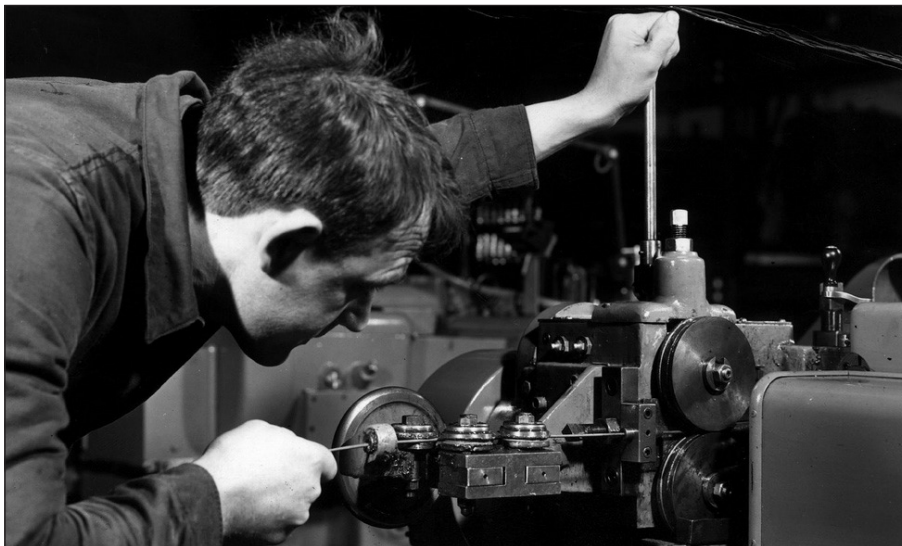




The Western FRONT

February 2015

where the gospel meets the world



God is a Worker and I'm Made in His Image

By Jim Hislop, Director of the Center for Leadership Development

A few months ago, in a Transformed post called [Walls That Divide](#), I suggested that there were two walls that divide the church. These walls have grown over time, and even though they are occasionally challenged, they keep showing up. They are the sacred/secular divide and the clergy/laity divide. I wrote a few posts on the clergy/laity divide and now I'd like to focus on the sacred/secular divide.

Mark Green in his three minute Vimeo clip, [The Sacred Secular Divide](#), defines this wall by saying it is, "the pervasive

belief that some things are really important to God and other things aren't." Mostly we think things that happen in and around the church or the para-church or the mission field—spiritual things—are really important to God and other things—like work, recreation and what we eat—aren't. We call some of the first group "ministry" and the rest something else. But is that really true? Is that a correct limitation to put on the word "ministry?" Not according to the Bible.

Have you ever noticed that in Genesis 1 and 2, God is not introduced to us as

(continued on page 2)

IMPORTANT DATES

- Feb. 20 Christian Therapist Fellowship, 12-2:30pm (See pg. 4)
- Mar. 24 Alumni Connect & Co-Labor Event, Downtown San Jose. (see pg. 2)
- April 5 Easter
- April 25 Summer Semester begins
- April 29 Discover Coaching, 7-9pm
RSVP by April 22

Other [Community Calendar Dates](#)

AUDIT A CLASS FOR FREE!

Alumni can audit one eligible class per academic year for free. The [Summer 2015 Course Schedule](#) will be posted by mid-February. Complete a [Non-Credit Application](#) form and the [Alumni Audit Opportunity](#) form and submit them to [Carrie Priest](#). Some summer electives available for audit:

- **Art Therapy Introduction/CNS 565FS** (1 credit) - Ann Arnold (Dates: TBD)
- **Gospel-Centered Preaching/PTS 562JS** (2 credits) - Dr. Jeff Louie (Apr 30-June 25)
- **Preparing for Ministry Transition** PTS 5XXS (1 credit) - Dr. Steve Korch (May 12-June 16)
- **Developing Strong Families/PTS 508SH** (2 credits) - Gary Thomas (June 30-July 2)
- **Isaiah/BLS 523S** (2 credits) - Dr. Ron Allen (July 7-10)

REDUCED AUDIT RATE - \$75/CREDIT!

Beginning this summer semester, the audit rate will be reduced to \$75/credit (from \$175/credit). Tell a friend!

“GOD IS A WORKER AND I’M MADE IN HIS IMAGE” CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

prophet, priest or pastor, but as a worker. He doesn’t show up as king, judge or potentate, but as the Creator, that is, a *worker*. He’s not laying out edicts from heaven to humans to live by after He creates them, but He’s *working*.

Each day of creation He’s working. He is creating something. He is productive. At the end of each day, He is satisfied. He steps back and looks at what He has made and He says, “It’s good.” At the end of the whole process, Gen. 1:31 says, “God saw all that He had made, and it was very good.” Gen. 2:2-3 says, “By the seventh day God had finished the *work* He had been doing; so on the seventh day He rested from all His *work*. Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it He rested from all the *work* of creating that He had done.”

Notice the word “work” appears three times in verse three, where it tells us He “rested from all His work.” Was God tired? Is that why He rested? I don’t think so. I think he was satisfied. I think He sat down and thought, “What a great job I did; all this is very good.” No sermons, no Sunday school classes, no discipleship courses, no mission trips, just *work*. And it was good.

Is it possible that God intended our work to be good, to be satisfying, and to be meaningful? Yes, I mean the work you do from

9 to 5, not just the work that people who work at the church do or that missionaries do. I mean the work you do at the factory, the hospital, the office, in the school, on the production line, driving the truck, sweeping the floors, in the store, or building a new building. I think so.

Can I ask you, when was the last time you came to the end of your day and paused for just a minute or two, reflected back over the day and said, “That was a good day.” Or, “That child who came to school today obviously upset, went home with a better attitude because I had a chance to chat with her.” “That accounting mistake I found will save us thousands of dollars down the line. That was good.” “That pallet of products I produced will be a blessing to folks as they purchase them and use them in their home. That’s good.” “That couple who came into the hospital today to face the first of many cancer treatments, seemed comforted by the hope I was able to give them. That was very good.” “Those new tires I installed on that lady’s car seemed to give her a peace of mind that had been in turmoil. That was good.” “That kind word I spoke to that grumpy customer as he left brought a smile to his face. That was good.” Were those really sacred acts? Even those done in a secular environment? Even though it wasn’t “church stuff?” Well, Jesus said they are. In Matthew 5:16 he said, “In the same way,

let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” Sounds sacred to me.

What if you began to see your marketplace job as much a place of ministry as people who work in the church see their job as ministry? What if the people who worked at the church saw your job Monday to Friday as much or more than a place of ministry as their jobs? What if we all decided that productive good work done for the glory of God, no matter what it is or where it is, made God smile and say, “That is good. They understand what I meant when I told them I made them in my image and I’m a worker?”

I’m thankful for the teachers who taught me to read, to write and to spell (I’m also thankful for whoever invented spell check). I’m also thankful for all the people who used their creative energy and skillful hands to make computers, especially this nice little light-weight laptop that I’m writing this on, sitting up in bed before I go to sleep. I’m satisfied with my work today. “Thank you Lord.”

This article was a reprint from Western’s “Transformed” online community blog at www.westernseminary.edu/transformedblog. To hear more on this topic, join us at the next Alumni Connect event. More details are below.

The Alumni Connect & Co-Labor Event

Tuesday, March 24 from 6:30pm-9pm

Be our guest - dinner and fellowship included!

Topic: Working on Purpose for More than a Paycheck

Panelists: Jeff Louie, Jim Hislop, Pira Tritasavit, Andy Peterson, and Katie Reiff

Location: The Old Spaghetti Factory in Downtown San Jose
51 North San Pedro Street, San Jose 95110

RSVP: Via the [Registration Page](#) by March 17. Seating is limited.

Made possible in part by the Kern Family Foundation



Western Alumni and Students presenting at the 2015 BASS Church Workers Conference from March 5-7

FRIDAY, MARCH 6

Kirk Bertsche

Master of Exegetical Theology -
Class of 2005

[How Old is God's Creation?](#)

9:00-10:15 a.m. Room: N10

Jack Hagler (and wife, Liz)

Master of Divinity in Pastoral Ministry -
Class of 1987 and coach training

[The Easy Way To Do a Family Devotion](#)

10:30-11:45 a.m. Room: D5

Joy Liu (formerly Wong)

MA in Marital and Family Therapy -
Class of 2008

[Cultivating Character in the Youth](#)

[You Love: Tools to Impact Even the](#)

[Most Difficult Kids](#)

10:30-11:45 a.m. Room: N11

Rolanda Smith

Marital and Family Therapy student

[Leading Effective Small Groups](#)

10:30-11:45 a.m. Room: N10

Sik-Lam Wong

MA in Marital and Family Therapy -
Class of 2013

[Resilience for Yourself and Your Family:](#)

[A Christian Perspective](#)

10:30-11:45 a.m. Room: B3

Shadia Hrichi

Master of Biblical and Theological
Studies - Class of 2014

[Abortion's Hidden Battle and Why It Matters](#)

12:00-1:15 p.m. Room: N10

Matthew Blevins

Graduate Studies Diploma -
Class of 2014

[Suffering Well](#)

1:30-2:45 p.m. Room: B3

Rolanda Smith

Marital and Family Therapy student

[Creating Good Safety Measures for](#)

[Youth Ministry](#)

1:30-2:45 p.m. Room: N10

Peter Lam (and wife, Emily)

Former student

[The Power of Our Words](#)

3:00-4:15 p.m. Room: N9

Valerie Doyle

MA in Marital and Family Therapy -
Class of 2006

[Singles & Single Parents: What is Behind](#)

[the Need? Can God Deliver?](#)

4:30-5:45 p.m. Room: N13

SATURDAY, MARCH 7

Dr. Peter Wang

MA in General Ministry -
Class of 1998

[Christian Family and Church Response to](#)

["Emerging Adulthood" - How To Encour-](#)

[age Today's Young Adults Toward Maturity](#)

8:00-9:15 a.m. Room: N10

Anthony Liu

MA in Marital and Family Therapy
with Addiction Studies Certificate -

Class of 2008

[Teens Viewing Porn -- It IS a Big Deal!](#)

8:00-9:15 a.m. Room: N11

Pira Tritasavit

Master of Divinity - Class of 2011
and coach training

[Kingdom Professionals: Coaching](#)

[Christians for Workplace Witness](#)

8:00-9:15 a.m. Room: N12

Jack Hagler (and wife, Liz)

Master of Divinity in Pastoral Ministry -
Class of 1987 and coach training

[The Easy Way To Teach The Big Idea](#)

[of each Book in the Bible](#)

11:15-12:30 p.m. Room: D5

Pira Tritasavit

Master of Divinity - Class of 2011
and coach training

[He Said, She Said, God Says: Coaching](#)

[for Marriage Oneness](#)

12:45-2:00 p.m. Rm: Heritage

Dr. Peter Wang

MA in General Ministry -
Class of 1998

[Effective English Ministry in an Asian](#)

[Immigrant Church Context](#)

12:45-2:00 p.m. Room: N10

Winnis Chiang

MA in Marital and Family Therapy -
Class of 1998

[Dealing with Feelings](#)

(presented in Cantonese)

2:15-3:30 p.m. Room: N10

Colleen Lam Nguyen

MA in Marital and Family Therapy -
Class of 2010

[Emotions of a Teen: Decoding Depression](#)

2:15-3:30 p.m. Room: N9

Winnis Chiang

MA in Marital and Family Therapy -
Class of 1998

[Help! Nobody is Listening](#)

(presented in Cantonese)

3:45-5:00 p.m. Room: N10

Pira Tritasavit

Master of Divinity - Class of 2011
and coach training

[Mo' Money, Mo' Problems -](#)

[No Money, Mo' Problems:](#)

[Coaching for Financial Peace of Mind](#)

3:45-5:00 p.m. Room: N9

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EXPRESS PASS



For more information about BASS, visit www.bassconvention.org.

**Western is in need of volunteers to help promote Western at our booth at BASS.
Contact Muna Farhat at 408-356-6889 x407 if you have a few hours available to help.**

The Christian Therapist Fellowship Presents: **Ultimate WORTH**

Who We Are: The Christian Therapist Fellowship is a vibrant gathering of local counselors encouraging and equipping one another in Christ for excellence in service.

When: **Friday, February 20 from 12:00pm-2:30pm**

Presenter: Dr. Russ Llewellyn, Ph.D. has had a significant career as a pastor, a therapist, a speaker, and an author of seven books. He currently serves as the prayer pastor at Peninsula Covenant Church in Redwood City.

The Topic: We will explore the issues of how humility affects our self-esteem, and how adversity, suffering and neglect threaten our worth. From a biblical perspective, we will see how God intends to produce in us and the people we see a worth that lasts forever.

Location: Western Seminary, 469 El Camino Real, Ste. 205, Santa Clara

More info: **RSVP by 2/13/15 to stevedarro@aol.com.** Not available for CEUs. A free will offering will be taken.



- Luke 12:6-7

MINISTRY & EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

We receive regular contact from churches and para-church organizations. Please see the Ministry and Employment Opportunities binder in the front lobby for more information about these postings:

Cantonese Minister/Pastor (full-time)

[Chinese Church In Christ \(CCIC-SJ\)](#), San Jose
Email John C. Y. Lee at chungyounglee@gmail.com.

Business Services Accountant (full-time)

[Central Coast Baptist Association](#), Santa Clara
You may view the job description at <http://ccbministries.org/employment-opportunities>. Send resumes and references to: employment@ccbministries.org.

Pastor (full-time)

[Full Gospel San Francisco English Ministry](#), SF
See job posting for six specific requirements to be considered for this position. Contact Deacon Gun Shim at gunshim@hotmail.com.

Director of Children and Family Ministries (FT)

[Saratoga Federated Church](#), Saratoga
Send resumes to federatedjobsearch@gmail.com.

Young Adult Pastor (Mandarin congregation)

[Lord's Grace Christian Church](#), Mountain View
Must speak fluent Mandarin. MDiv required but past pastoral experience is not. Contact office@lordsgrace.org for more information, if interested.

Bible Study Leader

[Campus Crusade, San Jose State](#)

For their new Latino group of 8-12 college students on Thurs. at 7pm to teach foundational biblical concepts. Contact Muna at mfarhat@westernseminary.edu.

Job Opportunity at Western Seminary San Jose

STUDENT SERVICES ASSOCIATE

Western Seminary's San Jose campus is looking for a well-qualified person to work alongside the Director of Student Services. The Student Services Associate is mainly responsible for assisting the Director of Student Services in providing support (administrative and programmatic) to students throughout their seminary training at the San Jose campus. The Student Services Associate will also provide administrative support in the area of donor event relations. This is a part-time position (20 hrs/wk). This is a heavily administrative position, but also requires customer service skills and aptitudes as well as excellence in verbal and written communication. For a full job description, check out the listing at www.christianjobs.com.

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For alumni news, the Western Front,
and additional community events -
www.westernseminary.edu/alumni/sanjose
(click on the "San Jose" button)

For the Western Wave and other
student campus news -
www.westernseminary.edu/students/sanjose