



Trust, Obedience, Collaboration

By Luke Cahill

As a small business owner, it totally blew my mind to think of having a heavenly boss who cared about my work and who served as a source of accountability and strength. And, as someone who is always focused on the outcome with very little patience for the journey of getting there, I hoped that initial discovery was the outcome and the process would be easy from that point on. As it turns out, my involvement in WorkLight helped me understand that “Working For Our Father” is an ongoing journey. My heavenly boss knows I need growth, and that growth doesn’t come from smooth sailing.

I was listening to a podcast recently that focused on the story of the wedding at Cana. Think about those servers who were directed by Jesus to fill those large jars with water. How do you think they

felt receiving that direction? They have a wine problem that needs to be fixed, not a water problem!

Working for our Father requires trust, obedience, and collaboration.

Those servers trusted Jesus enough to obey his directives. Jesus wants us to participate with him. He sought earthly participation in getting the water, so he could then bring the miracle. In “corporate speak” it’s referred to as “synergy.”

For me, the past year of working for my Father has been filled with opportunities to grow. Things have been hard, and I struggled to see the path forward, despite asking for clarity. God has been working with me on trust, obedience, and collaboration.

Continued on page 6


INSIDE: REFLECTIONS

Working For Our Father

And whatever you do, 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)

A common question when we are introduced for the first time is “what do you do?” It’s familiar and expected, but when you think about it more deeply, it’s a loaded question.

Our culture attaches significance to our vocation. Answers like doctor, teacher, or CEO get a positive nod. But bus driver, construction laborer, or restaurant server might be perceived as less valuable or important.



Satan wants us to think that there is a pecking order, but that’s not what God says. Our value as created sons and daughters of the King of Kings is equal and immeasurable before God. And the specific work we each do is hand-picked by God. It’s part of his design and purpose for us. (Ephesians 2:10)

We are commanded to work in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to our father. Seems pretty important when you think about it.

March Reflections: Pages 2-4

Steadfast Thirsting

By Steve Becker

... I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you ... (Psalm 63:1)

The title for our video series “Working for Our Father” was an inspiration. It fits so well with our vision of being Christ in the workplace, no matter where we are, what we do, or what stage of life we’re in.

The fourth Beatitude is one that puts the emphasis on what we’re doing (hungering and thirsting) not the outcome (righteousness). This is because none of us can ever be sinless on our own. “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.” (Ephesians 2:8–9)

Righteousness is a divine quality that comes out of “right standing” with him and his saving act. It is a divine quality that he wishes to bring to life daily in me. The righteousness he shares has a claim on my life. Paul

drives the point home in verse 10: “For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

We have work to do. Like Jesus, it is the call to be working for my Father, 24/7. Doing our Father’s will. It’s a covenant lived out in a relationship with God, my neighbors, my work, and the calling to let the Kingdom of God shine forth to glorify his name.

In my life right now, steadfastly thirsting for this kind of righteousness requires very challenging and unfamiliar territory as board president for 102-unit co-op. But I know that this is a “work God has prepared me in advance to do.” We have to start new again as we are near our 30th year. It has all the aspects of history I can’t correct, the uncertainty of our future, and “herding cats” these situations require.

It is only in the present moment that I can hunger and thirst for his will, his way, and his righteousness. Even in the most hidden or unseen aspects of the work, I can always be hungering for the “right standing” of pleasing my Father. And, as the beatitude promises, I am being satisfied with

an ever-growing relationship with the one who is righteous and who is bearing good fruit.

Steve Becker is a long-time WorkLight member who participates in the Editorial Board. He and his wife, Carolyn, live in Burnsville, Minnesota.

PRAY

We boast in our weakness because when we are weak, you are strong. Let us hunger and thirst for more of your righteousness in our lives.

REFLECT

What are “the good works” that are before you today? This week?

DISCUSS

What does “thirsting” for God’s righteousness look like in your particular situation? What will glorify God and advance his Kingdom?

PRESIDENT’S NOTE



There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called ... (Ephesians 4:4)

A Proposition on Paracletic Prepositions

As Christians we follow and worship a triune God who is both mysterious and continuously making himself known to us. At WorkLight we seek to work for our Father 24/7. We are equipped with the power of the Holy Spirit. We are encouraged by the belief that all things are possible in Christ.

There are many ways to express the call of this ministry. You could say

we are striving to work under the Father’s authority, led by the Holy Spirit, alongside the presence of Christ among us. You could even say that we are attempting to work through the will of our Father, living a life in the Holy Spirit, and walking with Jesus.

There are many ways to describe our mission. Meditating on the triune nature of God can be a fount of blessings to our faith, understanding, and wonder. Meditating on what God calls us toward can be a source of direction and purpose for our lives.

It’s no mistake that so many different configurations of language point to the truth and light. Neither is it a coincidence that our mission at WorkLight can be described in so many ways. It’s not about the words

that make up our stories, it’s about where they point.

For those of us who enjoy alliteration; I propose people prayerfully play with prepositions. Perhaps even as passionate propitiation! Here are a few examples: Don’t just work for the Father—work toward him and under him. Don’t just set out for a life in the Holy Spirit, live your life by and within the Spirit. Don’t just seek to be with Christ, be of him and for him. You just might find yourself dancing between understanding and mystery toward a deeper relationship from, by, for, in, and with God.

With you all in Christ,

Wes

REFLECTIONS WEEK 2

Man of Prayer

By Jim Ingram

Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever. (Daniel 12:3)

Earlier this year our Chapter had a “Working for Our Father” event. We had Chapter members who were attending for the first time, and in the Small Group I was in, I was the oldest and the only one retired. The others were young professionals with a lot of questions after the talks.

I listened intentionally to how the group was answering questions. Our group leader made sure everyone had a chance to talk but also drew all of us into the conversation. These young men brought up real life difficulties at work and they were seeking guidance on how to deal with them.

As the talks progressed, I became aware of something valuable to contribute to because their difficulties were things that I, too, had to deal with at work.

One brother talked about a hostile work environment, and that he was often at the receiving end of that hostility. I felt the Spirit wanted me to share with this brother something more than my own experiences with these types of situations, so I offered that he needed to be a “Man of Prayer.” My understanding of that concept is that I needed to be prayed up before I went to work so that my responses and actions would be reflective of my prayer time. The Spirit would help me know what to do in whatever situation I was in, especially the ones when there was no time to pray.

That interaction showed me that we older men have something to offer our younger brothers. We can provide good counsel, and we’re honored when our younger brothers seek us out.

grinding halt of the career I had worked so hard for, to say the least. The Holy Spirit had blessed me with the skills to build a successful career for our Father but then humbled me with excruciating pain so that I could no longer continue serving him in the workplace. It would take me some time to realize this pain was a gift.

By accepting my suffering, I learned that I could continue to work joyfully for our Father in many different ways. In the corporate world, God gave me the skills, fortitude, and grace to build my career in the workplace according to worldly values. Now, with the guidance from the Holy Spirit, I realize that my pain and suffering is indeed a gift and an opportunity to serve God alone. I am joyfully bringing souls to him through Bible study classes, activities, and programs in our community that are committed to helping those in need. Working for our Father in these ways has transformed my life!

Jim Ingram lives in Burnsville, Minnesota, with his wife Brenda. In addition to WorkLight, Jim leads students on service projects in Minneapolis and goes wherever someone needs help. He can be reached at ingram7@msn.com.

PRAY

Lord, help me to be faithful to daily prayer so that through your Spirit I'll be ready for whatever happens.

REFLECT

How can we rise above workplace hostilities and lead our coworkers down a different path so that they may shine brightly?

DISCUSS

When have you provided good counsel to one of your coworkers when faced with a difficult situation? How did you offer it and how was it received?

REFLECTIONS WEEK 3

Beauty in Suffering

By Sonya Sidhu

For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure. (2 Corinthians 4:17)

Five years ago, I sustained an injury at work that led to having a metal plate with six screws surgically implanted in my neck, rendering me permanently disabled. These implants have caused debilitating pain at the bottom of my neck that radiates down my back and arms as I endeavor to live with permanent nerve damage. On a good day, I can cook for myself; on a bad day, I struggle to maintain basic hygiene.

I went from a fast-paced corporate America in one of the top five Fortune 500 companies, managing a team and flying across America at the age of 36, to being stuck at home and living in chronic pain. I was frustrated with the

Sonya Sidhu is a member of the WorkLight Women's chapter in Fresno, California. She leads Bible study classes and serves in other Christian organizations in her community.

PRAY

Lord, help us to understand the depth of your love for us, and to build an attitude of gratitude through our own pain, suffering, or setbacks.

REFLECT

Think about a time when the Holy Spirit called you to change your direction in order to continue to work for your heavenly Father. How did you navigate the difficult circumstances?

DISCUSS

Recall a time in your life when the Holy Spirit helped you through a painful time and led you to a great personal insight. How did your perspective change?

REFLECTIONS WEEK 4

Proper Focus

By Tom Petersen

Trust in the Lord and do good. Then you will live safely in the land and prosper. (Psalm 37:3)

The scramble began as soon as the merger was announced.

The plan to bring together three companies created plenty of uncertainty for employees. Since the announcement didn't spell out the new management structure, managers began jockeying to interact with anyone that they thought might be a leader in the new company.

As one of those scrambling employees, I look back and recognize how unseemly my behavior was. My peers and I found excuses to "accidentally" encounter executives who seemed likely to have assignments in the new company. We tried to be visible in meetings and spoke up in conference calls. And everyone wanted to be on a merger transition

team, because we thought those employees would certainly get golden tickets to join the new company.

I was fixated on impressing others to ensure I would have a job.

But God calls us to look beyond our supervisors for our employment. When we do our work from a position of our faith, we are working for our heavenly Father, not our earthly bosses.

What does that look like?

It is using our God-given talents to serve God's children around us, putting their well-being ahead of our to-do lists. We seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit and share with others the fruit that comes from that. Maybe most importantly, we work with faith, integrity, and excellence according to God's call, regardless of who signs our paycheck.

Adopting a "Working for Our Father" approach requires trusting God. In my case, God provided an opportunity in the new organization. But looking back, I suspect he provided that opportunity in spite of—not because of—my schmoozing to those earthly executives.

Tom Petersen is a former utility communications professional who writes on work and faith issues. He is WorkLight's communications chair, and he and his wife Cathy have two children.

PRAY

Lord, as I begin each workday, help me remember that working for you, not my boss or supervisor, should be my focus.

REFLECT

When have you been more focused on an earthly supervisor than your heavenly Father to advance your career? As you look back, what could you have done differently?

DISCUSS

How can we take a step back from our earthly workplace focus, to instead seek guidance from God, trusting him to lead us on our career path?

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



CHALLENGE WEEKEND

Come and See

Prepare Your Own Story

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect ...” (1 Peter 3:15)

A 2022 study by Lifeway Research affirmed that most people want peace, hope, purpose, and fulfillment in their lives. Their interest in the Christian faith grows if someone they know is able to share how their own faith helped them achieve those qualities.

As WorkLight seeks to bring 500 new attendees to Challenge Weekends by the end of this year, we know personal invitations are the best way to interest others in these powerful experiences. Incorporating your own story can help improve the chances of getting a positive response to a Challenge Weekend invitation.

While some of us may have our story ready at a moment's notice, most of us

need time to organize our thoughts. Reflect on how you felt upon being invited to a Challenge Weekend, what prompted you to say, “yes,” and what you experienced when you attended.

Your story is compelling because it is your story. While scripture and devotionals are filled with amazing faith outcomes, people want to hear personal, honest, and authentic individual experiences. They want to hear firsthand the emotion and impact of your faith.

In his book, *Parallel Faith*, Dave Boden offers four steps to prepare for faith conversations.

Be Ready: Divine appointments rarely happen when we expect, so be ready in all situations for the Holy Spirit's prodding to extend a Challenge Weekend invitation. Listen carefully to the conversations around you to help identify opportunities to speak up.

Be Responsive: We may be tempted to hedge our spiritual talk, so we don't offend someone. But when a conversation turns to faith, participants appreciate honest and personal comments. And if you don't know an answer, admit it, and offer to help the other person learn more. An honest response is always better than speaking an inaccuracy that misinterprets Jesus' teachings.

Be Hopeful: While stories of spectacular transformation experiences are powerful, we all have a story that is just as compelling: a reason for hope. In these chaotic times people will be intrigued to hear why your Challenge Weekend experience gives you understanding and hope.

Be Kind: Faith conversations should reflect a spirit of kindness and gentleness. Attending a Challenge Weekend may be an intimidating decision for some. Share how the experience changed you and why you want them to experience the same joy. However they respond, assure them that you will walk with them on their journey. That approach reflects your sincerity and invites future conversations.

Faith conversations are best when they are simple and honest. Pastor and missionary Josh Howard recommends using a simple sentence to tell your story. It is simply, “I used to be _____, with Jesus I am _____.”

Our invitations don't need to be complicated. After all, Jesus modeled simplicity when he spoke the invitation, “Come and see.”

This is the third in a series of articles designed to inspire WorkLight members to extend invitations to connect with others.

WORKLIGHT

Challenge
Weekend
Toolkit

Is your group interested in putting on a Challenge Weekend? Will you answer the call? Find important planning and event materials in the Challenge Weekend toolkit!

worklight.org/cwetoolkit

Working for the Lord

By Brownie Turner

I graduated from Virginia Tech with a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering. Before graduating, I identified an excellent job opportunity, so the next month I began a training program that prepared me to be a sales engineer for the company field sales office in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

There was another sales engineer who had been hired at the same time. Pretty quickly, he had been promoted to district manager in a small city in the south. Later, he and I had the opportunity to work on a project together, and, in the process, I learned he had fully mapped out his future with the company including locations and titles, along with a precise timeline. His goal was to achieve the highest position in the shortest time, regardless of cost to himself or others.

I had chosen a different path, one which was more in line with the words from Colossians 3:12: "... clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience." I didn't think at all about my future roles or positions with the company, I was simply motivated to do the best job possible.

This has included working for our Father in my workplaces and living my life in a way that makes contributions to the world he created for all of us. When I hear words like "workplace" or "work," I think of four key points that have stood out to me through the years.

- As Christians, we are called to bring our identity and meaning into the workplace. Rather than being conformed by the workplace, we are to bring light to the workplace. We can do this by bringing Christ's

identity and meaning into our workplaces.

- Work is an act of character. "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 thru Him." (Colossians 3:17). Do those around us see any evidence of God's presence and character in us? We should ask ourselves: Do our actions or inactions demonstrate compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience (Colossians 3:12) to others?
- Work is an act of worship. We are to be committed to excellence, giving our best effort to our work, recognizing that God is our "boss." By giving our best, we honor him.
- Our vocation is to be a servant of God. Our vocation is who we are. While we may not have been specifically called to be a minister or priest, we have all been called to be a servant of God.
- Our occupation is the place where we act out our vocation. Our occupation is where we work. It is where we act out who we are.

H. B. "Brownie" Turner and his wife Archer have been married 54 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 hbturnerjr@aol.com.

Trust, Obedience, Collaboration Continued from page 1

Most days, I remember to say a prayer to surrender the business to him and trust. Some days are great, but some days have been shadowed by anxiety as I seek earthly proof of our long-term security. The anxiety sometimes keeps me from collaborating with God in real work, choosing to spend my time instead thinking about what-ifs or checking our pipeline revenue numbers.

I have started to make progress, though. I was able to channel more energy toward the work, adding value to our clients, and caring for our team. I got better at trusting, obeying, and collaborating, even though the long term direction for the business felt hazy.

Recently, I was having breakfast with a WorkLight brother, catching up on life like we do about once a quarter. He has run a business for over 40 years, so we talk about business in addition to chatting about family, life, and praying together. It was in the course of this fairly innocuous conversation that a lightbulb turned on in my brain, that by noon had developed into a new approach and direction for the business that will solve many of our current problems and likely produce a more sustainable future. It was the path forward I had hungered for all year! I needed to grow, which meant God's timing was perfect.

The journey still continues. I will continue to lean toward avoiding opportunities to grow as I struggle with trust and obedience. Thankfully, our heavenly boss is merciful and won't give up on developing and coaching us.

Luke Cahill is a member of the Minneapolis-South Men's Chapter. He is also the chairman of the Board of Directors for WorkLight. Luke lives in Eagan, Minnesota, with his wife and five children. He owns a marketing research agency, REAL Insight, based in Minneapolis. Luke can be reached at lcahill@real-insight.us.

NEWS

500 BY 2025

Did you know that almost 100 new brothers and sisters in Christ attended their first-ever Challenge Weekend in 2024? Imagine all those precious children of God experiencing the encouragement to equip and connect to the WorkLight community.

It's going to take faith and hard work to reach our goal of 500 igniters on Challenge Weekends by the end of 2025. Who are you prayerfully building a relationship with today to invite later this year?

WELCOME,
SIGNE
GODFREY!

With joy and thanksgiving we welcome our sister, Signe Godfrey, to the WorkLight Board of Directors. Signe is a part of WorkLight's newest Chapter in her hometown of Honolulu. God has blessed her as a mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. But the Lord didn't



stop there! After an award-winning career in staffing and executive search services, Signe now focuses on serving the community, mentoring business owners, and providing mediation services to those in need. WorkLight is grateful for the spiritual gifts, board experience, and faithful generosity of our newest director of the board. Hallelujah!

NATIONAL LEADERSHIP RETREAT,
PART 2!

It was a blessing to gather in Scottsdale, Arizona, in October of last year with local leaders from across the country. Please mark your calendars for May 8-11 this year for version 2.0. Stay tuned for more information on sessions and agenda topics. Special thanks to Chris Ambrose and Ron Schmalz for organizing this event. If you'd like to be involved in planning this gathering of brothers and sisters in Christ, please send an email to ron@worklight.org.

TRIVIA

WorkLight welcomes Christians from all denominations, and Catholics have been a part of this movement of the Holy Spirit from the start. Speaking of which ... In what year were

2025 CHALLENGE WEEKENDS

Palm Desert Men's Chapter

- March 28-29 at Sacred Heart Church, 43775 Deep Canyon Road, Palm Desert, California.

Fresno Women's Chapter

- April 11-13 at St. Francis Retreat Center, 549 Mission Vineyard Road, San Juan Bautista, California.

Orange County/Mission Viejo
Men's Chapters

- September 5-7, at Prince of Peace Abbey, 650 Benet Hill Road, Oceanside, California.

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

founders of Christians in Commerce International (now WorkLight) invited to the Vatican for discussion on the intersection of faith and work?

Last month's answer: We have hosted 254 new igniters on Challenge Weekends, leaving 246 as our remaining goal for 2025. God's got a big year ahead of us. Come Holy Spirit!

Experience God's
Goodness at Work

Feeling frustrated or unfulfilled in your job? You're not alone. As Christ-followers, knowing why we work, and who we are working for, are essential for experiencing purpose and joy in our vocations. Host a **Working for Our Father** study and rediscover God's design for your work.

WORKLIGHT



Scan the QR code to learn more about this engaging video series.

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

Galatians 2:20

MARCH 2025

WorkLight.org

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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