

**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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“Just In Time Delivery”

One of the concepts that I have become familiar with in the industrial world is “just in time delivery.”

For makers of automotive or other pre-assembly products this term means that their buyers want the product made and shipped to arrive “just in time” to move onto the assembly line without having to warehouse it or handle it twice.

The theory behind this concept is that it generates large savings in warehouse costs, plus prevents

inventories of outdated product whenever the design or process changes. The result is a balancing act somewhere between having parts on site that are not yet needed or obsolete, and not having the parts you need right when you need them.

When this process works properly, a radiator hose or a fan clutch or a horn made in Cadillac, MI, arrives at an automotive assembly plant somewhere else (along with thousands of other parts) on the very day that it is to be used on the assembly line. It exits

the plant as part of a complete automobile within a day or two. No sitting on a shelf gathering dust; no waiting for delivery: “Just in time.”

Sometimes God works that way, too. He supplies what we need not a moment too soon or a moment too late.

We recently experienced a speed bump in our budget when one of our larger clients had such a decrease in orders for their product that they had to lay off a number of employees and cut all “non-essential” services,

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Advancing the Mission

By being tied to the business world, we are directly affected by the ups and downs of the business economy.

In a difficult year for businesses we were feeling good about keeping all of our Michigan accounts, plus adding two accounts in Wisconsin. Two of our larger accounts were actu-

ally having great years.

We were feeling very blessed and possibly even just a little proud of this accomplishment when one of our newer accounts in Wisconsin announced a significant downsizing and one of our larger Michigan accounts hit a down cycle right before renewal of their contract with us and were

forced to postpone renewal for the rest of this year.

We believe these reductions in service are temporary, plus we are in conversation with several new potential clients, but in the meantime we share with our clients and their employees the burden of temporary downsizing.

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(Continued from “Just In Time Delivery”)

including Workplace Chaplains US. As the economy recovers they may return as a client. In the meantime, some significant budget cuts of our own must be made.

I tossed and turned (and prayed!) for several nights wondering how WCUS should adjust to this. It became clear to me that in addition to cuts, we needed to make the situation known to sources that have helped us through tight spots in the past.

Minutes before I planned to contact these parties, I went to the post office and picked up the WCUS mail that had accumulated during a few days off.

The first envelope I opened contained a sizeable donation from one of those very parties! They had not yet been asked and had no idea of the specifics of our dilemma: “Just in time delivery” — God style!

Ron Klimp
Executive Director

(Cont'd from “Advancing...”)

Please keep us and them in your prayers as we mutually tighten our belts and continue to move forward!

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**We appreciate
your support!**

Some of you have supported us occasionally. Some of you have made a regular contribution to this ongoing and growing ministry.

Whether large or small, every gift helps us cover the cost of spreading the word that such a ministry exists to serve the business world.

Thanks and God Bless!!!

On Work & Worship

I have mentioned here before that one of the Hebrew words for “work” (*avodah*) is also translated in other contexts as “worship.”

I wondered recently how one word could be so broad as to include both. A bit of first hand research brought a helpful insight. The word “*avodah*” or “*avad*” (or “*abad*” in some Bible dictionaries) means something comparable to the English “serve.”

The 3rd Commandment in Exodus. 20:5 says of idols, “You shall not bow down to them or worship (*avad - serve*) them” and the 4th Commandment in verse 9 says, “Six days you shall labor (*avad - serve*) and do all your work .”

We might conclude, then, that our work (or “service”) if done for God is worship — and if done for any other reason is idolatry.

(Note: *avad* is used 294 times in the Hebrew Old Testament)

Notes from our Chaplains

~ One worker told various friends that he would never be caught talking to a chaplain. But...in the last several months we have developed a friendship! Following a serious illness he came back to work seeking me out in order that we might talk about eternal concerns. This kind of relationship is only possible through many contacts and much prayer!! ...(*Ray Kotwicki*)
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~ After a middle aged worker in a local welding shop (who lived alone) failed to show up for work a second day with no “call in,” his supervisor decided to go to his home and check on him. Getting no answer at the door and finding the door unlocked, he ventured in to look around. Sadly, he found the employee deceased in his bed after an apparent heart attack.

This became an opportunity to minister not only to the supervisor, but to all the employees who worked in the building, several of whom were close friends with the man who died. Many of them noted how such events remind us of our own mortality and the need to appreciate every day of life. Others wanted to talk about their faith or their questions about life after life.

These are the events that make having a chaplain available so important. They become opportunities to help people process tragedy and to help process their own life and faith priorities.

...(Ron K. & Rich L)

*PS: The extended family in this case lived out of town and their pastor handled all of the funeral details.*