

## FACT SHEET for *Worklife Ignite!*

### Father-Son Retreat: September 17-19, 2010

A weekend encounter serving as a springboard for on-going communication between fathers and middle-school sons,<sup>1</sup> with the goal of bringing extraordinary meaning to the next generation's work.

A joint event by Worldview Matters<sup>®2</sup>, Stronger Families<sup>3</sup>, and Lighthouse Institute<sup>4</sup>

The following is a description of the rationale, objectives and benefits of the *Worklife Ignite!* retreat to be held September 17-19, 2010, at Lake Retreat Camp and Conference Grounds, 35 miles from Seattle.

#### Did You Know?

A survey done by the Princeton Research Center revealed there is no significant difference between churched and unchurchd people with respect to their ethics and values on the job.<sup>5</sup>

Other surveys have shown that "90 to 97 percent of Christians have never heard a sermon relating biblical principles to their work life."<sup>6</sup> This may explain why the condition mentioned above is a reality.

The American unemployment rate is at 9.3%. There is considerable pain in the work world today, as many workers have been laid off, and the number of repossessed homes has skyrocketed. This difficult situation was precipitated in large part by business practices that placed a higher value on profits than ethics. It is the opinion of Worldview Matters<sup>®</sup> that the business world is in dire need of renovation through participants who have a strong commitment to biblical principles.

*Business is the engine that pulls the train on which all other institutions ride, including the institution of the family, the church, and civil government, all of which are dependent upon income from outside sources, either in the form of wages, donations or taxes. If businesses fail, these other institutions are in a very hard place, economically speaking. They are all dependent upon funds generated largely through businesses.*

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<sup>1</sup> A similar retreat for fathers and daughters is expected to be held in the Spring of 2011.

<sup>2</sup> [www.worldviewmatters.com](http://www.worldviewmatters.com), Christian Overman, Director

<sup>3</sup> [www.strongerfamilies.org](http://www.strongerfamilies.org), Jeff Kemp, Chief Advocate

<sup>4</sup> [www.lighthouseinstitute.us](http://www.lighthouseinstitute.us), Tim Rhoades, Director

<sup>5</sup> Survey conducted for *The Wall Street Journal* by the Gallup Organization, with findings published by The Princeton Religion Research Center. [Cited in *Faith @ Work*, by Os Hillman, p. 29.]

<sup>6</sup> Doug Sherman, author of *Your Work Matters To God*, quoted in *Faith @ Work*, by Os Hillman, p. 30.

## Reasons for the Retreat:

1. The *Worklife Ignite!* retreat directly addresses the following root problems:

- a) Followers of Christ tend to see church-related Christian service work (pastor, missionary, evangelist) as having eternal value, while other kinds of work are not *really* important to God.
- b) Christians often view business, profit, politics, media, legal work and the arts as “worldly” endeavors, and fail to see how this work can truly be “godly.”
- c) Followers of Christ are generally unskilled in making significant connections between the biblical worldview and their daily actions in the workplace because they have erroneously divided life into so-called “sacred” and “secular” compartments—with a wide gap between.
- d) Christians tend to think of “good works” as feeding the hungry and helping the homeless, but not writing good software or building safe airplanes.
- e) A biblical theology of work, which has led to a productive spirit of entrepreneurialism in times past, is no longer taught in American schools and churches. Educators and pastors are either disinterested, or do not know how to go about restoring it.
- f) Christian parents spend little or no time helping their sons and daughters to comprehend a biblical approach to labor that can bring genuine meaning to their work—both in the home and school right now, and in the community in the future.

2. *Worklife Ignite!* indirectly addresses the following social consequences of the above:

- a) American business, politics, media, law and the arts function with little regard for God or the Bible, which has led to moral failures and unethical practices such as those that precipitated the Great Recession of 2008, with the high unemployment and severe pain that followed.
- b) Many Americans have lost the ability to bring true meaning to their daily work, and to see the higher value of work beyond a paycheck. 52 percent of Americans say they are dissatisfied with their jobs.
- c) People who see themselves as victims of circumstances rather than as co-workers with God, and creators of opportunities, sometimes turn to the government for welfare rather than to entrepreneurial, self-starting solutions.
- d) Business has developed a bad reputation at a time when strong, sustainable, ethical, and profitable business is greatly needed for the benefit of family, church, society and government.

## **Value Proposition:**

The *Worklife Ignite!* retreat addresses the problems listed above by focusing on bringing meaning to the work of the next generation through the application of a biblical worldview to all kinds of work—at home, at school, and in the community, both now and in the future.

Fathers and sons are presented with interactive teaching sessions taught by Dr. Christian Overman,<sup>7</sup> Founding Director of Worldview Matters®, [www.worldviewmatters.com](http://www.worldviewmatters.com), and a special presentation by guest speaker Jeff Kemp, Chief Advocate of Stronger Families ([www.strongerfamilies.org](http://www.strongerfamilies.org)), former NFL quarterback. These teaching sessions are directed to the middle-schoolers, but done in such a manner that fathers are engaged at the same time.

Between teaching sessions, participants take part in challenging outdoor, trust-building and team-building “experiential exercises” designed by Tim Rhoades, Director of Lighthouse Institute ([www.lighthouseinstitute.us](http://www.lighthouseinstitute.us)) for the purpose of reinforcing understanding of key ideas taught by Dr. Overman, strengthening father-son bonding, and facilitating on-going, open communication following the retreat.

The retreat provides inspirational motivation for each father and son to continue engaging in conversation about work long after the retreat is over, using a book-and-DVD curriculum, called, “More Than A Paycheck.” This curriculum, written by Dr. Overman, deepens the understanding of concepts introduced at the retreat, and provides an on-going opportunity for continuing one-on-one discussions between fathers and their middle-school sons as they read portions of the text together, discuss what is read and watch DVD clips provided with the text. This can easily be done in 20-30 minutes per week, with fathers and sons progressing at their own pace. One of the main goals of the retreat is that each father will participate in this vital on-going activity at home. Each father and son will receive the “More Than A Paycheck” curriculum as part of the retreat fee. For a detailed description of the content of the “More Than A Paycheck” curriculum, see [http://www.biblicalworldview.com/course\\_content.html](http://www.biblicalworldview.com/course_content.html)

## **Short-term and Long-term Benefits:**

### **1. Short-term benefits:**

- a) Following the retreat, fathers will spend 20-30 minutes per week, one-on-one, communicating with their middle-school sons over a period of weeks or months about a very critical part of life: their work in the present and future, as a means of expressing living faith and fulfilling God’s First Commission of Genesis 1:26.

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<sup>7</sup> Dr. Christian Overman holds a D. Min. degree from Bakke Graduate University, a M. Ed. from Seattle Pacific University, and two B.A. degrees from the University of Washington. He is the author of *Assumptions That Affect Our Lives*, *God’s Pleasure At Work*, and *The Difference One Life Can Make*. He has spoken on the topic of biblical worldview across North America, as well as in Central America, Europe, Africa and Asia. He has been married to his wife, Kathy, since 1970, and they have four adult children and ten grandchildren.

b) Positive interaction between fathers and sons will be reinforced, which has been shown to have substantial benefits in social development and success in school.

c) Both fathers and sons will come away from the retreat and the post-retreat curriculum with a clear awareness of God's purpose for work, and an understanding of how they can actively co-labor with God in any legitimate field of endeavor as "the Lord's work."

d) Teens will not wait for work opportunities to "come their way," but rather will create work opportunities for themselves from current and immediate needs surrounding them. Each teen will be able to start work immediately following the retreat. Guaranteed. (Although it may not be for pay.)

2. Long-term objectives, after millions of American teens and their fathers have been captivated by a compelling vision for God-centered work:

a) Reduced American welfare roles.

b) Reduced unemployment.

c) Increased job satisfaction.

d) Higher standards of ethics in business.

e) Decreased high-school dropout rate.

f) Strengthened families.

g) Renewed awareness of the purposes of God in work, and how His will can be accomplished through ordinary people in ordinary places doing extraordinary things.

h) Increased numbers of people coming to Christ through the living examples of followers of Christ in the workplace who are able to relate to their co-workers and their work in ways that truly honor God and live out His life in the workplace.

### **Why Fathers?**

1. With respect to the positive effects of active fathers in the lives of their children:

a) Much research has been done in recent years in connection with the positive and negative effects of fathers being involved or uninvolved in the lives of their children.

The research shows that children of *uninvolved* fathers, even in two-parent homes, experience higher rates of teen violence, delinquency, and other problems with the law, are more likely to drink and use drugs, and are less likely to succeed in school<sup>8</sup>

b) Children who grow up with fathers who don't live with them yet stay very *involved* in their life, tend to get higher grades than those without involved fathers, have better social skills, make friends more easily and handle difficult social situations better, and have fewer behavioral problems.<sup>9</sup>

c) Research by the National Center for Fathering shows that fathering satisfaction reaches its lowest level for fathers of teens. They also report: *"While the desire to be a father may be innate, what a responsible father does is learned. And widespread generational father absence requires many fathers to be trained in what a responsible father does. Yet it takes far less financial resources to train and support fathers than to train and employ professionals to take their place."*<sup>10</sup>

d) The California Family Council reports that fathers who are more involved with their children tend to raise children who experience more success in their career.<sup>11</sup>

In the spring of 2011, Worldview Matters® expects to host a father-daughter retreat with the same basic content and objectives.

If you have further questions, contact Christian Overman at [overman@worldviewmatters.com](mailto:overman@worldviewmatters.com), or call 877-624-0230.



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<sup>8</sup> California Family Council, [www.californiafamilycouncil.org](http://www.californiafamilycouncil.org), and National Father Initiative, [www.fatherhood.org](http://www.fatherhood.org).

<sup>9</sup> Evans, Garret, D. Fogarty, Kate. "The Hidden Benefits of Being an Involved Father." [http://www.education.com/reference/article/Ref\\_Hidden\\_Benefits/](http://www.education.com/reference/article/Ref_Hidden_Benefits/)

<sup>10</sup> The National Center for Fathering, [www.fathers.com](http://www.fathers.com).

<sup>11</sup> California Family Council, [www.californiafamilycouncil.org](http://www.californiafamilycouncil.org).