



CHRISTIANS IN REAL ESTATE

“...encouraging the practice of Christian values in our business relationships.”

Issue No. 10 Newsletter

Spring Edition

In this issue, CIRE welcomes Scott Makuakane, Esq. who shares his views on how to protect your assets and Wayne Cordeiro, pastor of New Hope Christian Fellowship, who tells of living our faith in the workplace.

FUNDAMENTALS OF ASSET PROTECTION PLANNING

By Scott Makuakane, Esq.

In our litigious society, it is hard to identify a person who could not benefit from asset protection planning. In particular, however, any business owner, any real estate owner, anyone with a substantial estate, and any professional subject to malpractice claims should investigate asset protection planning.

In general, asset protection planning involves organizing one's property in such a way as to make it as difficult as possible for a creditor to acquire the property in satisfaction of a judgment. No technique is 100% bulletproof, but the use of certain techniques can encourage reasonable settlements, even when complete protection is not possible. Among the techniques in the asset protection planner's arsenal are limited partnerships, limited liability companies, tenancy by the entirety, trusts and offshore entities. The ethical goal of asset protection planning is to encourage fair settlement of claims, and not allow a person elude valid claims.

If a lawsuit is pending, transferring property to protect it from a successful lawsuit will not be effective. This is because of the legal rules regarding “fraudulent conveyances.” Essentially, a fraudulent conveyance is any transfer which is intended to interfere with the ability of a particular creditor to collect on any successful lawsuit, or makes the person transferring away property insolvent. In either case, a court may allow a creditor to get at the transferred property in order to satisfy a claim. Thus, the best time to do asset protection planning is when there are no problems on the horizon.

(Attorney Scott Makuakane is the principal of Est8Planning Counsel LLC, a law firm which focuses its practice on estate planning and administration, asset protection planning, and Medicaid planning. Scott can be reached at 587-8227, or you can visit his website at www.est8planning.com.)



We are often asked what our purpose or mission is. Simply put, CIRE believes that our faith is a 24/7 proposition, not only on Sundays in church, and that the workplace is one arena where we can exercise our faith. Consequently, CIRE's mission is to encourage the practice of Christian values in business by providing a venue where people can gather with others to share the faith. Christ is a part of our working lives, just as He is in our personal lives.

HE LIVES...

**FOR US, TO SHAPE,
TO RESTORE, AND TO PROSPER
US, SO THAT WE CAN HAVE LIFE
IN ABUNDANCE!**

**Please join us
as we share the wonder
of His ways!**

DATE: April 9, 2009

**PLACE: Hale Koa Hotel
Waikiki Ballroom**

**TIME: 11:15 am (CHECK-IN)
11:30 am (STARTS)
1:30 pm (PAD)**

COST: \$28.00

For Reservations:

**Email:
cirehawaii@hawaii.rr.com**

SHARING:

**† Scott Makuakane,
Esq.**

**† Na Leo Pilimehana
Hawaii's One & Only
An Encore Performance**

**YOU ARE INVITED TO TAKE TIME
FROM YOUR BUSINESS
SCHEDULE TO SPEND TIME WITH
THE LORD AT THIS EVENT.**

FAITH AT WORK

By Pastor Wayne Cordeiro

Faith at Work Will Be Seen Through:

1. A SPIRIT OF EXCELLENCE

"Oh Lord our Lord, how excellent is your name in all the earth!" (Psalm 8:9). This means that since God created us in His image, we need to develop that same spirit of excellence because we're fashioned in His image.

New knowledge enters the workplace every year at a rate of 20 percent. That means that in your field, almost one of every five facts has to be updated and we have to be learning at least 20 percent every year just to stay even.

My heart is to grasp, learn and understand more, and to prove something about myself each day.

Two items that are critically important in having a credible faith at work are *character* and *competence*.

Competence is the spirit of excellence with which we do all the things we do. Character is found in Psalm 78:72, which reads, *"[David] cared for them with a true heart and led them with skillful hands"* (TLB).

"True heart" and *"skillful hands"* are two things that work in tandem. If you are going to be someone whose faith is at work in the marketplace, you will need both competence and character to give you forward mobility.

The first main gear in engaging our faith at work and in the marketplace is a spirit of excellence in all that we do. That will require both competence and character. It will require staying on the cutting edge of our field – learning and improving daily.

2. A LIVING TESTIMONY

A "living testimony" means that you're alive and moving around in the community and in your workplace. They will see your faith *through* you.

May we do what we say we'll do, so that people in the marketplace will say that we deal faithfully. May we have a living testimony! It is so critically important to be able to live your faith, because you are setting up a platform upon which you will be able to later speak into their lives.

Without saying a thing about God, you must *live* everything that you believe.

"Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction: the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers."

Galatians 6:7-10

It's easy to leave tracks; it's tough to leave a *living* testimony.

"Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven" (Matt. 5:16).

The reason we let our light shine is that others will see your *"good works,"* which is our excellence and your testimony, and *"glorify your Father in heaven."*

3. STEWARDING YOUR BLESSINGS

God is going to give you a lot of things in life – skills, talents, contacts, maybe even a promotion and some authority. The issue becomes this: How will you *steward* these blessings? Will you use them for yourself or will you wisely use them for the Kingdom?

"For promotion and power come from nowhere on earth, but only from God. He promotes one and deposes another" (Ps. 75:6 TLB).

Our faith in the workplace starts with a spirit of excellence – this is the force that attracts other people to Jesus. So be the best you can be because excellence honors God. Next, be a living testimony – live a life of integrity and honesty, and love people until they ask why. And finally, steward His blessings in a way that introduces people to God.

Now that is *"Faith at Work"*!

CIRE SEEKS WEBMASTER

CIRE is looking for a webmaster to handle its website. If you know of anyone, please forward your suggestions/recommendations to cirehawaii@hawaii.rr.com. CIRE's website is www.christiansinrealestate.org.

LOST YOU?

CIRE's address book crashed and we may have lost you. If you know someone who did not receive this newsletter, but received previous issues, please ask him/her to email his/her email address to cirehawaii@hawaii.rr.com.