



# Laity Connections®

A PUBLICATION OF LAITY LODGE PROGRAMS AND THE H. E. BUTT FOUNDATION

## The High Calling of Our Daily Work®

By Dave Williamson, Director of Laity Lodge  
dwilliamson@laitylodge.org

**T**hank God It's Friday, or Thank God It's Monday? Necessary Evil, or Divine Gift?

### WORK

You will spend over 100,000 hours of your life working. This is more than anything else you'll do except sleep. What is the meaning or purpose of our working? Do we work because we have to, or because it is a "High Calling"?

Flying the friendly skies at 37,000 feet as I write this, I start wondering about the plane and the "high calling" of daily work. At 37,000 feet, I sure hope the pilot thinks of his or her work as a "high calling." I want that pilot to think highly of the safety of the folks flying. Is it a "calling"? Is it holy work?

What about the flight attendants? They, too, have considerable responsibility for the safety, enjoyment, and sense of well-being of the passengers in this airborne community. Is this



in people traveling safely. Is God also interested in their enjoyment, satisfaction, return on investment, etc.?

Looking around the plane at my fellow passengers, I wonder which ones have a high calling in their daily work, a call from God to do what they do well, a call to love God through serving others. Guessing occupations (from my stereotyped impressions), I see someone who I assume is a pastor or Christian educator—reading religious

executive, an attorney, a young soldier, a rancher, and a musician. Do any of them have a high calling? Is their work from God, and does it have anything to do with God's purposes?

You could ask the same question of the young mother with two small children in the row in front of me, the grandparent near the bulkhead, the retirees headed off for a vacation, or the college student headed home. Though none of them work for pay, do they have a high calling? Maybe theirs is the most important, the most sacred, the highest calling.

Just what makes work sacred? What is a high calling?

For some, the work we do five or six days a week is the means, the necessary evil, we must endure to enjoy one or two days of leisure, and "to put food on the table," we say. Do you ever work obsessively or feel like a slave to your work? Or, are you able to

### Do we work because we have to, or because it is a "High Calling"?

also holy work, God's work? Does God care about the enjoyment and comfort of airline passengers? What about the critical workers on the ground—from mechanics to staff, ticket agents, and baggage handlers? Do they have a high calling? Does God have a purpose, and are God's purposes satisfied or limited by what they do and how they do it? Certainly God is interested

material and writing notes. Certainly he has a high calling. We usually affirm that this is the highest calling, but that's a gross misunderstanding of "calling."

Another passenger has a laptop open with a screen full of mathematical material. She is an engineer of some sort, I assume. Does she have as high a calling? I notice a business

## The High Calling of our Daily Work

Continued from page 1

take time off for rest and renewal that enables you to put your energies back into the other five or six days? Do you say TGIF (Thank God It's Friday) or, TGIM (Thank God It's Monday)? Does God ordain and call us to our work?

The word "call" comes from *vocare*. We get the word vocation (a "call" or "summons") from it. Biblically it is used primarily for our being "called" to live in Christ, in relationship with God through Jesus. We belong to Christ, and our work is to believe, to glorify and enjoy God. It is our "high calling," our highest calling. Our daily work, whatever that is, is also a high calling. It is to be directed toward fulfilling God's purposes.

### WORK COMES FROM GOD

Work was God's loving idea from the beginning, in and through creation. After reporting the creation of male and female on the sixth day, the writer of Genesis quotes God as saying, ". . . your descendants will live over the earth and bring it under their control. I am putting you in charge of the fish, the birds, and all the wild animals. . . . Then the Lord God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to cultivate and guard it" (Gen. 1:28, 2:15).

The first glimpse we have of the human person in Scripture shows

someone working as a farmer and manager of the rest of creation—joyously, purposefully tilling the ground and exercising respectful stewardship over all the earth.

The Bible portrays work as part of God's very nature. "If God is the worker," Elton Trueblood wrote (*Your Other Vocation*), ". . . then men and women,

**Work is not, primarily, a thing one does to live, but the thing one lives to do. It is, or it should be, the full expression of the worker's faculties.**

Dorothy Sayers (1893–1957)

*English Novelist, essayist, dramatist, and poet*

in order to fulfill their potentialities, must be workers, too. They are sharing in creation when they develop a farm, paint a picture, build a home, or polish a floor." We are exercising our dignity as creatures made in God's likeness when we work. Our work is the dual task of continuing God's creative process and taking good care of what God has entrusted to us.

There is hardly a human occupation that does not in some way involve being a coworker, a cocreator with God. We are sharing in God's work. We are expressing God's image in our work.

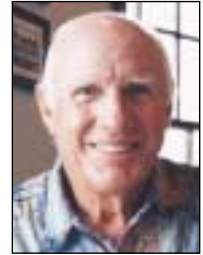
### WORK IS TO BE DIRECTED TO THE WELL-BEING OF SOCIETY

Our destiny as "made in the image of God" includes participation in God's work of developing, maintaining, and enhancing community. Our work is to benefit the civil society in which we live and work. In addition, we're called to be creative. What is the creative

Continued on page 4

## New Chairman Appointed to Resource Development Council

Foundation president, Howard E. Butt, Jr., recently announced that long-time Resource Development Council (RDC) member and supporter, Rollins S. Rubsamen,



will chair the Council for 2005. Rubsamen is a retired investment executive who has served on the RDC since its inception in 1989. He previously served as Chairman in the early 1990s. Announcing Rubsamen's appointment, Howard Butt commented, "He has a great deal to offer our Council in the areas of leadership, spiritual maturity, and most of all, enthusiasm for Laity Lodge programs."

Rollins is an active member of Christ Episcopal Church where he has served on the vestry and numerous committees. Prior to joining Christ Church, he was involved in the leadership of St. Mark's Episcopal Church. Rollins has been active on a number of community boards including service as chairman of the special gifts division of the United Way. He has also given support to the Uganda Children's Charitable Foundation for the past ten years.

An avid fisherman and golfer, Rollins and his wife, Bitsy, have two children and four grandchildren, two of whom spent many summers in Laity Lodge Youth Camp, both as campers and as work crew members. Rollins and Bitsy have been attending Laity Lodge retreats for over 30 years.

"We look forward to the energy he will bring to the RDC and to all that we will accomplish under his guidance," concluded Butt.



# Some Thoughts from Howard E. Butt, Jr. . . .

## The Divinely Ordained FedEx Man

**W**hen we hear someone talk about an ordinary person's "calling," we may feel inclined to put real life aside for a few interesting minutes of religious irrelevance. Ministers and priests and missionaries have callings, and maybe even folks like doctors and social workers whose jobs directly entail good works, but me . . . I'm a FedEx man, a systems analyst, a full-time mom, a bail bondsman, a hair colorist . . . and what in the world does "calling" have to do with me? Do any of the people who talk about such things have any clue what actually goes on at a workplace?

I suppose if you are a FedEx

of God in your life). No, you have a calling because 1) God is sovereign over creation—whether we realize it or not, God's in control—and 2) for the benefit of everyone, God sustains and unfolds his creation, in part, through you.

Performing the job you do today may have been the last thing on your mind as you grew up. Perhaps you "lucked into" the job, happened into it, or simply took what you could get. It all occurred "accidentally." Ninety-nine-point-nine percent of the people in the world have this experience—and keep on having it as they change jobs through the course of their lives and careers.



delivery man or have a similarly secular job, no coworkers are going to gather around you, place their hands on your head and shoulders, and pray that you will carry out your calling by God's grace . . . as clergy do when a new minister's calling is recognized through ordination.

Yet, you are a divinely ordained FedEx man, teacher, sanitation worker, mechanic, product jobber—you have a calling and a vocation every bit as real as a minister or doctor or missionary. If you are a person of faith, you are God's man or woman wherever you are.

And not because your position gives you a chance to witness or perform some other recognizably religious task (although if you are a Christian you can't help witnessing to the effect

Yet to people of faith, "luck," "coincidence," or "accident" are screwy ways to think. When we think that unbiblical way, our God is far too small. He's not big enough to run the world, and He's not big enough to care about everybody in it all at once.

For the God revealed in Christ both

**If you are a person of faith, you are God's man or woman wherever you are.**

rules over creation and sustains creation. You are part of his plan in both aspects. He's both controlling your life and using your life. This remains the elemental truth about the way the

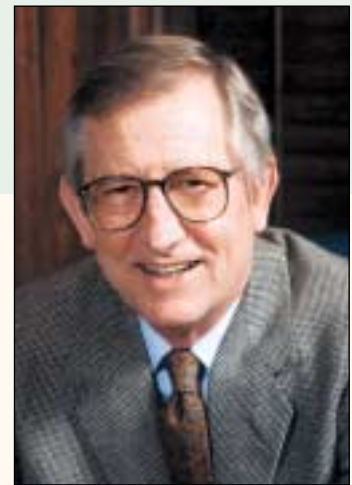


PHOTO BY PARISH PHOTOGRAPHY

world works, despite how things appear on the surface.

The combination of circumstances that brought you to your current work may make it hard to feel plugged in to these "big-picture" theological statements, even when you believe in them. So it helps me to re-envision "calling" in two down-to-earth ways. These involve no mystical voices, no mountain-top experiences.

God made you with certain abilities. Perhaps God gave you two strong hands and a healthy body and the eyesight and good sense necessary to work in a lawn and gardening service. That's a vocation. But, you say, it's not much of one.

Actually, it's the first job God gave anyone. God gave it to Adam in the Garden of Eden, and God did so before sin entered the world. Being a gardener was the first position anyone ever had! God created Adam to know God and to love God partly through work—tilling the ground. The job had a "sweat of the brow" element added to it only after evil came through Adam and Eve's first sin, but the job itself predated evil. God meant for people to work from the beginning. This God-implanted need to work is everyone's primary calling. Job titles are so secondary as to be incidental. It's as simple as this: Being human entails a drive to work; therefore, you are called. It's the way you were made.

But, you may protest, a gardener

*Continued on page 8*

# One Foot in the Joy

By Suzanne C. Goodsell

Let's go on a treasure hunt  
To usher in the year.  
Let's find the jewels we've stored away  
And learn to keep them near.

There are clues to help us dig them out,  
Your smiles can shine some light  
On remembering forgotten joy  
That's hidden out of sight.

Joy's buried under busy-ness,  
Are you surprised to know?  
It's pushed beneath our day's routine,  
We've muffled out its glow.

No matter what our circumstance,  
There's magic every day,  
When walking through a shadow,  
Joy sustains along the way.

Its presence is a blessing,  
If we always keep it near,  
And seek it in small places,  
Then tuck it into tears.

Joy won't erase life's tragedy  
Or make hurt go away,  
But nor does shadow cancel joy,  
If you've invited it to stay.

So what joy lies deep within you?  
What's twinkling in your soul?  
God longs for you to seek it out,  
Release its grace-filled flow.

You felt joy in a sunrise.  
You sensed it during prayer.  
It sparkled in a child's eye,  
Its imprint everywhere.

Now we spring into the future,  
And enter—2005,  
Pay attention to those moments,  
That keep your heart alive.

We join hands and travel forward,  
Though life's trials seek to destroy,  
But freedom comes from walking,  
With one foot in the joy.

Laity Lodge  
12/31/04

## The High Calling of Our Daily Work

Continued from page 2

element of your work? What is the common benefit of your work? "The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's hunger meet," Frederick Buechner wrote.

In the biblical understanding of work (for all of life for that matter), there is no separation between that which is sacred or secular. The sacred-secular distinction comes from Plato and Greek dualism. The Bible knows nothing of that distinction. All work is sacred since God created and uses that work to sustain God's creation and participate in God's purposes.

### WORK IS A PRIMARY WAY IN WHICH WE HONOR AND WORSHIP GOD

*Avodah* is a Hebrew word that means both worship and work. Paul encourages the Colossians, "And whatever you do, . . . do it all in the name of Jesus giving thanks to God . . . whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord" (Col. 3:17, 23). It is a high calling!

Perhaps the most powerful expression of our giving thanks to God comes through the celebration of the Lord's Supper. Here we see bread and wine on the



Bryan Hazel, Foundation Staff

Lord's table. These elements, the products of many hands and minds, come to the table, are blessed by God, and become for us the body and blood of our Lord. When in that process did worship begin or cease? "Here is the perfect symbol of the unity of work and worship," wrote Alan Richardson, "the strange unbreakable link that exists between the bread that is won in the sweat of man's face and the bread of life."

Passing a construction site, a pedestrian asked three bricklayers what they were doing. The first said that he was earning a living to feed and clothe his family. The second said, "I'm throwing these bricks together to build a wall." The third responded, "I



PHOTO BY ARRINGTON PHOTOGRAPHY

am helping to build a cathedral for the glory and worship of God." What a difference your perspective makes in giving meaning to your work!

What is your work? Is it a High Calling? You bet it is, every creative and caring and beneficial aspect of it. May we work hard and well and enjoy it more each day. Then we will be able to say, "Thank God it's Monday—and Friday—and Sunday!"

# A Company? No, More Like a Kingdom

By Al Hsu

**“W**hatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men” Colossians 3:23.

What does that mean? The original audience for that phrase was first-century slaves, though many of today’s cubicle workers may feel like slaves. But what does it mean to do my daily work for God?

Some people have told me to think of Jesus as my supervisor and God as my company’s CEO—and do my work to please them. Nice ideas but, for what-



craftsmen, and merchants. Some till the land. Others heal the sick. Some educate and raise the young. Some herald the king’s news. Every role is significant if a kingdom is to function effectively and the king is to rule justly. No kingdom runs by itself.

So instead of thinking of Jesus as CEO of my modern-day company, it

that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and the Master you are serving is Christ.”

So Christ is the King of the land, the Master—but not just any kind of master. Verse 24 uses the word inheritance. What kind of worker receives an inheritance from his employer? Only one kind: a child—the company owner’s son or daughter.

And that changes everything. I’m not just a worker or employee. I’m a potential heir—and not of my earthly company; in some eternal sense, I am a son who stands to inherit my Father’s work. I may be a lowly serf, but I am also a prince, which means that when I do my work, I should do it well. After all, my Father is counting on me.

---

Al Hsu is an editor at InterVarsity Press. He is the author of *Grieving a Suicide* and *Singles at the Crossroads*. He lives in the Chicago suburbs with his wife and son.

This article was used with his permission and reprinted from *TheHighCalling.org* website.

---

**Every role is significant if a kingdom is to function effectively and the king is to rule justly.**

ever reason, not helpful. Though my supervisor and CEO are both Christians, I rarely think that working for them is like working for Jesus. In fact, I have a hard time imagining Jesus as a corporate executive.

On the other hand, I often think about what it means that Jesus is King. He declared that the Kingdom of God is at hand. As Christians, we are the King’s servants. And as in medieval days, every king needs kingdom workers. Some are knights who protect the subjects. Others are artisans,

helps to imagine myself as a medieval serf at work in a particular corner of the king’s realm. I get a better sense of how my daily job might serve my king. I am entrusted with certain work and deployed as a kingdom servant. My labor helps my king bring peace and justice to the land.

And there’s more. Often we read Colossians 3:23 on its own and miss the very next verse: “. . . since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward.” The NLT version phrases it: “Remember

## 2004 Free Camp Statistics

- Over 20,000 campers used the Free Camps.
- Construction at Singing Hills of two new sleeping cabins was completed in May, along with new landscaping and infrastructure.
- Echo Valley received new roofs on cabins A through N.
- Thirteen groups that work with at-risk kids were sponsored.



© 2004 KEVIN D. GOURLEY

# Construction Update



## Echo Valley Campers Are in for a Real Treat

The sounds of hammers and saws ring out in Echo Valley as four new boys' cabins are going up—thanks to a generous contribution from a Houston family. The construction project follows the successful building of one new boys' cabin that was inaugurated summer 2004.

LLYC and Free Camp staff members have already witnessed a number of tangible benefits to our campers as a result of this project. The new cabins provide more personal space, which contributes to a healthier camp experience and increases the duration and quality of “cabin time.” Other observed values include less disciplinary issues and competition, and greater cabinmate camaraderie. The greatest advancement observed by staff is the increased spiritual growth and the enhanced relationships among the campers, which reflects our ultimate goal with any construction project or capital improvement in the Frio Canyon.

In addition to the new cabins, two of the original cabins are being renovated, and improvements in the landscaping and lighting are being made. If you would like information about how you can help with this portion of the Echo Valley Renewal Project, please contact Perri Rosheger, Director of Development, at (830) 792-1204 or [prosheger@hebuttdn.org](mailto:prosheger@hebuttdn.org).



## The Quiet “Outdoor” House

*Oh that I had in the wilderness a lodging place of wayfaring men.*

Jeremiah 9:2

A new covered pavilion overlooking a breathtaking panoramic view of the Frio Canyon has been erected just outside the Quiet House, also known as the Wayfarers' Cottage. This project was made possible as a result of an anonymous contribution from a Quiet House guest. The donor felt strongly that a fund was needed to help maintain and improve a facility that has been of great value to hundreds of individuals since the Quiet House was dedicated in 1978. Her hope is that others who have benefitted from one or more of these contemplative retreats will follow with additional contributions.

An outdoor multipurpose table will be added to the pavilion along with indigenous plant life to offer additional shade. The remaining funds and any new contributions to the fund will be used to help maintain the Quiet House as needs arise.



# TheHighCalling.org Website

## MISSION

TheHighCalling.org seeks to connect people with the faith that undergirds and sustains all that we do. That's why it is the high calling of our daily work®. Daily work embraces all aspects and activities of daily life—including home, community, leisure, as well as occupation.

**D**o you ever wonder how your Christian faith connects or informs your everyday situations? Or are you looking for depth in your faith journey? Try TheHighCalling.org. It's a website dedicated to helping people find deeper meaning in their everyday lives. We strive continually to help people see the connections between their faith and the everyday.

From the spiritual encouragements of Howard Butt's one-minute radio spots to the Daily Devotions by Eugene Peterson, the website is loaded with reflections and Bible studies of people seeking to find deeper meaning in their lives. Outstanding Bible teachers and thoughtful writings by members of the Chrysostom Society, among others, inspire, motivate, and educate.

You can receive a short daily devo-

tion by Eugene Peterson delivered to you by email. Just sign up for it on the website, and each day, a different devotion comes your way.

Save your favorite radio spots, devotions, Bible studies, personal reflection stories, and more—all in one place. We call it *My HighCalling*. This is a place where you can store all your favorites and refer to them often.

tains book recommendations that can be viewed—and saved—along with relevant links to other helpful websites. All these benefits are free of charge. Just register as a member (this is done to protect your privacy) and begin saving.

We are continually working to make TheHighCalling.org easy to use, plus provide beneficial material to help you



This is the place you can build a reservoir of spiritual insights that are personally meaningful. There is also a spot to do some journaling right there at *My HighCalling*. The library also con-

in your daily journey. There is a "Contact Us" form on the site, and we welcome your suggestions for improvements or your comments. It is the high calling of our daily work.

## ORDER FORM



### *Who Can You Trust?* by Howard E. Butt, Jr.

Special hardcover edition only available through Laity Lodge Bookstore – Discounted 20% through this offer.

**Method of Payment:**  VISA/MasterCard  Check Please make check payable to **LAITY RENEWAL FOUNDATION** and mail to 719 Earl Garrett, Kerrville, TX 78028

VISA/MasterCard #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send book(s) to: (please print)

Name(s): Mr. \_\_\_ Mrs. \_\_\_ Ms. \_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Subtotal *Who Can You Trust?* \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$15.99 (20% discount) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Texas Residents add 8.25% tax (\$1.32 each book) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping & handling

\$3.99 first book, \$1.49 each additional book \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Hardcover edition only available through the Foundation.*

**Order online at [www.hebuttdfn.org](http://www.hebuttdfn.org).**

*Bookstores carry the paperback.*



# Giving “Outside of the Box”

By Perri Rosheger, Director of Development  
email: prosheger@hebuttdn.org

**J**anuary is a traditional time for us to take inventory of our life and to make resolutions about areas in which we hope to improve or make a difference. Reading more, serving more, and giving more are often at the top of my list, but I seem to fall short in these areas each year. Sometimes it takes thinking “outside of the box” to make a bigger dent. Marcus P. Rogers, a member of the Foundation Resource Development Council, served to inspire me in a recent interview when he explained a simple step he and his wife, Lucy, took to make a big difference to the future of Laity Lodge Programs. I hope you, too, will appreciate what he shared with me in this Question & Answer session.

**Q: Marcus, how did you and Lucy become involved with Laity Lodge Programs?**

**A:** My first retreat at Laity Lodge was in the fall of 1976. From that time on, there has been a special closeness to God when I’m there. Over the years, my boys attended camp, and I saw amazing growth in their spiritual lives because of it. While teaching wood carving there, I’ve met some of my



closest friends. I have found that while on retreat from my busy work schedule, I take more time to listen to God speaking to me. Lucy and I have had the opportunity to hear world-famous Christian speakers, inspirational music, and enjoy the most beautiful spot on the Frio River!

**Q: What is the motivating factor in your sharing of your financial resources with us?**

**A:** At Laity Lodge, the central message is that all Christians are lay ministers. Hope, joy, and love through Jesus Christ are ours to share with our coworkers, our friends, and our family.

Lucy and I feel led to join the Foundation to ensure the future of this important ministry.



**Q: What step did you and Lucy take to make future provisions for Laity Renewal Foundation?**

**A:** Lucy and I have made giving to the ministries of Laity Lodge part of our regular tithe. One way to maximize what we can give in order to leave a legacy after we are gone is to take a little each year and give it to Laity Renewal Foundation to pay the premium for a life insurance policy on my life that we assigned to Laity Lodge. In my case, it was a new policy, but it could just as easily be an existing one. The annual premium is tax deductible

as is the gift of the policy itself, if it has a surrender value. And, of course, none of the proceeds will be part of my assets included for Federal Estate Tax. This is a very simple way to be sure that when I am gone, insurance proceeds will replace funds no longer going to Laity Renewal Foundation from our regular giving. In that way, we can leave a legacy about what was important to us.

---

Marcus Rogers is a practicing attorney who lives in San Antonio with his wife, Lucy, and their five children. He attended Baylor University where he received his B.B.A. and J.D. degrees. He worked for a number of years for Frost Bank Trust Department and today handles estate planning matters including wills, trusts, and probate. He enjoys carving wooden birds and is a frequent instructor at Laity Lodge.

---

Some Thoughts . . .

*Continued from page 3*

makes something useful and beautiful; a farmer supplies food. These callings may be humble, but they at least have visible effects. Lots of us are caught like proverbial rats in our cages, running fast to nowhere on these little wheels. How can I connect with this second idea of God sustaining the world through my efforts?

Industrialization and now the service-economy have brought into being many jobs in which it’s difficult to feel connected to an end-product or final result. But our faith should help us see beyond what our hands and eyes alone tell us.

For example, the assembly-person who snaps the video card into computer hardware is indispensable to the product produced, although he may never even see the fully-assembled computer. He’s likewise indispensable to the enjoyment received by the family buying the computer to play video games. He’s also indispensable to the comfort those family members know by placing an internet video call to their son, who has become PFC Davis, a soldier braving death on a far-flung battlefield.

God works God’s will through an immense interrelated series of such causes and effects—far beyond our capacity to grasp. Real Christian faith not only means assent to a way of thinking about God and Christ’s forgiveness for our sins, but placing the consequences of our work—whatever we do—into God’s hands. Faith, the “evidence of things unseen,” assures us that as we give our job—however big or small it is—our best for His glory, God uses both the work and us.

We’re not all in full-time Christian vocations. But we’re all called. I’m the FedEx man. People’s lives and work depend on my deliveries. To honor God, I serve those people well. The Christian faith promises that whatever you do, God’s ordaining hand is upon you.

# In Praise of Grunt Work

By Robert Darden

A great storm mercilessly lashes a small island. The clouds pass, and a father and his son walk down to the beach where the sea's surge has washed tens of thousands of starfish onto the beach, all dying in the sun. The little boy frantically begins throwing them back into the sea, and the man puts a gentle hand on the boy's heaving shoulders.

"Son, there are too many. You can't make any difference."

The boy pauses to consider a starfish in his hand.

"It makes a difference to this one," he says.

And he tosses it back into the sea.

The unsinkable *Titanic* breaks apart and a thousand souls perish because

of a six-foot gash. The small bolts securing the massive steel plates are inferior material carelessly welded. On impact with the iceberg, they sheer off.

The mighty *Challenger*, America's first shuttle disaster, hurled to the earth in flame because of defects in its small rubber O-rings.

"For want of a nail the shoe is lost, for want of a shoe, the horse is lost, for want of a horse, a rider is lost," George Herbert wrote.

When we think we're too good, too busy, too proud, too important, too valuable for the small jobs, then it is the small job that will eventually cause our undoing.

Jesus focused on children, lilies, sparrows, the wounded, the weak, the

lame. He heralded the woman giving the widow's mite, not the rich and powerful magistrate.

Mother Teresa once said, "We cannot do great things on this earth. We can only do small things with great love." Jesus never ranged more than a few dozen miles from his humble place of birth.

So what is grunt work? Nothing less than the business of heaven.

"For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them . . ." Rom. 12:4-6a.

---

Robert Darden is assistant professor of English at Baylor University and author of two dozen books, including *Corporate Giants: Personal Stories of Faith and Finance*. His latest book published is *People Get Ready: A New History of Black Gospel Music* (Continuum). He has served as senior editor of *The Door Magazine*, the world's oldest and largest (and probably only) religious humor and satire magazine. Robert and his wife, Mary, have three children.

Reprinted with permission from *TheHighCalling.org* website and the author.

## Quick Takes

Howard Butt wants to thank everyone who took the time to visit with him at one of his area book signings for his newest book, *Who Can You Trust?* At the Dove's Nest in Kerrville, he enjoyed a moment with Greg Shrader, editor and publisher of the *Kerrville Daily Times*. Bookstores are selling the paperback version, and the Laity Lodge Bookstore has hardcover copies for sale. The book studies the trust-versus-mistrust dilemma. The author shares in the introduction of the book, "Wisdom reveals when to trust and when to pull back. Its discernment can clear our minds and guide us through the difficult decisions of daily trust. When we learn how to effectively use this gift from God, the trust-versus-mistrust balancing act becomes more focused and easier to comprehend. . . . Who can you trust? It's a question worth exploring."



# Laity Lodge Retreats ~ Summer 2005

Unless otherwise indicated, retreats listed begin at 7:00 p.m. with dinner and conclude at noon on the last day of the retreat. A nonrefundable \$100 deposit is required and will be returned if space is not available in that particular retreat. All meals, programs, and sleeping accommodations are included. Please call the Laity Lodge office at 830-792-1230 to check on room availability. All rooms are double occupancy. Credit cards are now being accepted by mail or phone. We do not accept credit cards by email for retreats at this time. Emails are not secure.

**May 27-30** (Friday-Monday)

## Memorial Day Singles' Retreat

*The Art of Remembering:  
Meditations on Time and Space*

**Michael Bruner**, Professor of English and Religion, Azusa Pacific University, Azusa, CA

**Olga Samples Davis**, Author, educator, literary and performing artist, retreat leader, San Antonio, TX

**Joseph Martin**, Songwriter, pianist, Austin, TX

\$270 Lodge/\$345 Black Bluff

**June 9-12** (Thursday-Sunday)

## Summer Women's Retreat

*21st Century Christianity in America*

**Phyllis Tickle**, Author, Contributing Editor, Publishers Weekly, Millington, TN

**Letha Crouch**, Pianist, San Antonio, TX

**Katie Horn**, Graduate student in voice, Baylor University, Waco, TX

\$345 Lodge/\$420 Black Bluff

PHOTO BY ARRINGTON PHOTOGRAPHY



**June 13-18** (Monday-Saturday)

## Creativity Retreat

*What Comes First - Hebrews 12:1-2*

**David Redding**, Senior Pastor Emeritus, Liberty Presbyterian Church, Delaware, OH

**Jeannette Cliff George**, Actress, author, playwright, Bible teacher, national speaker, Houston, TX

**Charles Webb**, Dean Emeritus, Indiana University School of Music, pianist, Bloomington, IN

**Russell Newport**, Vocalist, Springfield, MO

**Marcus Rogers** - bird carving

**Rob Grimes** - pottery

**Johnny Jones** - bird carving

**B. J. Albers-Grant** - calligraphy

**Jim Morris** - jewelry making

**Henry Parish** - tennis

\$575 Lodge/\$700 Black Bluff

**June 23-26** (Thursday-Sunday)

## Show Time:

**New!** *Faith in the Everyday*

**Tod Bolsinger**, Author, Senior Pastor, San Clemente Presbyterian Church, San Clemente, CA

**Jackie Halstead**, Asst. Professor, Marriage and Family Therapy, Abilene Christian University, Abilene, TX

**Ashley Cleveland**, Vocalist, recording artist, Nashville, TN

**Kenny Greenberg**, Instrumentalist, lyricist, producer, Nashville, TN

**Henry Parish** - tennis

\$345 Lodge/\$420 Black Bluff

**June 27-July 1** (Monday-Friday)

## Fresh Call to Scripture and Creativity

**New!**

**George Cladis**, Senior Pastor, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Oklahoma City, OK

**Mary Landon Darden**, Doctoral Candidate and Research Assistant, Baylor University, Waco, TX

**Ashley Cleveland**, Vocalist, recording artist, Nashville, TN

**Kenny Greenberg**, Instrumentalist, lyricist, producer, Nashville, TN

**Meg Lowry** - drawing

**Jay Nash** - flute making

**Bob Darden** - rhythms

**Henry Parish** - tennis

\$460 Lodge/\$560 Black Bluff

**July 7-10** (Thursday-Sunday)

## Couples' Retreat

*Growing Together in Friendship, Work, and Love*

**Dale and Kathy Bruner**, Celebrating 45 years of marriage, Pasadena, CA

**Michael Harbert and Laura Robinson Harbert**, Celebrating nearly two years of marriage, Pacific Grove, CA

**Scott and Christine Dente**,

Out of the Grey, recording artists, Franklin, TN

\$345 Lodge/\$420 Black Bluff

## RETREAT REGISTRATION FORM

Registration for Laity Lodge retreat to be held \_\_\_\_\_ (give dates).

Please enclose deposit (\$100 per person). Deposit applies to the total cost and is nonrefundable.

Lodge Room

Black Bluff

Name(s): Mr. \_\_\_ Mrs. \_\_\_ Ms. \_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ List first and last name(s)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ City

\_\_\_\_\_ State

\_\_\_\_\_ Zip

Special needs: \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime phone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ Roommate preference (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

**Method of Payment:**  Check  VISA/MasterCard Please make check payable to **LAITY LODGE** and mail to **P. O. Box 290670, Kerrville, TX 78029-0670**

VISA/MasterCard #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**July 11-15** (Monday–Friday)

### Exploring the Scriptures I *Studies in the Gospels*

**Dale Bruner**, Professor Emeritus of Religion, Whitworth College, Spokane, WA, now residing in Pasadena, CA

**Laura Robinson Harbert**, Clinical Psychologist, Pacific Grove, CA

**Donald Ryan**, Concert pianist, Tulsa, OK  
**Henry Parish** - tennis

*\$460 Lodge/\$560 Black Bluff*

**July 21-24** (Thursday–Sunday)

### Leaders' Retreat I *Servant Leadership*

**Roger Paynter**, Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church, Austin, TX

**Ken Jennings**, Author, Director, Bethel University School of Executive Leadership, St. Paul, MN

**John Stahl-Wert**, Author, President, Pittsburgh Leadership Foundation, Pittsburgh, PA

**David Tolley**, Composer and pianist, Los Angeles, CA

*\$345 Lodge/\$420 Black Bluff*

**July 28-31** (Thursday–Sunday)

### Leaders' Retreat II *Fuel for the Journey*

**Jim Singleton**, Senior Pastor, Covenant Presbyterian Church, Austin, TX

**Jeanne Heffernan**, Assistant Professor, Department of Humanities, Villanova University, Villanova, PA

**David Tolley**, Composer and pianist, Los Angeles, CA

*\$345 Lodge/\$420 Black Bluff*

**August 3-7** (Wednesday–Sunday)

### Exploring the Scriptures II *This Is the Life—1 Thessalonians*

**J. I. Packer**, Professor of Systematic and Historical Theology, Regent College, Vancouver, B.C.

**David Tolley**, Composer and pianist, Los Angeles, CA

**Stanley Irwin**, Professor of Voice and Director of University Choirs, DePauw University, Greencastle, IN

*\$460 Lodge/\$560 Black Bluff*

**September 2-5** (Friday–Monday)

### Labor Day Singles' Retreat *Flying Lessons: Steps to Christian Maturity*

**Kyle Matthews**, Singer, songwriter, Dove Award winner, Nashville, TN

**Don Murdock**, Executive Director, Laity Lodge, Kerrville, TX

*\$270 Lodge/\$345 Black Bluff*

## Retreat Reflections

by Carol Murdock



**Hebrews 12:15 -**

**“See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God.”**

- God has given me this assignment: lifestyle generosity.
- Lifestyle generosity is a discipline; I must train myself for this.
- As I practice generosity, it will become natural.
- I cannot command generosity; it must emerge out of my inner self.
- The practice of generosity leads to a harvest of joy for me.
- I am to give according to my means and beyond.
- I'm much bigger on the inside than I am on the outside.
- One of the most generous things I can do is live with integrity.
- Keeping my word is a generous act, as is encouraging others.
- Is there anyone to whom I may show kindness today on behalf of my God?
- The act of generosity is God's way of getting me ready for His great love.
- What will the last verdict on my life be?
- Abundant life comes by showing generosity to others.
- Small things applied in faith grow exponentially.
- Tiny acts of generosity have the power to produce bountiful harvests.
- I must have self-discipline to develop a generosity lifestyle.
- The test of generosity is to live Jesus outwardly in the world.

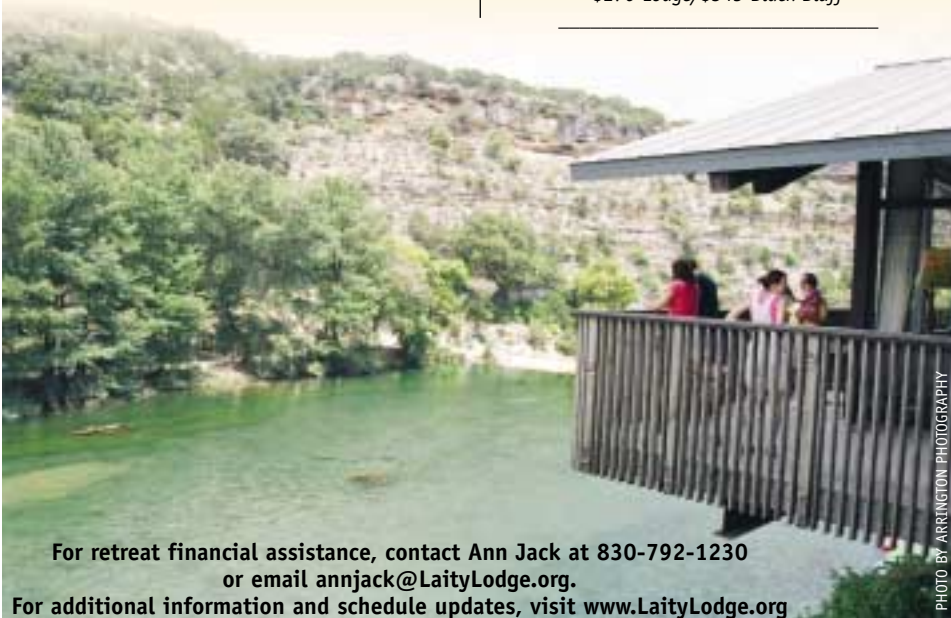


PHOTO BY ARRINGTON PHOTOGRAPHY

For retreat financial assistance, contact Ann Jack at 830-792-1230 or email [annjack@LaityLodge.org](mailto:annjack@LaityLodge.org).  
For additional information and schedule updates, visit [www.LaityLodge.org](http://www.LaityLodge.org)

## LAITY LODGE PROGRAMS

- Laity Renewal Foundation
- Laity Lodge
- Laity Lodge Youth Camp
- Foundation Free Camps

## H. E. BUTT FOUNDATION

All programs are conducted on the H. E. Butt Foundation property.

The H. E. Butt Foundation is a private operating foundation established in 1933 by Howard and Mary Holdsworth Butt.

[www.hebuttdfn.org](http://www.hebuttdfn.org)

### VISION

So that God may be glorified and the nations come to faith . . . our vision is to equip believers in Jesus Christ to practice servant leadership as modeled by the Holy Trinity to renew ourselves, families, institutions, and society.

Laity Lodge . . . . . 830-792-1242  
Laity Lodge Youth Camp . . . . . 830-792-1220  
Foundation Free Camps . . . . . 830-792-1210  
Development . . . . . 830-792-1206  
Communications . . . . . 830-792-1234

## PROGRAM MISSION STATEMENTS

**LAITY LODGE®**, a Christian retreat center, is dedicated to our common quest to know Christ and what that means in the ordinary secular relationships of our lives. It is a place where people are free to explore choices leading to growth in creativity, effectiveness, and servant leadership.

**LAITY LODGE YOUTH CAMP** is a coed, interdenominational Christian youth camp focusing on spontaneity, fun, and relationships to show kids the best two weeks of their lives, while sharing with them the Gospel message and love of Jesus Christ. LLYC is dedicated to providing campers with healthy fun in an emotionally safe learning environment.

**FOUNDATION FREE CAMPS** provide free camping facilities for qualified church and community-service groups. The program especially targets children and youth groups in Texas communities who would not otherwise be able to afford such an experience. The goal is to provide a place conducive to healthy Christian character development.

**www.TheHighCalling.org** serves to connect people in the ordinary circumstances of life with the faith that undergirds and sustains all that we do.

FOR THIS AND PREVIOUS ISSUES OF *CONNECTIONS*, VISIT

[www.hebuttdfn.org](http://www.hebuttdfn.org)



© Laity Renewal Foundation

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U. S. Postage  
**P A I D**  
Permit No. 116  
Kerrville, TX

Winter 2005

LAITY LODGE PROGRAMS  
H. E. BUTT FOUNDATION  
Post Office Box 290670  
Kerrville, TX 78029-0670

Return Service Requested



The renewal of society through the renewal of the Church  
Church renewal through renewal of the family  
Family renewal through renewed individuals