

Westminster Chimes

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If you're a Christian, you should live those values in every part of your life, shouldn't you? You're not a Christian just at church and at home, but at work as well.

That message came home more strongly than ever this year to **Steve Bright**, president of Bright Plastics, after he joined an executive forum, The C12 Group, that has a strong Christian focus.

"The premise of C12 is that my company is my ministry," says Bright, an elder who also serves as treasurer at Westminster Presbyterian Church. "Everything I have — my home, my health, my family, my business — is a gift from God."

As Bright struggled to understand how to minister through his company, he was reminded of a group called Corporate Chaplains of America, which had called on him several years ago.

The non-profit, Wake Forest-based organization provides chaplains to businesses across the country.

Although many people associate workplace chaplains with hospitals or fire and police departments, CCA says chaplains also have been in American companies since the 1940s. The number has been growing since the 1990s, CCA says, with more than 5,000 workplace chaplains now serving hundreds of thousands of workers across America.

To Bright, the idea of hiring a workplace chaplain made perfect sense.



Bright Plastics Chaplain Helio Muñoz, left, talks with employees and is available to give confidential help.

"If you're going to use your company as your ministry, you need to have some way of ministering to employees," Bright notes.

So, in April, he and his partners made the commitment to hire a chaplain through CCA to serve the approximately 70 employees at their plastic injection molding

company. Bright Plastics makes items ranging from small parts for General Electric to garbage can lids for Toter, a Statesville company that manufactures the large municipal garbage containers that people cart to the curb each week.

Because his work force is 50 percent Hispanic, Bright requested a bilingual chaplain. His

request wasn't hard to meet. **Helio Muñoz**, a native of Costa Rica who came to America in 1993 and became a workplace chaplain in 2003, already was working as a chaplain for Lexington Home Brands in nearby Lexington and was happy to add Bright Plastics to his workload.

The hardest part for Bright was

