WHAT’S THE WAY FORWARD?

New resources, organizations, leaders and models are emerging to fill the gap of knowledge and relationships that exist in this key area of life.

Imagine a world where...

- Churches equip people to align their work with God’s purposes in the world.
- Older generations vocationally disciple younger generations.
- Money no longer dominates our decisions about work.
- Fulfillment at work is the norm, not the exception.

THE CENTER FOR FAITH & WORK

The Center for Faith & Work at LeTourneau University equips Christians to take their faith to work and fulfill their calling as Christ’s ambassadors in every workplace and every nation.

In the Workplace
Live workshops and online resources inspire and arm Christians with wisdom and confidence to live out their faith at work.

In Churches
Proven tools help pastors equip and disciple Christians to their workplace mission field and extend God’s kingdom influence.

On Campus
Exceptional co-curricular programs help students define their calling and develop a vision for serving Christ in their work.

WHAT’S THE OPPORTUNITY?

People of all backgrounds are hungering for meaning and purpose. Today’s rapidly changing workplace brings opportunities to rediscover and redefine the role work plays in our lives.

- 75% of adults are looking for ways to live a more meaningful life (Barna Frames, Multicareering).
- The most frequently mentioned work challenge relates to dealing with people (31%) (LeTourneau University, 2011).
- 56% want to make a difference in the world (Barna Frames, Multicareering).
- 46% are afraid of making the wrong career choice.
- 25% have clear goals for where they want to be in 5 years.
- 20% have a sense of what God wants them to do with their life.

The State of Faith & Work

We are entering a vocational renaissance. Technological innovation and generational transition are transforming the way we work. Over the last five years, Barna Group and the Center for Faith & Work at LeTourneau University have tracked these changes and compiled research to better understand how people think about faith and work, and to what degree churches and faith leaders are equipping people to integrate faith and work.
HOW DO CHRISTIANS VIEW WORK?

Christians have largely digested cultural messages that working is about making money. Additionally, college is seen as the primary pipeline for a successful job or career, and prospective students are pivoting their interests to be competitive for tomorrow's workforce.

34% of employed Christians have never thought about their work as something they were called to (Barna Frames, Multicareering).

When asked, "What is the purpose of having a job or career?" the top response is "to make money or earn income" (80%) (ABHE, 2015).

Only one-third (30%) of churched adults* can clearly see how the work they are doing is serving God or a higher purpose. Over two-thirds lack clarity on how their work connects with God's purposes (LeTourneau University, 2014).

Nearly all (93%) pastors say that helping people integrate faith into daily work is "very important" (LeTourneau University, 2011).

ARE CHURCHES PREPARED?

Although some churches, faith leaders and Christian organizations excel at providing vocational discipleship and support, on average most churches and leaders are underequipped.

HOW ARE MILLENNIALS BRINGING CHANGE?

Millennials have significantly shaken up the world of work. In reaction to uncertain economic stability and unpredictable corporate structures, they have re-prioritized flexibility, innovation and value alignment in their work lives.

36% of Millennials (36%) strongly believe that even the most mundane things they do every day have eternal significance, regardless of whether this is at work, school, church or home (IFWE, 2015).

Christian Millennials

Over one-third of Millennials (31%) feel called to their current work (Barna Frames, Multicareering).

During the last year, fewer than one in five (18%) of churches publicly dedicated or commissioned their members to serve God in the places where they work (LeTourneau University, 2014).

In all, 86% of pastors have preached a sermon within the last year that focused on what the Bible says about God’s view of work, and specifically on how one’s faith should impact one’s work (LeTourneau University, 2014).

17% of churches offer some type of spiritual support such as prayer, small-group or Bible studies, or discipleship training on faith in the workplace (LeTourneau University, 2011).

However, there is good news! The distance between the pulpit and pew is narrowing.

Over one-third (36%) of senior Protestant pastors say within the past month they preached a sermon on what the Bible says about God’s view of work.

An additional 36% say they have preached on work in the past six months.

Fewer than one in ten (8%) pastors say they provided prayer support for workplace issues (LeTourneau University, 2011).

Only a fraction (3%) of pastors reported visiting church members at work (LeTourneau University, 2011).

During the last year, only one-third (32%) of pastors feel they have a strong understanding of workplace issues. Two-thirds (68%) express room for improvement (LeTourneau University, 2011).