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Editors' Notes

Stuart Love
slope@pepperdine.edu

D'Esta Love
dlove@pepperdine.edu

Jim Street

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Editors' Notes

D'ESTA LOVE AND STUART LOVE

In the year 2003, our first issue of *Leaven* was on the topic of "Vocation." Articles were devoted to the development of a theological understanding of this vital theme with the purpose of enriching the church as individuals who discerned and answered the call of God for their lives. One of the writers for that issue was Jim Street, who wrote on the importance of vocation for the community of faith by addressing in practical ways the interaction of vocation, gifts, and talents. Due to the excellence of his article and his abiding interest in the intersection of everyday work with Christian faith, your editors asked Dr. Street to guest edit a companion volume to the "Vocation" issue titled "Faith and Work." We are pleased to see Dr. Street's editorial efforts come to fruition through the work of the group of excellent writers he assembled: below, he describes the issue and its authors.

Dr. Street has a rich career that includes experience in the corporate world, writing, and teaching at Emmanuel School of Religion in Johnson City, Tennessee. He serves currently as minister of the North River Community Church in Lawrenceville, Georgia. This issue illustrates once more the rich reservoir of talent available to us when we tap into the wholeness of the Stone-Campbell heritage.

We commend as well the liturgical reading by Lee Magness and a number of book reviews. Our next issue, edited by Tom Olbricht, will focus on the Holy Spirit. Our final issue for 2004 will be on the Pastoral Letters, the topic of the Pepperdine Lectures for this year. Continue to remember *Leaven* in your prayers.

Work is one of the most significant facets of life. Many, if not most of us, spend more time working than anything else. We express ourselves through our work. We provide for our families through our work. We even find clues to the questions of identity and purpose in our work. We expend a large portion of our energy, time, and resources in our work.

Because work is one of the most significant facets of life, one would assume the issue would be frequently addressed in the churches. One would think that we would expend as much energy on work as we do our children, youth, and family programs. However, we find very few ministries specifically directed toward the questions of faith and work in the local church.

This issue of *Leaven* is devoted to bringing the discussion of faith and work to the forefront. We invited academics, ministers, and other Christians, who work in both private and public settings, to take up the issue of faith and work.

Frank Shirvinski, an aerospace engineer and former executive who now is associate minister of the Chapparral Christian Church, explores the creation narrative for clues as to the nature and purposes of work and how that plays out in the modern corporate setting. **Dr. Thomas Robinson**, senior minister of the Manhattan Church of Christ in New York City, surveys the New Testament to help us gain a better understanding of work in the various strata of first-century society as well as how the image of work informed the words of the New Testament writers. **Dr. Philip Kenneson**, who gives himself to exploring the relationship between Christian faith and culture at Milligan College, helps us to understand the cultural, political, and

economic assumptions that underlie work and challenges us to think not only in terms of how to be better witnesses in the workplace but also how to uncover the power of work in terms of the ways it shapes our lives.

Following Dr. Kenneson's article, we do turn toward the question of how to be a stronger Christian presence in the workplace. In my article, I reflect upon the workplace as an environment that constrains Christian witness and turn to I Peter for guidance on how to be a person of faith in the corporate environment. **Dean Collins**, who founded the Christian Campus Fellowship at Auburn University and a Christian counseling center in Atlanta before entering the corporate world, explores how his personal sense of ministry was fulfilled when he left the formal ministry to enter the corporate setting on a full-time basis. **John and Emma Morris** offer advice to young Christians entering the business world. Based upon their extensive experience in the corporate setting, they provide several suggestions that young Christians would do well to consider as they move from the college setting into the corporate setting.

California State Senator **Jack Scott** addresses the question of whether a Christian can be a politician. A senator in the California Legislature, Senator Scott speaks to the issue of Christian influence in public settings. **Morris Yates**, who spent more than 30 years in both public schools and colleges as a teacher and administrator, explores his journey to better integrate his faith with his profession in his work with young people.

Our hope is that this issue of *Leaven* will find its way off the bookshelf and into the hands of people who want to better understand the relationship between faith and work. For that reason, we have provided a personal and/or small-group resource guide at the end of this issue.

We believe this issue of *Leaven* can contribute to ministry to those who work in private and public settings both in terms of assessing the underlying assumptions of work and in terms of being a stronger Christian presence in one of the most important mission fields today.

We hope you find it helpful.

JIM STREET, PH.D.