



## Minding the Gap - April 2014

### A Faith and Work Publication

Welcome to Minding the Gap, a monthly thought about faith in the workplace!

#### “Organizations As 'Agents' of Reconciliation”

Over the years I have been affiliated with an organization known as Seeing Things Whole (STW) [www.seeingthingswhole.org](http://www.seeingthingswhole.org). It is a very loose-knit, but effective group of primarily business people and academicians whose belief and mode of operation comes under the theme of: "God uses organizations as agents of reconciliation". So, have you ever thought of your place of work as an 'agent of reconciliation'? - I know I didn't. If not, what if you did? Could it be when, in John's gospel the writer says: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son"(John 3:16) that a part of the 'world' He gave His Son for was organizations?

One of the founders of STW made the following observation:

"But today, more than in the past, the fate or welfare of human life is powerfully affected by the institutions of society; in fact, the future is being largely shaped by these economic, political and social institutions of our culture; so that the role of institutions, the moral and social accountability of institutions, becomes perhaps the number one agenda in our historical enterprise." (Jitsuo Morikawa, theologian & writer).

Morikawa makes a very poignant and challenging point for we folk who work to integrate the teachings of Jesus into our daily lives. Could it be that as we go to our work sites, the Creator who 'walks beside us' ("And remember, I am with you always until the end of the age" Matthew 28:20) sees our organization as a **means** of giving people significance; as an **agent** to motivate persons to reach their full potential; as a **community** which brings about healing and hope for individuals; or **as team of co-workers** who demonstrate that they

care for each other beyond monetary gain? I have the strong conviction the answer is "YES".

Now, doesn't this make sense and seem strategic that our Creator can use organizations "as agents of reconciliation" because, after all, we do spend the better part of our waking lives with a free enterprise, educational, social service or faith organization. I have a colleague from STW who has made the statement "God loves Landry Cycle" (retail bike shops in Boston,MA), and has worked to implement God's values into their organization. And, It has indeed made a significant impact on the coworker and customer lives of that business.

So, as you enter into your place of work, may you know of God's **presence in** and **commitment to** your organization and you as 'agents of reconciliation' for His kingdom!

May the hope of the risen Christ be with you in the coming weeks!

-- Jim Grubs

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