



#INFOR INTERVIEWS

LIVES TRANSFORMED BY THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL — IN THE LOWCOUNTRY, FOR THE LOWCOUNTRY

“It is not only prayer that gives God glory but work. Smiting on an anvil, saving a beam, whitewashing a wall, driving horses, sweeping, scouring, everything gives God glory if being in his grace you do it as your duty. To go to communion worthily gives God great glory, but a man with a dung fork in his hand, a woman with a slop pail, give him glory too. He is so great that all things give him glory if you mean they should.”

- Gerard Manley Hopkins

VISION FOR VOCATION

Our vocations are not merely what we say we do when asked. They are opportunities for continued and unceasing worship to the Lord for believers, both in and for their community.

VOCATION MATTERS TO GOD

We can see that God is a worker from the first pages of Genesis. As human begins, we are made in God’s image, and thus made to work. Before sin entered the world (the Fall) we see that God gave meaningful work for both Adam and Eve to do in the Garden of Eden (the cultural mandate in Genesis 1:28-31 & 2:15).

WORK HAS BEEN INFECTED & AFFECTED BY SIN

Work is hard, difficult, painful, broken, and mundane. But sin has not extinguished the inherent good of work and our call to work unto the Lord (1 Corinthians 10:31).

WE SPEND A LOT OF OUR EARTHLY DAYS AT WORK

We want our people to see that work is a primary place they engage and build culture, seek the welfare of the city, rub shoulders with those who would not identify themselves as Christians, and can be salt/light to the world. The majority of our waking hours are spent at the workplace. They are ample amounts of mission and stewardship opportunities.

VOCATION IS VALUABLE

Vocation is valuable not *just* for the relationships we build, the potential evangelism to be had, or the money we make to provide for our family and others. It is surely not less than that, but it is so much more! Work has *intrinsic* value, and one of the primary goals of these interviews is to help people see the value of their jobs.

Our prayer is that you would connect the dots and see how your work is a vital place for you to live out the purpose of your faith, bring a gospel presence before a watching world, participate in the mission of God, and love your neighbor.

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS | KEVIN YEUNG

QUESTION #1 | HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR WORK?

This question gives us all a glimpse into the daily life of the interviewee. It often builds common ground between the interviewee and others within our congregation, even if they don't work in the same field. For example, an engineer and an administrative assistant may have similar tasks as they work to bring order to a chaotic workplace.

In two sentences, please describe what you do:

My work as a chef is to be a leader and manager of the kitchen I run. On a day-to-day basis, I manage 12-14 employees and assign them various responsibilities. The cooking and creating are often the fun part of the job, but the real work is in building relationships with these people. If that part is solid, then the rest is easy.

QUESTION #2 | AS AN IMAGE-BEARER OF GOD, HOW DOES YOUR WORK REFLECT SOME ASPECT OF GOD'S WORK?

Our goal in asking this question is to ground the importance of work in the character and activity of God, and to frame our work as an act of "image-bearing." Therefore, we ask the interviewee to directly connect their work to some specific aspect of God's work (creating, restoring, healing, etc.)

It's easy for people to see the extrinsic value of work when it creates opportunities for social interactions, verbal witness, or direct service to people. However, we think it's vital that our congregation sees the *intrinsic* value of work, the reality that work is good because God is a good worker, and that He's created us to work. Even more, as believers, he's given us our work as a mission ground. We want to show the congregation that work is an opportunity to glorify God by reflecting His image. For example, teachers reflect the glory of God by giving knowledge. God is the ultimate teacher in that He reveals truth to His people.

In four sentences, please explain how your job reflects God:

The restaurant business can be a brutal environment to work in, given the stress level it creates every day. I try to reflect God through His compassion regarding the relationships I have with my colleagues, employees, and even the delivery drivers that bring us our products. I feel that the restaurant business is more than just food, beverage, and money. It should be regarded as a very human experience. Emotions run high and low all the time and we in the profession should take time to honor that.

QUESTION #3 | HOW DOES YOUR WORK GIVE YOU A UNIQUE VANTAGE POINT INTO THE BROKENNESS OF THE WORLD?

Our goal in asking this question is to give people a healthy dose of reality. We work in a fallen world, and each occupation will have its unique hardships. Each vocation comes with its own thorns and thistles — ethical dilemmas, strained relationships, physical pain, etc.

This question is important because many people subconsciously believe that their vocation should always be fun and fulfilling, often assuming that the presence of pain and struggle

invalidates the goodness of the work. We want to communicate that all lines of work face various struggles and complexities in a broken world.

In two sentences, please explain how you see brokenness in your job:

Brokenness is everywhere on this job. Often the stress level on this job can be so high that people resort to finding ways to destress and that can come in the form of alcohol, drugs, or other harmful vices if people aren't careful. Templers fly and can cause conflict. Others deal with depression. Demand is high in this industry, so if there is no balance in one's life at work, then I think that can lead to a road of brokenness.

QUESTION #4 | JESUS COMMANDS US TO “LOVE OUR NEIGHBORS AS OURSELVES.” HOW DOES YOUR WORK FUNCTION AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO LOVE AND SERVE OTHERS?

This question helps us broaden the application of Jesus' command to love our neighbors. Most people assume that the command to love our neighbor is mostly applied as an interpersonal act of kindness. However, we are trying to demonstrate that love can also be quite indirect and systemic. For example, electricians love their neighbors by providing spaces where light can enter a dark room and allow for a number of fruitful activities. Furthermore, by doing their work with caution and care, an electrician reduces the potential of someone being injured by electrical shock or fire. Electricians may never see the people that he/she serves, but their work contributes to the flourishing of both their neighbor and the community and functions as an act of love toward their neighbor.

C.H. Spurgeon said, “A Christian is either a missionary or an imposter.” We want our church to realize that wherever a Christian is placed, they are placed there for a purpose — not to glorify themselves and seek the status of their selfish ambition, but rather to see their life that's transformed by the gospel radiate with the light of Christ in their work — for the glory of God and the good of the community.

In four sentences, please explain how your job loves others and seeks the flourishing of the community.

I do my very best to show compassion as Christ has shown me. I listen with my heart. I work with a diverse group of people so I try to be as compassionate as I can. As a child of immigrant parents, I understand that we all have our differences in culture. So in many ways, my passion for food really opens up my heart and stomach, to what other cultures bring to the table. I get to learn about others through their cuisine and I also get to learn more about their culture. This gives me a whole new appreciation for others and their differences. This is one of the foundations for me to show Christ's love for others because of all my differences from God.