



Living an Integrated Life

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The average person will spend 90,000 hours or one third of their life working. We will spend more of our time working than we will at school, in church, on the soccer field, or even watching TV. It's difficult to fathom this enormous portion of our life, but it should make us pause and think intentionally about how we are stewarding our time.

What is the point of work? What does work mean? Who benefits? What is good work? Whose work matters to God?

Many people see work simply as a means to an end (i.e., "I work to put food on the table for my family") or something to endure (i.e., "Everybody's working for the weekend").

But have you ever met someone who really loves their work and sees it as meaningful? Someone who is full of passion and joy for their work? I have and it's really powerful to see.

Just imagine if all of God's people saw their work as a witness to, and a demonstration of God's love and justice in the world! Every part of our lives is valuable to God and meaningful for us. Work matters, and how we work matters.

Too often, people have been told to separate work and faith between the sacred and the secular, between Sunday and Monday. They were not taught how to integrate faith in their workplaces. This has resulted in a dualistic approach to life where only the things Christians do in and through their church count for God.

At CBM, our Faith+Work strategy enables us to help equip and mobilize women and men for whole-life discipleship through their work. By seeing their work as calling, and using their abilities, skills, and service in and through their work, God's people are helping to heal a broken world.

In 2016, my family moved to the Philippines to work alongside CBM's partners, Kabuganaan Philippines Ministries (KPM). During our time there, we helped churches see that work matters and is an integral part of God's plan to redeem and restore his creation.



Ezekiel running the screen printing machine. Community members receive training in how to make bracelets that can be sold at local markets.

The approach we took was to focus not specifically on work, but on 'whole-life discipleship', and integrating faith into every aspect of our lives, of which work is a central part. Our goal has been to help individuals see that the work they accomplish and how they do it matters to God. Even when their working conditions are difficult, when the results of their work are flawed, when corrupt bosses exploit their work or the outcomes, or when unrealistic requirements are placed upon their work, we have helped them see that Jesus really cares about their whole life.

Ezekiel, a young Filipino man with a lot of creative talent and interest in business, wrestled with the tension between wanting to use his natural talents and abilities in business and desiring to serve the Lord. Growing up in the church, he was taught that ministry was done through the work of the church and its various programs and ministries. For this reason, he wondered if he would need to give up his dream of working creatively through business to pursue pastoral ministry so that he could 'do the Lord's work'. He was both relieved and inspired to discover that God cares about all good work, not just work done directly through the church. Ezekiel could do the

GOD AT WORK IN THE WORD AND IN THE WORLD

There is no one better to demonstrate the power of work than God himself. From the beginning of scripture, Genesis opens with God at work, creating the universe. Throughout the Bible, we see images of God as a worker. He is a gardener (Gen 2:8), shepherd (Ps 23), potter (Jer 18:6), physician (Matt 8:16), teacher (Ps 143:10), vineyard-dresser (Is 5:1-7), and metal worker and refiner (Mal 3:2-3, Ez 22:20). Just as God is at work, he also uses the work of his people to accomplish his purposes in the world.

Through our work, God invites us to participate in his redemptive plan for all of creation and to contribute to the flourishing of individuals and communities. When God's people recognize that their work matters and that it is meaningful to God and others, amazing things begin to happen!

Lord's work by using his creative skills and abilities through business. His work is a gift from God and an opportunity for him to join in God's mission in the world.

Our commitment to Faith+Work helps people see their work as 'vocation' or calling. Whole-life discipleship allows us to engage all of God's people in fresh and exciting ways, leading to a better understanding of the transformational power of work. Our workplace isn't just a platform for evangelism where we can share our faith, but rather, our good work is a witness to a good God.

CBM'S FAITH+WORK FRAMEWORK

1. Formation: Partners, churches and individuals will grow in their understanding of marketplace theology and practice the integration of faith and work in their daily lives. Churches will equip the whole people of God for their work in God's mission.

2. Creation: In a spirit of mutuality, we will partner with diverse groups of people and organizations to increase the witness of God's mission in, to, and through the marketplace, through collaborative means inviting people to join in God's ongoing work of creating healthy and whole communities and cities.

3. Mobilization: We will form global networks of women and men who have a Kingdom vision and are passionate about integrating their faith with their work for the transformation of communities, while expanding the witness of local churches beyond their 4 walls.

Our family returned to Canada during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. We thought we would be home for just a few months until the restrictions were lifted, and we could return to Capiz Province to continue our work. What we saw as a temporary return to New Brunswick, God saw differently. A door was opened for us to move into a new scope of service where I am now able to help give leadership to all of CBM's Faith+Work engagement around the world. Now I am collaborating and assisting CBM's staff and partners in discovering how our work in the world connects with God's mission of redemption.

We invite you to connect with us and join us as we explore the points of intersection between daily work and our Christian faith. Let's reject the idea that work is simply a means to an end or something to endure. Together, we can embark on a journey of discovering how our work in the world connects with God's divine work of redemption.