

THE CALVARY EXAMINER

JANUARY 2007

VOLUME 4 NUMBER 1

COMMIT TO MEMORY...



Even youths grow tired and weary,
and young men stumble and fall;
but those who hope in the LORD
will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint.
~ Isaiah 40:30-31



I want to share an opportunity with you that I hope you will take advantage of. Over vacation I watched the best marriage conference I have seen. It answered a lot of questions for me in why two people who love each other don't feel what they need from the other. It explained why we grow farther apart even though we try our best to keep the relationship going. There was a lot that I learned that will make my marriage better.

We are offering this seminar on Friday night and Saturday February 9th and 10th here at CBC. It costs \$25 per couple. If cost is an issue, see me. It will change your marriage if you apply what you learn. What a deal for \$25!

Singles and teens, I want to ask you to make a great investment in some of married couples' lives. Please volunteer to baby sit so couples can be here. If you are willing please put your name on the list on the bulletin board. Thank you for your help in building God's kingdom through healthy families!

God will work if we are willing to listen and apply what He shares with us. That includes our marriages and homes

Pastor Craig

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THE ROSARIO'S AS KIDS



CONNECTIONS

By: Jennifer Rosario

Through our lives we connect to others in various ways. Sometimes those connections come out of our similar life situations, hurts, or joys. Other times these sweet connections come from less intense things like enjoying the same hobby or having the same birthday. God gives us these connecting strands with each other to provide strength for our journey and encouragement to press closer to God.

In my life I have a precious connection with my son, Brett. He was born on my 30th birthday. Actually, he was almost born at the same time I was too. Brett was born at 11:13 pm on January 2nd and I was born at 11:15 pm. The doctor said that we could wait the extra 2 minutes, but I didn't think that was a good choice at the time. ☺ Brett and I have a fun time singing "Happy Birthday" to each other. I am thankful for these special memories we will share over the years.

I also think of how God brings each person into our lives for His good. Some will challenge us, others encourage, and still others teach. Some will be accountability partners, yet others will be there to make us laugh and have a good time. All connections are God's way of caring for us and showing us His love here on Earth.



Hosea 11: 4 says, "I led them with cords of kindness, with ties of love."

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2007 is the second year in the cycle of missions vision. That means we will reach the areas nearby. Trips are being planned for both Rochester and Brooklyn, New York. There is a jug by the coat room for change. You can also write on your offering envelope “mission trips” and it will be put into the correct account. Please invest in the building of God’s Kingdom in New York State.

WHY DO WE WORK?

By Kyra Joy Hamling

Do “rainy days and Mondays always get you down” as The Carpenters’ song goes? Are you a weekend warrior? Do you sometimes feel that your work life doesn’t reflect Christ to your co-workers?

Over the past few months, I have experienced some changes in my office. Eye-opening changes, most for the better, but changes nonetheless. I had to sit down and think about why I do what I do and how it matters in the big picture.

Indulge me. Talking about work on the weekend doesn’t seem right, but I think it’s beneficial. We need to step back and reflect without a looming deadline in front of us. Socrates said “an unexamined life is not worth living.” I know Sundays are busy enough with church in the morning and finishing up the little tasks we didn’t do on Saturday. Making time for family and getting ready for the week ahead is work enough, right? All we want to do is rest. Breathe, be outside, and eat good food with friends are on the agenda. Rarely do I look forward to waking up before dawn and making sure my socks match. I have even thought about “investing” in a personal sunrise alarm clock fully equipped with pillow speakers. The light will gradually get brighter and the sound will ever so gently greet the morning – painlessly awaken you. Sounds good, huh?

Once I’m at my desk it’s a different story. I’m content and ready to face the tasks ahead, but it’s the getting out of bed part that I don’t look forward to. I always laugh when I read “joy comes in the morning” because I am by no means a morning person. I love going to work in late December because the sunrise and sunset bookend my day. I love driving into a purple and gold

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or cotton candy sky. It displays the glory of God. I often wonder if my eight hours in the office do the same.

Paul wrote: “Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.” (Colossians 3:23-24 ESV). and “So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.” (1 Corinthians 10:31 ESV)

Abraham Lincoln said “Whatever you are be a good one.” Yes, do a good job, but also make good and moral decisions regarding your work. Be a wise worker.

Peter wrote:

Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us. (1 Peter 2:11-12 NIV)

The most basic answer is we work in order to eat and provide food for our families. Proverbs says “ the shiftless man goes hungry.” (proverbs 19:15b NIV) However, this is not the only reason. The Bible starts with the creation story. God created man in his image. God was productive in that he created something that could be used by others. God was inventive. If God is creative, productive, and inventive, and man is made in His image; it’s logical, then, that man would also be creative, productive and inventive. During each step of creation God said “it was good.” He took pleasure in it and His joy was increased. John Piper, pastor and author, preached “God wills work because *when we work in reliance on his power and according to his pattern of excellence, his glory is made known and our joy is increased.*” (http://www.desiringgod.org/ResourceLibrary/TopicIndex/6/403_Why_God_Wills_Work/) We too should take pleasure in our vocation. Our joy should be increased as we labor. As humans, we are the only one of God’s creation that can make a moral and conscious choice to work. We get that from God himself. He chose to create. He put a lot of thought into his work. We, too, should exclaim, “ It is good!”

Another reason why we work is to be around people. Some days, I would love to pack up my desk and go on the mission field. I have a few friends who are in missions who care of the business of the mission organization. Sometimes, I say.... “I love what I do... if only I could do it in a Christian environment I would be happier.” That’s a red flag... If only {fill in the blank} I would be happier. It is my experience that God does not speak in the language of “ if only.” He acts.

The bottom line is we all have our spheres of influence. We all interact with the world. We all get to talk about our lives with our co-workers. If we are true Christians, we can’t hide for

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very long. Sometimes, it's our honesty that gives us away. You don't need a Bible on your desk to be found out. Our lives outside work tend to come out in conversation. Our co-workers might not accept all the theology of the Gospel, but they see our lives and how we live it. They are watching us usually to see when we screw up. What Peter wrote is so true. We are aliens in the world. In many ways we don't belong here. We will be mocked and belittled. We will be stereotyped. I don't know how many times I've heard from my co-workers "You call yourself a Christian, Kyra? Ha!" However, we live and work among non-believers so they can see our good deeds and God can be glorified. Paul reminds us that we will be persecuted for our faith.

God did not call all of us to be missionaries and pastors. If He did churches would be lopsided. Teachers need to have students, if they didn't they would be talking to themselves and no one would learn. We need a balance. We, as Christians, need to be in business because businessmen need Christ too. Believe me! We all work together to build the Kingdom of God.

This concept reminds me of a Caedmon's Call song – "Bus Driver." It's about an average guy who wakes up at 3:30AM to drive a bus. The question of the song is does his work really matter after all "he's just a bus driver and what does he know." As the bus driver ponders about his life's work he finds value and contentment. He has a sphere of influence. He mentions two people. One is a banker and the other is a salesman. He concludes that his job does matter because it helps others do their jobs well. He is joyful because he is in God's will.

It is my prayer we will work with the same passion and intensity that we show on Sunday mornings. Our service to Christ Jesus is a full time job that doesn't stop once we punch in to work.

(I also learned a lot about money and its use and misuse during this time. The Bible is full of financial truths. I hope to put some of this information together for the good of our church.)

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 –Noelle Giammarino; Elliot Brooks; Brianna Riggio, Jennifer and Brett Rosario;
5 - Ed Messina
9 – Jeanne Malloy
10- Donna Freeman
14 – Nancy Gunn
15 – Donald Wilson, III
16 – Ray and Myra Tooker
17 – Anne Torsen; Andrew Waring
21 – Chris Grunstra
23 – Lauren Lewis

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