

# REPORT ON CHRISTIAN NUCLEAR FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

June 2017 Meeting of the American Nuclear Society, San Francisco, CA



The Christian Nuclear Fellowship (CNF) was privileged to conduct two events at the June 2017 Annual Meeting of the American Nuclear Society in San Francisco, a Monday evening discussion group and a Wednesday morning prayer breakfast. The following is a summary of some of the highlights.

**Roundtable Discussion Group** - Monday evening a group of Christian colleagues gathered in Board Room B of the Hyatt Regency Hotel for a lively and stimulating discussion, based on a recent talk by Tim Keller on the relationship between faith and our daily work. According to Keller, most Christians who work in so-called secular occupations look at their daily work as a necessary evil, as something they do just to earn a living, whereas they view their “religious” work in or for the church or some Christian “ministry” as *sacred*. However, Keller contends that since God calls His people to a variety of different occupations, no calling is more sacred than another. Rather, all God-given callings are equally sacred, and Christians should pursue their work, whatever their occupation, with that awareness. He goes on to suggest that one reason most Christians have such an un-biblical view of daily work is because their pastors, like himself, received no training at seminary on how to encourage and celebrate people in various occupations whom God has called to work, as His agents and for His glory, in the world He created.

Keller also pointed out that in the rare instances where pastors and churches do provide such encouragement, church members experience more genuine joy and satisfaction in their daily work, rather than discouragement, boredom and fatigue, which regrettably characterize the experience of so many people, even Christians. An interesting feature of our discussion was sharing personal experiences concerning some ways our pastors and/or churches have actively encouraged us to develop a biblical theology of work, or an understanding of how our Christian faith is related to our calling to serve as professionals in nuclear science and technology. Some of us reported that we have indeed been blessed to have pastors who have provided such encouragement, others had not been so blessed. Attendees were urged to actively encourage their pastors and churches to provide more teaching on this important topic, which directly affects the daily lives of a majority of people in the pew. The stimulating discussion was a prelude to the CNF Prayer Breakfast, where our speaker elaborated further on this same theme.



**The CNF Prayer Breakfast (“Power Breakfast”)** – Our speaker at the CNF prayer breakfast was Dr. Arnold Lumsdaine from ORNL. He spoke on the topic, “Engineering as a calling...whatever!” Arnie presented a scriptural basis for the topic we had discussed Monday evening, taking as his starting point the definition of “vocation” (a calling) and referring to several scripture passages that speak to the topic. Especially significant, in this reviewer’s opinion, is the quote from Col 3:23-24 – “Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.” (ESV)

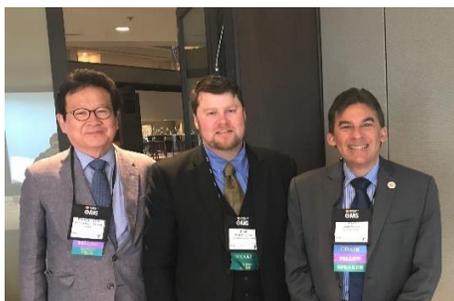
Arnie also pointed out that God himself works, as we see for example in Genesis 2:1-5, where the word *work* is used four times to describe God’s activity in creation. He also pointed out that even before the Fall, God instructed Adam to work in the garden, which

makes it quite clear that work itself is not a result of the curse, but is meant to be an exalted and fulfilling activity for all men and women, whom God desires to use as His agents to meet the needs of the world He created. Of course, because we now live in this fallen world, as Tim Keller writes, “Work will be *both* frustrating and fulfilling, and sometimes—just often enough—human work gives us a glimpse of the beauty and genius that might have been the routine characteristic of all our work, and what, by the grace of God, it will be again in the new heavens and new earth.” Finally, Arnie also recommended three excellent books that deal with this topic: (1) Every Good Endeavor by Tim Keller; (2) The Call by Os Guinness; and (3) The Fabric of This World by Lee Hardy. In summary, both the Monday discussion group and the Wednesday morning prayer breakfast reminded us once again of our God-given calling to perform our daily work as nuclear professionals wholeheartedly and joyfully for the glory of our God and Savior.

Dr. Blair Bromley from the Canadian Nuclear Society led us in prayer to close of the prayer breakfast. One of the prayers he offered, which speaks poignantly to the topics we discussed at the CNF events, and, also to what the CNF is about at its core, is printed here.

*“Dear God in Heaven, unite the hearts of thy servants, and reveal to them thy great purposes. May they follow thy commandments and abide in thy law. Help them, O God, in thy endeavor, and grant them strength to serve thee. O God, leave them not to themselves, but guide their steps by the light of thy knowledge, and cheer their hearts by thy love. Verily, thou art their healer and their Lord. Amen.”*

Many thanks to all who participated in the CNF events at the San Francisco conference, and a special thank you to our prayer breakfast speaker, Dr. Arnold Lumsdaine and to Dr. Blair Bromley, who led the group in prayer. Some photos taken during the ANS/CNF conference are shown below. It was a special delight to have Professor Poong Seong from South Korea with us once again, as well as Dr. Jose Reyes, who was the General Chair of this San Francisco ANS conference. It was also a delight to connect with Dr. Alan Waltar (past President of the ANS) and Dr. Nolan Hertel of Georgia Tech both of whom, unfortunately, had to leave San Francisco before the CNF events.



Poong Seong, Blair Bromley and Jose Reyes



Alan Waltar



Vic Uotinen with Nolan Hertel



Jose Reyes and Vic Uotinen



Attendees at the CNF Prayer Breakfast in SF

We look forward to gathering once again during the 2017 Winter Meeting of the ANS this fall in Washington, DC. More details to come later. We hope many of our colleagues will plan to join us at that time.

The CNF Advisory Committee members are: Alan Waltar, Nolan Hertel, Howard Shaffer, Carl Mazzola, Robert Wilson, Robert Hayes, Charles Rombough, Andrea Pepper, Jim Hardeman, Bonnie Rumble, Arnold Lumsdaine, Robert Addis, Herbert Massie, Ben Cross and Vic Uotinen (Director). For more information about the CNF visit <http://www.usnuclearenergy.org/cnf/About.htm>