the contracts directly connected to the fraud case. In the following months, the business actually grew, which was a miraculous testimony to the Lord.

Continued on page 5

INSIDE: REFLECTIONS

Planting Seeds

"... As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news.' (Romans 10:15)

Paul is lamenting the loss of his fellow Jews. But how can they believe in one they don't know, haven't heard about, and hasn't been accurately proclaimed? He's telling his readers, including us, this is what we're sent to do. Let people know.

God had been revealed through the words of the Old Testament and now the Word had been incarnated in Jesus Christ. Through words and deeds, God made himself known. By life in the Spirit, we are sent to make him known through word and deeds as well. The emphasis is on the "and."



How are people we work with going to believe someone they really don't know first-hand? Our lives, our actions, and our words are meant to make him visible and known. Planting seeds is all about being willing to bring Jesus to life in our workplaces and to those around us.

As the world becomes more individualistic, materialistic, and hedonistic, our lives should only become more attractive and authentic, influencing others. This is what we're sent to do.

June Reflections: Pages 2-4

REFLECTIONS WEEK 1

Deeds of Service

By Gina Vesledahl

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

On a recent deployment with a Christian organization to Antakya (modern-day Antioch), Turkey, to provide first aid after a devastating earthquake, a Muslim interpreter and fellow nurse unexpectedly renewed my faith.

We had been given strict instruction to not share the Gospel unless directly asked by the individuals to whom we were caring. If the government believed we were evangelizing, we would be sent home, leaving thousands without lifesaving medical care. We displayed the cross on our scrubs and tents, but that was the only permissible public display of glorifying God. So, we had to rely on our deeds to share our faith.

Sinem, a Muslim interpreter, overwhelmed by the compassion and

love shown to her city and people, became curious about the life of Jesus. A fellow nurse, A.J., who is blessed with a gift for teaching, began a nightly Bible study with Sinem.

Tired from the long working hours and lack of sleep, I was eager to retreat to my tent at the end of each day until one evening when I was invited by Sinem to join their study. Flattered as I was, I couldn’t imagine how they found the energy and will to meet every evening. Shortly after we began our study, I had an epiphany: Barnabas and Paul taught and preached to Gentiles in Antioch just as A.J. had been teaching Sinem for weeks! Instantly, the Bible came to life for me more than it ever had before. My faith was renewed as I realized I was bringing the works of the New Testament to life in one of its places of origin, a connection to the words and deeds of Christianity that I had never known before. I left with a zest to know Christ on a deeper level.

Today, Sinem and I keep in touch on Instagram. Her last message was a video clip on top of a beautiful grassy hill, surrounded by the mountains and blue sky of Turkey. In the background,

you can hear singing in Turkish. Sinem’s text read, “Singing Psalms in the nature.”

Gina Vesledahl is a nurse and she and her husband, Aaron, live in Burnsville, Minnesota, with their two rescue dogs and a 19-year-old cat. She was introduced to WorkLight five years ago at a National Conference.

PRAY

Lord, renew my willingness to be a modern-day apostle and spread your message through my daily actions so I can glorify your life today and every day.

REFLECT

In what ways are you keeping the Bible alive through your words and deeds?

DISCUSS

Consider the Bible as a call to action today. Which of God’s words can you take from the pages and incorporate in your relations with colleagues and the people you serve?

Join Our Editorial Team

Help us reach out to our members to tell their stories in our Flame newsletter and Spark workday reflections. Join us in illustrating God at work by illuminating the light of Christ in our stories and insights.

If you love to write and would like to share your gift with WorkLight readers, contact us at communications@worklight.org.

“Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on a stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.” Matthew 5:15



REFLECTIONS WEEK 2

Serving Jesus

By Clem Richardson

... He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus. On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them ... (Acts 19:4-6)

My life changed for the better many years ago on my first Challenge Weekend through the power of the Holy Spirit. Since then, I've annually been part of the presenting team, leading occasionally.

Team leadership on a Challenge Weekend is a privilege. I start preparation in prayer by acknowledging my inadequacies in service of so great a work and reflecting upon the fact that it is God's weekend and his opportunity to bring people into his Kingdom: to strengthen the team and other re-igniters who invite their

contacts as well as to pour out his love through the Holy Spirit.

One of the blessings of team leadership is the meeting preparation where we encourage and pray over one another to practice this foundational part of the weekend. With this we form one another and are bound together in love and service. Another blessing of our recent weekend was to have five members of our weekly Small Group as team members. We have created close bonds through the years and formed a core to serve the igniters on the weekend and beyond.

I've seen countless miracles of faith transform lives and form men to be lovers and servants of Jesus. The weekends offer a unique opportunity to sow seeds of faith in others. I look forward to the weekends and look back now and recognize the difference the years of formation has made for me and those I love.

Weekends are work and preparation, but the benefits in relationships and serving Jesus far outpace our efforts.

Clem Richardson has been an active member of the Salinas Chapter since 1988. He and his wife, Barbara, have been married 51 years. He's a consultant in the fresh produce industry.

PRAY

Lord Jesus, please expand our ministry through the outpouring of your Holy Spirit in and through us on Challenge Weekends.

REFLECT

How does God want to use me in organizing and preparing for a Challenge Weekend in my area?

DISCUSS

Share your ideas on should there be a Challenge Weekend in your area and how you are personally willing to participate.

REFLECTIONS WEEK 3

Be Bold

By Christy Conanan

But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry. (2 Timothy 4:5)

Are you bold enough to answer God's call to spread the news about his Kingdom to all people? How, then, do you respond to this call?

For me, it began with a strong calling deep within my soul as a young adult; a knowing of how to reach out to those whom I meet in everyday situations. This calling continues as I receive from the Holy Spirit every day of my life. It is my purpose and my joy.

Whenever I meet someone who shows a particular interest or asks a question of a spiritual nature, I take the initiative to invite them to events, workshops, or church

services that may open new avenues for spiritual guidance in their lives. I always keep informational resources with me, including CIC/WorkLight/CWE brochures, schedules of upcoming church activities and events, and a variety of Christian books and devotional materials.

And most importantly, I extend invitations.

A few years ago, I invited a coworker to the Challenge Weekend. Toward the end of the retreat, when we were asked to give feedback, she said that at first, she was skeptical. But her feelings changed when she felt the presence of the Holy Spirit. A few months after the retreat, she was diagnosed with Stage IV pancreatic cancer. Toward the end of her life, she was grateful that she had met us, her sisters in Christ, who were constantly praying for her.

Each of us have encounters of how the Holy Spirit is calling us to fulfill our mission on this earth. As his humble servants, the Lord has

blessed us exponentially, and through this work, together we are building the Kingdom on earth.

Christy Conanan is a retired dentist, educator, trainer, and financial coach. She is a member of the Fresno Women's Chapter and a volunteer minister in her church.

PRAY

Lord Jesus, show us the opportunities in becoming your disciple. Holy Spirit, give us the courage and strength to be bold in sharing the Gospel.

REFLECT

Are you bold enough to answer God's call to spread his Kingdom to all people?

DISCUSS

How do you "plant the seeds?"

REFLECTIONS WEEK 4

Feed My Sheep

By Brownie Turner

... Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep." (John 21:17)

Between 1975 and 1980, my family lived in a town northwest of Philadelphia, where we were active in our local church. As the U.S. military departed from Vietnam during this period, thousands of families fled their country and were dubbed "the boat people."

As a Vietnam veteran, I felt called to respond when our church announced we would be adopting and sponsoring a Vietnamese family. The job of our committee was to be a lifeline for the adopted family until they could establish and support themselves.

On a bitterly cold and dark Sunday morning in January, I was at the Philadelphia airport well before sunrise to meet and transport our family to a rented apartment. The husband, wife,

and four children (the oldest age 7 and the youngest an infant) arrived with their only belongings—the clothing they were wearing.

Although their English skills were minimal, they successfully settled into their apartment, both parents found work, the older children enrolled in school, and they started to become more settled and comfortable. Within the next several months and years, the parents continued to work hard and eventually saved enough money to move into a larger rental home.

Today, more than 40 years later, the parents own their own home and are retired. Each of their children are college graduates and are working. I know this amazing family never would have imagined how their lives would turn out as they fled their homeland in a dangerous vessel.

Theirs is a story of great courage, hard work, perseverance, and a wonderful example of God's transforming grace. For myself and our sponsoring group of caring Christians, our faith will forever be impacted, but moreover, we will always be thankful for being able to "feed and take care of his sheep."

H. B. "Brownie" Turner and his wife Archer have been married 53 years and live in Lake Forest, California. They have two children and a granddaughter. He is president of Newport Engineering Associates and can be reached at hbtturnerjr@aol.com.

PRAY

Lord, give us the courage to act boldly, planting seeds, feeding your sheep, and extending your grace to all we meet. Keep our hearts open to hear your voice.

REFLECT

Who are God's sheep? How can I/we respond to those in need around me?

DISCUSS

Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is: What are you doing for others?" As individuals or as a group, what can we do today to serve others in Jesus' name?

PRESIDENT'S NOTE



But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen. (2 Peter 3:18)

Seeds of Grace

God's grace is available to us all through his Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. Even with the faith of a mustard seed we are saved forever and sent forth in this world to build God's Kingdom in the workplace.

Have you ever noticed how many reminders the Holy Spirit places in the world around you? How often seeds of grace are woven into our relationships, environment, and lived experiences?

One of my favorite examples comes from my family's history

of immigration from Greece. My grandfather, George, brought his mother, Maria, to live in the USA in 1951. Back then, the only way to the village of Mangantis was to convince a local to take their fishing boat around the coast. When my parents visited some 30 years later you didn't have to take a fishing boat anymore. You could now take a donkey through a narrow tunnel through the mountain. Suffice it to say, there were not many restaurants in Manganitis in the 1950s. Certainly not compared to New York City.

Maria stepped off the boat from Greece onto U.S. soil and found her son. George was eager to treat her to a welcome meal at a New York City restaurant. This was his opportunity to share a delicious piece of the American dream with his mom. (Perhaps even in a literal sense with a slice of apple pie for dessert.)

Having not seen her son for 10 years, Maria was full of questions. After they were seated the waiter brought a basket of complementary bread and butter. Suddenly Maria became quiet. She was worried about how much this butter might cost. Her son assured her that it was free.

Free butter! Maria could not believe it. But her disbelief didn't keep her from finishing that first entire plate of butter before ordering lunch. Maria went on to build a reputation for always having butter packets in her purse. The butter wasn't just free. It was good and it was abundant.

We all know God's grace is far bigger and better than butter. Where might the Holy Spirit be planting stories and seeds of free grace in your life?

With you in Christ,
Wes

Relationships Are Key

By Bill Dalgetty

When Jesus sent out the 72 to proclaim the Kingdom of God, he gave them very specific instructions. “Stay there, eating and drinking whatever they give you ... Do not move from house to house. Heal the sick who are there and tell them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’” (Luke 10:7-9)

These instructions provide an important message to all Christians who are trying to share their faith with others: Build relationships, serve people’s needs, and then share your faith and proclaim the Kingdom of God.

How often have we tried to share our faith without first having established a relationship? Without the credibility of a relationship, without serving someone’s needs, our words about God and the life he offers through his Son and the Holy Spirit may ring hollow.

After Jesus called Matthew, he dined and spent time with Matthew’s tax collector friends. He invited himself to lunch with another tax collector, Zacchaeus. He stayed on two days with the Samaritans after encountering the woman at the well, and John’s Gospel reports many became believers. (John 4:39)

The Parable of the Yeast seems to confirm the need to mix it up with the world in our relationships. “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds of flour until it worked all through the dough.” (Matthew 13:33) The yeast, which is the good news, needs to mix with the flour, which is the world, in order that the dough, God’s Kingdom, can rise.

In my own walk, I can think of several people who reached out to me with

sincere friendship that deepened my faith. There was Father John, who gave me instruction to join the Catholic Church when I was a teenager. We shared many hours together with our mutual love of music, in addition to his individual instructions about the faith.

In my mid-30s there was Ann, a fellow teacher of religious education to teenagers in our church. Ann had the radiance and joy of the Lord. She kept inviting my wife and me to various charismatic Christian events, which resulted in my meeting Jesus in an entirely new way and experiencing a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

In my mid-40s, I was introduced to Christians in Commerce, a Christian outreach to business, which helped me better live out my faith in the workplace. All three founders of this ministry, who lived in different cities, spent time guiding me in becoming a better Christian at work. They offered witness and friendship, and stayed with us whenever they were in town.

Like the 72, Jesus sends us out and instructs us to build relationships, serve people’s needs, and then proclaim that the Kingdom of God is at hand.

How do you build relationships in order to share about Jesus?

Edited from former president and board member Bill Dalgetty’s blog Christ in Life and Work (www.christinlifeandwork.com). Used with permission.

...His Miraculous Recovery.

Continued from page 1

However, I believed it would be better for me to distance myself from the business. I saw myself as a problem for the company because of my personal failing. So, I tried several times to sell it. When the attempts to sell fell through, I started to wonder if God had a different plan than I did?

After realizing that the Lord was not calling me to remove myself from my company, but instead to lead it with him, I made the bold proclamation that I wasn’t going to sell, but we would be moving forward together. It was a courageous act of “burning the ships.”

Initially, I felt confident the Lord would bless this decision. After all, he had done a miracle by growing the business after my conviction.

Unfortunately, the following two months were not lucrative, and I started having second thoughts about my decision. I came to the Lord in prayer, frustrated and disappointed. His response: “Two months? That’s it? It took two months for your conviction to fall off the table?”

The Lord is always in it for the long game. I need to be too. Those two months had an effect on our projections, but not whether we would survive. We just needed to keep making the best business decisions.

This prepared us to handle the pandemic and inflation with the mindset of making the best decisions, trusting the outcome to God. We implemented long-term goals, but then focused on the day-to-day, without worrying too much about the month-to-month concerns.

Dave Mazanowski is a board member of WorkLight. He lives in Indianapolis, Indiana, with his wife, Donna. He is the co-founder of Mainscape Inc. and can be reached at damazanowski@mainscape.com.

What's Your Headline?

By Marty Anderson

Recently when I was coaching one of my client's team members who was fairly new in her role as receptionist, we discussed how her job can often be overlooked when it comes to setting goals for the business. Then I proceeded to describe how the use of headlines can motivate us and reverse that perception. It can take a goal and make it personal when we don't see how we contribute.

For example, here's how a receptionist can impact an overall client satisfaction score for the business: "Olivia greeted every client by name and even had their preferred drink waiting for them." So, I challenged her to think of what she would want others to say about her at the end of the year.

Writing the right headline can be a personal motivator throughout the year. And while this can be useful in the work setting, I also think we as Christians can ask God on a regular basis what "headlines" he has in store for us.

Our headlines don't always have to be big or dramatic like we see in the news. Simple headlines can be the most powerful in God's eyes. "Joe was patient in traffic. Sarah was kind to the upset employee at the store. Ben was sensitive to promptings of the Holy Spirit." Often, we don't think enough about how God sees us. Yet, he's watching us all the time. Nothing we do or think escapes him. Instead, we're often focused on how everyone else sees us except him.

We wonder if our photos on Facebook are getting enough likes. Or are people going to come to our party. Or will we get noticed by our boss at the end of the project and get recognized.

God's perspective is much different and also longer term. You might say he has an "eternal" perspective. He's working through us, so we'll be a reflection of his Son, Jesus. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus spoke numerous headlines over the people. They were actually presented as teaching, but we could easily interpret them as personal headlines for how we want to live. "Chris didn't get angry with anyone. Bob didn't look with lust at other women. Hannah was generous with her money. Nick didn't worry, but regularly prayed instead."

I believe that when we personalize God's teachings into personal headlines, we begin to focus and see our life as God sees it. This can be a way for us to hear him lovingly communicate to us how he wants us to live each day. So that when we come to the end of our lives, we are humbled to hear the greatest headline of all: "Well done, good and faithful servant."

What headline will you write today?

Marty Anderson lives in Bloomington, Minnesota, with his wife Cecilia. He is a member of the WorkLight Editorial Team.

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 signup.

worklight.org/spark

NEWS

**"TRANSFORM OUR WORLD"
CONFERENCE: OCTOBER 26-28**

Many longtime members of CIC and WorkLight have grown to love gathering annually to pray, worship, and enjoy fellowship together. Last year we were blessed with the first-ever National Challenge Weekend in Arizona. This year there's a very special opportunity to gather as WorkLight as part of the Global Transform Our World conference in Santa Clara, California. Use the code GROUP2023 for a \$150 discount on registration, and please remember to select CIC/WorkLight as your "Group Leader" when you register at transformourworld.org/events/global-conference/.

NEW SMALL GROUP VIDEO!

Small Groups are a real gift for each of us. At our National Challenge Weekend, we captured videos of members telling what they've meant to each of us. Through the generosity of our DKY team, they were able to use additional footage to bring the transformative power of Small Groups to life. You'll find the new video at worklight.org/smallgroups.

A NEW EMAIL TOOL TO INTERCEDE

We've added a way for us to join together in prayers, petitions, and intercessions for the coming of

the coming of the Kingdom in our spheres of influence, especially the workplaces. As we seek to reach 500 igniters by 2025, this is a way to use the power of scripture and pray to unite in our Small Groups, as a ministry, and with our coworkers. Sign up for 31 days of Scripture-based Prayer emails to receive select scriptures and prayers in five critical areas. Not only do they focus on the needs, but they draw our heart, soul, and attention to those around us. Learn more at worklight.org/ask.

DID YOU KNOW?

Thousands of brothers and sisters in Christ have experienced the power of the Holy Spirit at Challenge Weekends since the first one in 1983. Since the founding of Christians in Commerce 40 years ago, how many U.S. states do you think have been home to a Challenge Weekend? Check out next month's Flame News for the answer.

Last month's answer: Challenge Weekends have been hosted in three countries: USA, Mexico, and Uganda.

GREATER PHOENIX SPRING FLING

In April, 30 men and women from the Greater Phoenix Area chapters met for a Spring Fling BBQ at Randy and Christine Fornoff's house. It was the first time as a greater local group they were able to gather since

the pandemic. It was an opportunity to break bread and socialize with each other outside of normal Chapter life as a greater group. We even had time for some light-hearted games together.

(Editor's note: If you have an interesting event you want to share, please submit. Subject to space availability.)

UPCOMING CHALLENGE WEEKENDS**Santa Cruz Men's Chapter**

- September 29 - October 1 at Villa Maria del Mar Retreat Center, Santa Cruz, California

Fresno Men's Chapter

- October 21-22 at St. Anthony Retreat Center in Three Rivers, California

Orange County and Mission Viejo Men's Chapter

- October 27-28 at St. Kilian Catholic Church in Mission Viejo, California

Salinas and Santa Cruz Men's Chapters

- November 17-19 at Mission San Antonio De Padua, Jolon, California. This is our Spotlight Men's weekend for 2023. If you're looking to travel for a weekend, we hope to see you!

Check out these events and more at worklight.org/events/.

WORKLIGHT

CHALLENGE WEEKEND

*Awake
the Dawn.*

*Host a
Weekend.*

Free from pandemic restrictions, 2023 is our year for Challenge Weekends. Our National Conference introduced a new look and new resources. Schedule a weekend now so a new generation in your area can experience its power.

Learn more at WorkLight.org/Challenge-Weekends

"The night is over, the day is almost here." Romans 13:12



2023

JUNE

*"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 Christians in Commerce (DBA WorkLight) is an ecumenical organization committed to:

- Growing and being transformed in Jesus Christ
- Manifesting the gifts of the Holy Spirit
- Building strong brotherhood and sisterhood
- Serving God and expanding his Kingdom in all aspects of our lives



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