

Workplace Chaplains U.S.

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Our Mission:

Partnering with client companies to provide care, counsel and crisis management services to their employees from a Christian perspective.

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CHAPLAINS @ WORK

Workplace Chaplains U.S.

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A Movement Called FAW

I have recently read two significant books about faith in the workplace.

God and Work is written by Dr. David Miller — the head of a department called “Faith and Culture” at Yale Divinity School. The second book is by a major figure in the church growth and analysis business — C. Peter Wagner, *The Church in the Workplace*.

They both (from very different theological and philosophical positions) point to books and articles like the following to document the existence of what David Miller calls the “**faith at work (FAW) movement**”:

Church on Sunday, Work on Monday (Laura Nash and Scotty McLennan, 2001)

- *Thank GOD It's Monday; Ministry in the Workplace* (Mark Green, 2001)
- *God @ Work and God @ Work, Vol. 2* (Rick Marshall, 2000 and 2005)
- *Faith @ Work* (Os Hillman, 2004)
- “Faith at Work,” *The New York Times Magazine* (Oct. 31, 2004)
- “God and Business,” *Fortune* (July 9, 2001)

These books and articles (and dozens more like them) document among other

things how over the last 20 years there has been a growing interest among Christian businessmen and alert church leaders in how faith ought to influence the Monday through Friday work-a-day word.

They detail how this interest has lead from the creation of several Christian businessmen’s fellowships to the founding and success of numerous faith-based and faith-friendly businesses, and to the phenomenal growth of chaplaincy in the workplace.

(Continued next page)

Green Bay Start Up

For almost two years now we have served a beef processing plant in Plainwell, MI previously called Packerland, now Smithfield Beef — Plainwell. As noted in the previous newsletter, we have recently been given the opportunity to serve the “parent” plant and corporate headquarters of Smithfield Beef Group in Green Bay, WS.

Since this was our first

venture outside of the state of Michigan, it represents a great challenge as well as a new learning curve in how to manage from a distance greater than we could easily drive in a day.

Chaplaincy is not a new concept to this group, since they have previously been served by several local pastors. One of these pastors by the name of Dave Wedekind continues to do a great job as our

Lead Chaplain for Green Bay area. In addition we have currently identified and trained three additional staff members (Joyce Janowski, John Voss, and Ray Kotwicki) to serve the employees of Smithfield and other potential clients in the Green Bay area.

We are still hoping to find a Spanish speaking component for this staff mix.

OPENING DOORS

From an initial contact with a former employee of Smithfield we were able to begin a conversation with the management of another food producer in Green Bay.

Schrieber Foods is the largest private label cheese maker in the world, with plants around the U.S. and in several foreign countries as well. We expect to begin a pilot project in one of their plants in Wisconsin Rapids next month.

Another conversation with a division of the Avon Rubber folks we have previously served in Cadillac, MI seems to have possibilities for another service location in Johnson Creek, WI (100 miles west of Milwaukee). At the same time we are talking to another division of Smithfield in Sioux Falls, SD. This employer would become the larg-

est we have ever served with over 3000 employees. If all of these conversations are productive, we will be adding 3-5 additional part time staff in the next few months.

NEW ACCOUNT IN ZEE-LAND, MI

After several months of conversations with **Innotec Group** in Zeeland, MI it appears that they are ready to begin a contract to serve the employees in their five separate, but related, businesses.

We have already identified a possible chaplain candidate for this location and will look forward to bringing him into our growing staff if this develops.

CADILLAC FESTIVAL OF RACES

Workplace Chaplains and Northern Michigan Christian School have once again served as the joint sponsors of the 35th annual **Cadillac Festival of Races**. This longest running 10K race in the state of Michigan (plus a 5K and Adventure Triathlon) once again attracted hundreds of runners and raised several thousand dollars for a senior class mission trip to the Dominican Republic.



FAW (Cont'd)

Frankly, we had no idea when we began exploring this workplace chaplaincy concept ten years ago that it would draw us into what now appears to be a major movement of God's Spirit in the world; something that several of these authors have suggested might be **"the most significant paradigm shift since the Reformation."**

The only negative news in all of this is that the organized church is lagging behind rather than leading this movement. While a large segment of the business world seems to be imploding upon itself because of lack of ethics to guide its success, others are looking to faith for new (or old) answers; while the church by and large has failed to find a language to address it or bridge to reach it.

Nonetheless, God has worked through individual Christian business leaders and para-church ministries

to begin to bridge this gap and to touch "the 9 to 5 window."

As I have mentioned in a previous newsletter, such notable names as Billy Graham, John Maxwell, and William Blackaby have all predicted that the next major move of God's Spirit would be in the workplace.

If you want to pray for something large pray for this movement, those of us who have the privilege of working in this movement, and for the church as a whole as it begins to catch on to and own this movement.

Be blessed and be a blessing,

Chaplain Ron Klimp
Executive Director

STORIES FROM OUR CHAPLAINS

When I asked a summer worker on his last day if he had my card so he could reach me, he took out his cell phone & programmed in my cell number. He said he hadn't quite been sure what to think of company chaplains, but he had come to see that we really cared about him as an individual. It meant a lot to know that in spite of the age difference, we'd been able to connect with him. (Maureen – Aug. 2007)

SUPPORTING THE MINISTRY

We would love to have you as partners in this ministry. If you would like to help us expand this service please consider using the enclosed response sheet and envelope.