WORKLIGHT™

The flame™

Be transformed
by the renewing of your mind

AUGUST 2026

Transforming the Workplace

I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 3:14)

Many of our livelihoods contribute to meeting the needs of society—food, drink, clothing, and healthcare. To serve those needs, it's important that industry, commerce, and government work well together for the good of all.

Working for our Father is a call to be stewards of his creation. To make ourselves useful to both God and one another. As we serve him and others, he wants us to draw others into the work of restoring all things. As disciples of Jesus Christ, these are choices we're called to make every day.

Many of these choices are small, ordinary, charitable acts for the sake of others. Each choice brings forth his Kingdom in our workplaces. In Christ, they set our hearts on our Father and transform us as we fall in love with him and our mission all over again.

Inside This Issue:

- August Reflections | 2-4
- President's Note | 4
- Transformations | 5
- Poor in Spirit | 6

God's Kingdom in Our Work

By Dave Hataj

I'm a second-generation owner of a family business in Wisconsin. Since 1962, Edgerton Gear, Inc. has been manufacturing precision custom gears for all sorts of equipment.

I didn't choose the business; I wish my parents had started a ski resort or a hunting lodge. But gear making is what my dad knew. Growing up, it became my only option as well. I couldn't wait to make my escape; and did for a while. Yet all these years later, I've come to embrace it as my sphere of influence assigned by God, as Paul states in 2 Corinthians 10:13. And, I've concluded that the modern workplace, as broken as it is, can be a place of deep significance where God's Kingdom can be made real on Earth.

My parents founded the business on three core principles: quality, value, and service. Since taking the helm of the family business in 1992, I've wrestled with keeping our company grounded in these values while staying financially strong, responsive to technological changes, focused on a deeper purpose, and maintaining quality relationships. It hasn't been a smooth ride, but it's been worth it.

Kingdom Work

One fact we often overlook about Jesus is that he grew up in a family trade and understood the realities of a small business. Like all of us in business, I assume he struggled with difficult customers, meeting deadlines, broken promises of vendors, and people not getting along.

When he says that we're to go the extra mile and turn the other cheek, I believe he had some experience in all of this. Exemplifying true

▸ 6 continue on

WEEK 1 *By Laurie Primavera*

Humble Transformation

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. (Philippians 2:3-4)

Several years ago, I was asked to lead the financial turnaround of a rural health clinic that was in bankruptcy. On my first day, I discovered many physicians and staff had already departed, and those who remained feared job loss and doubted the clinic would survive.

I inherited the former CEO's large office, which featured fake dollar bills, elaborate desk sets, and prominent displays of awards and photos of the CEO with legislators. The opulence of the office was a stark contrast to the mood in the rest of the clinic, where staff had gone without raises and payroll was often delayed.

At that moment, I paused, prayed for God's direction, and asked for wisdom to transform morale and preserve vital services in one of Fresno County's poorest communities. With the help of a trusted assistant who knew the organization well, we began the job of rebuilding relationships, credibility, communication, and hope.

Over the next three years, 12 physicians were recruited, long-vacant positions were filled, and trust was restored with the staff. The clinic stabilized and the federal government approved its continuation. It remains open today, serving families who still depend on compassionate, accessible, and consistent care.

This experience taught me the power of transformation. My predecessor modeled a top-down approach centered on power and image. I chose to lead through a Christian model of servant leadership: influencing others by serving them, and following Christ's example of humility rather than pursuing status or personal ambition.

Servant leadership is not weakness; it is a deliberate commitment to honor God by nurturing people, strengthening organizations, and reflecting Christ through everyday acts of courage, stewardship, grace, and love in difficult circumstances.

PRAY: *Father, help us to serve others by following your son's example of humility and to reflect his teachings through everyday acts of kindness in our workplaces.*

REFLECT: *Have I prepared myself adequately to serve others in the workforce through prayer, supplications, and commitment to Christ's principles?*

DISCUSS: *How can we influence others through our leadership style in our workplaces? Do we help others grow in faith, skill, and confidence?*

Laurie Primavera has been a nurse and healthcare leader for the last 30 years, overseeing outpatient programs such as hospice and home health. She currently coordinates a Stephen Ministry program at her church.

26 IN 26

FILLED IN SPIRIT. FORMED IN COMMUNITY. SENT IN POWER.

In 2026, WorkLight will step into a bold new season: 26 Challenge Weekends across the country, the most in our ministry's history. This effort, grounded in Acts 2, 6, and 26, is a movement of the Holy Spirit calling us to go beyond ourselves and open eyes to God's presence in the workplace.

Our goal for expansion follows a biblical pattern. Just as the early church was filled with the Spirit (Acts 2), formed new leaders (Acts 6), and then sent out to open eyes and transform lives (Acts 26), we believe this is our time to do the same.

Will you help lead the way?

Pray about hosting or leading a Challenge Weekend in 2026.

Let's answer the call, together.

WEEK 2 *By John E. Daly*

New Partner

For we live by faith and not by sight. (2 Corinthians 5:7)

There are times in our careers when the workplace is just not working for us. I discovered this when one of the law firms I worked for decided to change the compensation system. Although I was told I would be getting a raise in my base salary, the change in commission structure would result in a pay decrease.

A month later, I left to become a partner in another law firm. Unfortunately, I soon learned that I had failed to do my due diligence and had landed in a firm with financial and ethical issues. I soon found myself in debt to the firm, which made my life miserable. Within the year I gave them my notice.

It was during this period that my prayer time got very serious as I contemplated starting my own law firm. I wanted other job opportunities to open up; however, the Lord's consistent answer was to "go forward in faith." After a Christian business attorney offered to help me incorporate my own firm, Jesus was my new partner.

I found new ways to bring the Lord into my practice with my clients. I would often ask in my intake interviews whether potential clients were people of faith. If they answered "yes" I would ask if they wanted to pray about their case. If they answered "no" I would just move on and try to be an example of faith. I found that most answered "yes" and I saw many miracles over the years where God did some amazing "legal miracles."

As a result, the Lord transformed my workplace and allowed me to become the attorney he wanted me to be.

PRAY: *Lord, I ask that you walk with me in my failures and successes in my workplace. I place my faith in you.*

REFLECT: *When has the Lord listened to your prayers, but suggested a different direction? How did that turn out?*

DISCUSS: *Has there been a time in your career when you misjudged a job opportunity and had to pivot? How did the Lord help you?*

John E. Daly is an attorney in Burnsville, Minnesota. He and his wife, Peg, have two sons and seven grandchildren. He serves on the National Growth Council for WorkLight.

WEEK 3 *By Brownie Turner*

Workplace Integrity

... Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs." (John 21:15)

Immediately after graduating from college, I began a training program that included 30+ graduate engineers, all hired by a large corporation. Often, field sales personnel were invited to make presentations to us about product technology, selling processes, finances, etc.

One day, an older gentleman from the New York City field office spoke to us about the importance of being honest with our customers. In a very animated presentation, he stressed that we should never, ever, under any circumstance, lie to our customers. Then he paused and said, "always be truthful, because someday you will need to lie to your customer and it is important that they believe you." At that moment, his statement seemed funny ...

Years later, when I started my own business, I committed myself to working for the benefit of my clients and solving their problems in an open, honest, and truthful manner. Likewise, I tried my very best to be a good shepherd for my employees and our suppliers. Operating in this manner isn't easy when it feels like the world and circumstances tempt me to make choices that might unfairly gain an advantage. But I have found that creating a workplace of truth and integrity is a transformational activity, which honors both the partnerships and relationships with our customers and the hard work of our employees.

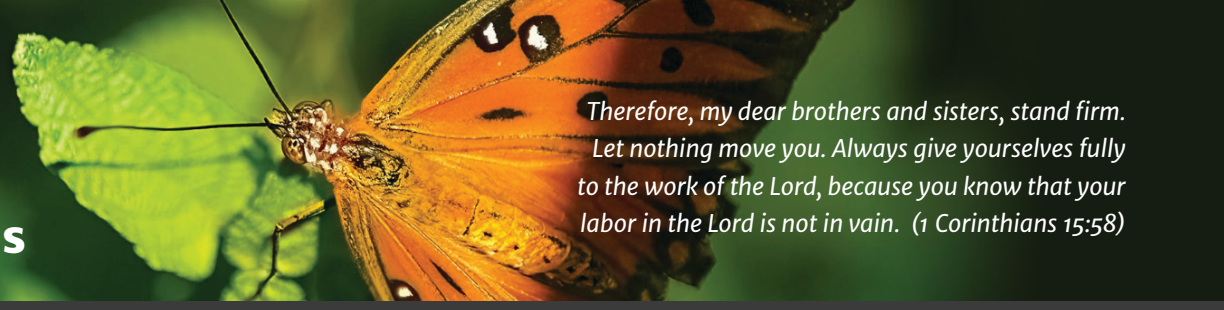
I pray God will continue to allow me to care for his sheep as I interact with my employees, clients, and suppliers going forward.

PRAY: *Heavenly Father, help me to be aware of opportunities each day to serve and care for every person I encounter.*

REFLECT: *Do you actively look for opportunities to demonstrate God's love to individuals you encounter each day?*

DISCUSS: *Share about a transformational time God presented you an opportunity to help a coworker through a difficult moment in their life.*

H. B. "Brownie" Turner and his wife Archer live in Lake Forest, California. He is president of Newport Engineering Associates and can be reached at hbturnerjr@aol.com.



Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. (1 Corinthians 15:58)

PRESIDENT'S NOTE:

Daily Miracles

Have you heard about the quiet miracle underway in our morning commutes? Each day, millions of believers step into offices, classrooms, hospitals, factories, and farms. Most of us will never preach a sermon in those places. We will simply work. And through the work of our hands and minds, the Father is doing something far bigger than we may realize.

Yet working is far more than competence. The Father is not only asking us to do good work. He is asking us to do it for God's Kingdom and seek unity in Jesus above earthly differences. Just watch as the Holy Spirit uses you. A spreadsheet becomes an act of service. A difficult conversation becomes an opportunity for honesty. A long meeting becomes a chance to practice patience.

Since Bud Rose's passing earlier this year, I have thought often about the brothers and sisters who have quietly carried this conviction since our first Challenge Weekend in 1983. Many of you tell me the same thing. Transformation rarely starts with a big strategic move. It begins with one small, charitable choice for the sake of someone else. A word of encouragement. A moment of listening. A decision to tell the truth when it feels scary to speak up.

These small faith-led choices add up. They draw others into God's plan to redeem creation. They reveal that Jesus is not just our Savior on Sundays but also our Lord every day 24/7. The more we operate in this truth, the more our hearts attune with the Holy Spirit. We fall in love with the Father all over again. Suddenly we see our morning commute for what it truly is. An opportunity to see work as a faithful form of worship.

This is the WorkLight calling. Press on in the Holy Spirit. Show up with Jesus everywhere you go. Say yes to the Father's invitation to work. It wouldn't be the same without you.

With you all in Christ,

Wes

WEEK 4 *By Jennifer Watters*

Serving Others

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. (Galatians 6:9)

Several years ago, I was asked to represent my employer in a leadership program hosted by the local chamber of commerce. Part of the program consisted of participants completing a community-based project. Our group formed "Joyfully Packed" with the goal of providing backpacks filled with hygiene and comfort items to children entering foster care.

Group members reached out to businesses and acquaintances and the support was overwhelming. We accepted donations and hosted a fundraising event. The night of the fundraiser we even had a man show up during the middle of his jog and hand us a check. He explained he could not stay, but he had heard about "Joyfully Packed" and wanted to help. No one from our group knew him. Throughout our efforts, God showed up in so many unexpected ways.

Once the leadership program ended, a ceremony took place where each group presented their project to community leaders, government officials, businesses, families, and friends. As I stood on stage in front of everyone, I realized something. It wasn't about results. The effect of the project was much more significant.

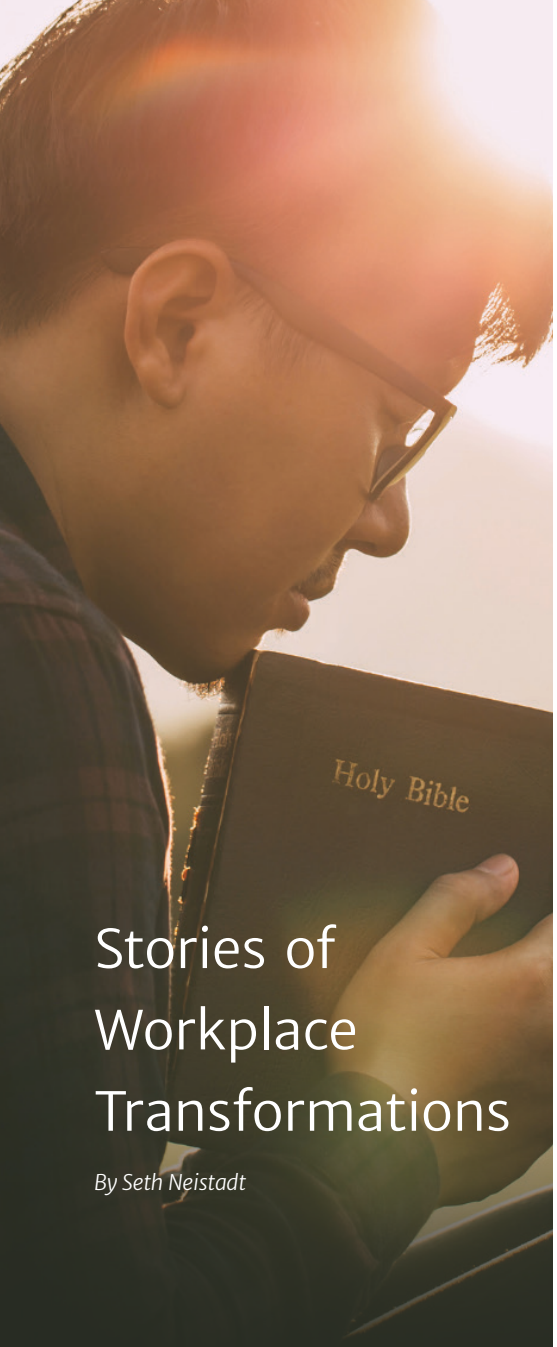
At that moment I made a promise to myself that I would continue ensuring my employer served the community. Many peers from the program also turned their focus to community stewardship. These projects were not about results, but rather effects. Leaders, businesses, and government came together and traded profit for charity, meetings for service, and managing for stewardship.

PRAY: *Lord, help us to remember those who need our help and respectfully help them through good works.*

REFLECT: *How do you and your coworkers help others outside of your daily workplace routines? Could you do more?*

DISCUSS: *When have you witnessed God's presence in the community work that you do for others? How did that work change over time?*

Jennifer Watters is an experienced human resource leader. She resides in Columbus, Indiana, with her family.



Stories of Workplace Transformations

By Seth Neistadt

I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 3:14)

Transformation rarely happens all at once.

Most of us experience it through a series of small, faithful steps. A conversation with a coworker. A prayer before a difficult meeting. An act of kindness when no one is watching. Choosing integrity when compromise would be easier.

Your Stories

At WorkLight, we believe God is actively transforming lives through the power of the Holy Spirit. We know lives have been changed through Challenge Weekends. We see friendships deepen in Small Groups. We watch local Chapter leaders faithfully create places where people can pray, grow, and encourage one another. We witness believers becoming more confident in bringing their faith into the places where they work, lead, and serve.

These stories matter because people matter. And, when others hear your story about how God is working in the lives of others, they are often reminded that they are not alone. That is why communication is so important.

Strong Connections

Our goal, through our Communications Team, is to help more people see what God is doing through WorkLight and discover ways to become part of it. We want to strengthen the connections between people, local leaders, Challenge Weekends, Small Groups, Chapters, and the broader WorkLight family.

By sharing stories of Christ at work, we create clearer pathways for people to move from a first introduction to deeper participation and discipleship. We want people to know where they belong, who can walk alongside them, and what God may be inviting them to do.

The Movement

You are part of this movement when you share your story with others. Every testimony shared, every story told, and every connection made becomes an opportunity for someone else to take a step forward in their faith journey. *The Flame*, the *Spark*, WorkLight's social media presence, and our website provide ways to extend the reach of your stories to those who are seeking God's presence in their lives.

As we move through the summer months, look for opportunities to be Christ at work where he has called you. Share the stories of what he is doing. Encourage others in their walk.

When ordinary believers faithfully live out their calling, workplaces are transformed, lives are changed, and God's Kingdom advances one relationship at a time.

Are you interested in sharing your story with us in The Flame and/or Spark? Send an email to communications@worklight.org.

Seth Neistadt is WorkLight's vice president of ministry programs. He can be reached at seth@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

Poor in Spirit: Freedom in Relationships

Beatitudes at Work

There is a relational side that is relevant to us in WorkLight. We can experience good poverty in three key areas.

Poverty in the Relationship with God

The poor in spirit express an adaptability of heart with God. They claim nothing as their own and expect nothing in return for the good they do. They do what they need to and leave the rest in his hands, totally dependent on God and his infinite love and mercy. They see God's generosity as infinite, their merits as limited.

Like Jesus, they are working for their Father. They don't want the Father to just rubber stamp their plans. They want to do the right thing more than their own thing. They recognize all that happens to them is allowed by God and he will guide them.

Poor in Relation to One's Self

The poor in spirit are not the owners of the gifts they have; but only stewards. They themselves are not indispensable. They love their littleness, boast in their weaknesses because "*when I am weak, I am strong.*" (2 Corinthians 12:10)

Jealousy and envy reveal to them the discontent of their hearts. The poor in spirit embrace who they are in Christ realizing they aren't yet all they will be. They have a heart of peace that gives life because it's set on an everlasting hope.

Poor in Relation to One's Neighbor

Most problems we face in life and at work are found in our relationships with others. We either try to control what others do or avoid being controlled by them.

Knowing this, the poor in spirit don't coerce or force their will on others, because they accept that the other person is free. In conflicts, they do not need to have the last word.

They are willing to accept little quirks or ways in which others are "wired." Much of what annoys us isn't really a matter of right or wrong anyway, it has more to do with "social styles" that clash with our own or just shortcomings and preferences.

Instead, the poor in spirit choose to accept others as they are, resisting the temptation to "fix them."

"Beatitudes at Work" is an ongoing series exploring the practical and formative aspects of the beatitudes found in Matthew's recording of the Sermon on the Mount.

Next Month:
Poor in Spirit: Good Poverty's Generosity

From Pg 1: God's Kingdom in Our Work:

inner goodness and truly serving our customers is not easy, but it has a powerful impact.

Taking root

Like most of us in the trades and manufacturing, we struggle with finding young employees to replace our aging workforce. God led Edgerton Gear to develop a course called, "Craftsman with Character®" which introduces high school students to our company and principles for work. Miraculously, God is now spreading the program to other communities and states.

The course focuses on developing character and the power of righteousness. In one exercise, students identify the qualities they need to succeed. For more than a decade they have consistently named the same traits: humility, discipline, dependability, teachability, and respectfulness, which shows that these kids intuitively have a sense of God's righteousness and true inner goodness, or at least the need for it.

As we seek the Kingdom of God and his righteousness, we are called to do our best. Our work is an opportunity to show how God's true inner goodness lives in and through us, and thus the Kingdom of God advances.

*Throughout his career, **Dave Hataj** has sought to understand if the teachings of Jesus are relevant in a blue-collar machine shop. Dave has written two books and parts of this article came from one of those books, Good Work. Find out more at davehataj.com.*

NEWS

VALUES SERIES: MANIFESTING THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Not every outcome of discernment is a change. Sometimes faithfulness means affirming what already rings true. WorkLight's value this month, "Manifesting the Gifts of the Holy Spirit," remains exactly as it was when Christians in Commerce adopted it many years ago. The Holy Spirit's role in empowering believers for Kingdom work is as central to WorkLight's identity today as it has always been. No new words were needed because the original ones still say it so well across generations.

WEBSITE, FLAME, SPARK GET NEW LOOK

If you haven't already noticed, we've updated the look of *The Flame*. Also, the website and *Spark* have been updated. The design changes are intended to modernize storytelling, improve readability, and unify our print and digital branding. Many thanks to the designer of *The Flame*, Andy Grams, our marketing and digital teams at DKY, and to the Communication Committee and Editorial Team for their hard work!

THE IMPORTANCE OF INVITATION

Many people first encounter WorkLight because someone personally invited them. A Challenge Weekend, a Chapter gathering, a Small Group, or even a simple conversation can become the beginning of something much larger. God often works through ordinary relationships. A single invitation can open the door to encouragement, community, and a deeper experience of Christ. Countless people are connected to WorkLight because someone was willing to ask, "Would you like to join me?"

GROWING DEEPER, NOT JUST LARGER

Growth is often measured by numbers, attendance, or activity. Yet some of the most important growth happens beneath the surface. Stronger friendships. Greater trust. Honest conversations. A willingness to pray for one another and walk together through life's challenges. As WorkLight looks to the future, our hope is not only to reach more people, but also to grow deeper in our relationship with Christ and with one another.

Upcoming Challenge Weekends

- **Honolulu Men's/Women's Chapter**
  August 28-30, Saint Anthony Retreat Center, 3351 Kalihi Street, Honolulu, Hawaii
- **South Bend - Elkhart Men's/ Women's Chapter**
  October 23-24, Marian University's Ancilla College, 20097 9B Road, Plymouth, Indiana
- **Salinas Valley Men's Chapter**
  November 13-15, Mission San Antonio de Padua, 1 Mission Creek Road, Fort Hunter Liggett, California

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

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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

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"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me."
–Galatians 2:20

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- President's Note | 4
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- Poor in Spirit | 6

WORKLIGHT.org

Vision

Being Christ at Work

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 Christ*
- *Manifesting the Gifts of the Holy Spirit*
- *Nurturing Brotherhood and Sisterhood*
- *Building God's Kingdom in All Aspects of Our Lives*
- *Unity in Jesus Above Earthly Differences*

WORKLIGHT™

Accept the Challenge

CHALLENGE WEEKEND

Deep immersion into a work life rooted in Christ with teaching sessions, real life stories, reflection, and small group discussions

Build the Kingdom

SMALL GROUPS

Build relationships and experience discipleship in a continuous, supportive small group setting – all centered on shining bright for Christ at work

Grow in Faith

DAILY RESOURCES

Be inspired and encouraged with biblical content, thoughtful reflections, and moving sharings of the Lord at work in our lives at work

Be part of a movement to transform the workplace. Find out how at WorkLight.org and find a chapter near you!