

BE A BRINGER

“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....” John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....” I Samuel 12:23a

Luther & Martha Smith
Missionaries to Papua New Guinea
Please Contact Them at lnsmith@smiths2png.com



Handout: 10/22/17
Study: 10/29/17



How To Advance Your Career

In my search for career advancement, I took a job with the Air Force in Oklahoma. Raised in Ohio and living in Chicago at the time, the move to the oil patch came with a great deal of culture shock. While all people have many things in common, the Oklahoma mindset took some getting used to. For example, about half the vehicles in any parking lot were pick-up trucks. This often led me to very tight quarters for parking. I would have to squeeze out of my car, trying not bump the truck next to me for fear that a gun-toting Okie might open fire before I could make it safely into the store. (I exaggerate only slightly.) Another example of the differences: one of my neighbors in the apartment building had a live wolf as a pet. Not a small, hybrid dog/wolf, a real wolf with fangs and attitude. He brought it over to show me, complete with a heavy chain around the dog’s neck.

Learning the new job had some challenges. Several of my co-workers worried that all of the new trainees from our hiring class were going to be competitors for future promotions. This led them to be less than hospitable. The negotiations at the heart of the job were also difficult because the Government now owned the rights to the drawings for these particular aircraft parts. The large Defense contractors were not eager to give price breaks when they were the only ones legally permitted to produce and sell the parts.

Finally, I came to the end of myself and cried out to the Lord. I prayed that God would take over my career and show me the right way to go.

This was a watershed moment in my life. From that time on, God took over the controls of my career. Within a few months, a friend told me about an opportunity in Chicago with the Navy. I didn’t have to change fields, but went from difficult negotiations with large companies, to administering research contracts and grants with Universities. The position I took in Chicago had even more promotion potential than the one in Oklahoma. Plus, I was within easy driving distance of my parents. This allowed me to buzz home for an occasional weekend visit, increasingly precious as my Dad’s health deteriorated.

As you “Commit your works to the Lord, and your thoughts will be established” (Proverbs 16:3), work becomes easier. There are still challenges and periods of difficulty, but overall, the intense struggle subsides. The last 30 years of my career were much easier than the first 5. All I had to do was commit the whole thing to God and let Him lead me. Try Him and see if He is indeed good.

By David L. Winters

KEY VERSE

Proverbs 16:3

*“Commit your works to the Lord,
And your thoughts will be established. . .” NKJV*

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: Proverbs 16:3

Introduction

1. What are some things in your life that you have committed or would like to commit to the Lord?
2. Have you committed your work to the Lord? If so, what are some practical ways that you have yielded to His plan for your work life?

Tuesday: Proverbs 29:18

Set Goals

3. Do you have written goals related to your work? If you will, share one or two of them.
4. In what ways have you bought into the vision or plan at your workplace?
5. How does a lack of vision feed into lawlessness at work and beyond?

Wednesday: Proverbs 10:9; Proverbs 21:6

Work With Integrity

6. What are some ways that employees walk in integrity at work?
7. What are the rewards of walking in integrity versus giving into shortcuts at work?

Thursday: Proverbs 15:14; 18:15

Don't Stop Growing

8. What steps have you taken to increase your knowledge of your job or chosen field?
9. How is acquiring knowledge a sign of prudence (exercising good care/ judgment)?
10. If you were to stop growing, what impact would that have on your career and life in general?

Friday: Psalm 127:1; Psalm 37:3-6; 1 Chronicles 4:10

Acknowledge God and Delight in Him

11. What are some ways in which you have seen God building and protecting your life and career?
12. How can you partner with God in building and advancing your career?
13. If things aren't going well, what are some ways you can still delight in the Lord?