



DR. JAMES RUSSELL
PRACTICING KINGDOM
ECONOMICS

KEN WALKER
+ LEADERS WHO LEAVE THE
PULPIT TO MAXIMIZE IMPACT

WIL LAKE
+ HOW OUR CHURCH IS
HELPING BUSINESS

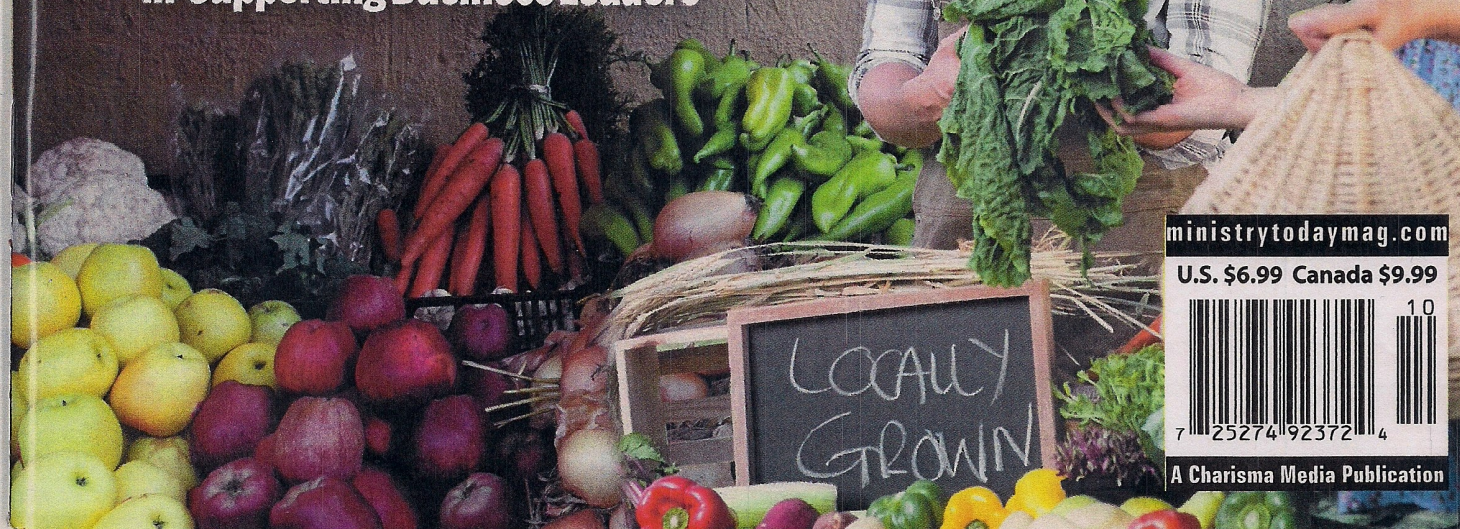
SEPTEMBER // OCTOBER 2015

MinistryToday[®]

EQUIPPING CHRISTIAN LEADERS TO GROW

Marketplace AND THE Church

Fulfilling the Church's Role
in Supporting Business Leaders



ministrytodaymag.com

U.S. \$6.99 Canada \$9.99



A Charisma Media Publication

Marketplace & the Church 18

The church has a key role to play in supporting business leaders—but many pastors don't realize it. Helen Mitchell, director of the Talbot Center for Faith, Work and Economics and co-founder of Saddleback@Work, employs her executive and pastoral experience to guide church leaders in their faith-at-work ministry.

FEATURES

26 | FINDING PURPOSE IN THE WORKADAY WORLD

Northern California church The Father's House is helping business leaders find their spiritual purpose in the marketplace.

By Wil Lake

38 | PRACTICING KINGDOM ECONOMICS

Putting kingdom principles into practice and honoring God in the marketplace yields an abundance of spiritual fruit.

By Dr. James R. Russell

46 | LEGACY LEADERS

Learn how God has led some pastors to leave the pulpit as their primary ministry in order to maximize their kingdom impact.

By Ken Walker

PLUS: Three leaders make a difference in the world.

58 | THE EMOTIONALLY HEALTHY LEADER

A New York City pastor and author sheds light on "emotionally healthy" planning and decision making.

By Peter Scazzero

62 | SECOND-CAREER CHURCH PLANTERS

Although a first career in business can be excellent preparation for planting a church, such a move requires a specific calling.

By Nelson Searcy

72 | DELIVERING CHURCH IN UNIQUE SETTINGS

North Star Community Church has chosen the novelty of a movie theater as "neutral ground" for reaching its community.

By John Velsor

C O N T E N T S

Vol. 33 // No. 5

September // October 2015



32 | GIVING AWAY THE STORE—FOR THE KINGDOM'S SAKE

Two brothers conscious of their kingdom purpose made the radical move to give 100 percent of their highly profitable company to a Christian organization.

By Taylor Berglund



DEPARTMENTS

MINISTRY LIFE

78 | SOCIAL MEDIA

Avoid picking fights with online troublemakers.

MINISTRY LEADERSHIP

80 | ADMINISTRATION

Consider the benefits of a great ministry team.

82 | PREACHING

Improve your pulpit ministry these 15 ways.

84 | VISION

Cast vision effectively before big transitions.

COLUMNS

12 | IN REAL LIFE

Dethrone the dominion of sympathy addicts.

By Dr. Mark Rutland

14 | PASTOR'S HEART

Center your mind on God for fresh perspective.

By Max Lucado

86 | ON PLATFORM

Enlarge your platform with your message.

By Dr. Steve Greene

Ministry Today (ISSN #0891-5725) is published bi-monthly by Charisma Media, 600 Rinehart Road, Lake Mary, FL 32746. Periodicals postage paid at Lake Mary, FL 32746 and at additional entry offices. Canada Post International Publications Mail Product (Canadian Distributing) Sales Agreement Number 40037127. Subscription rate is \$24.97 for six issues and \$39.97 for twelve issues. Canadian subscribers add \$5 per year for postage, other countries add \$10 per year for postage, payable in advance in U.S. currency only. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Ministry Today*, P.O. Box 6102, Harlan, IA 51593-1602. Send undeliverable Canadian mail to: 1415 Janette Avenue, Windsor, ON N8X1Z1. © 2015 by Charisma Media. For advertising information call (407) 333-0600. Nothing that appears in *Ministry Today* may be reprinted without permission. PRINTED IN THE USA

Serving Marketplace Leaders

Your church can fulfill an important role
by supporting businesses

BY HELEN M. MITCHELL

Driving across town on that sunny Southern California day, my mind wandered to our monthly Business Connection event scheduled at church that night. Generally, I look forward to our monthly gathering of small business leaders, owners and entrepreneurs, but not this night. I wasn't thinking about praying for these small business leaders and their companies or the high-energy networking and sharing they would engage in or what our main speaker would share. I was thinking about how to get it all done in the few hours left in the day and whom I needed to call.

I had just found out that many of my core volunteers were not available, and I was left to figure out how to make an event happen for 100 people. To make things even more complicated, we had technology challenges in our marketing and communication. Our typical three-week schedule for communication had been reduced to a week, relying heavily on emails, social media, word-of-mouth—and prayer. Since we hadn't met the previous two months and lacked strong speakers the two months before that, we'd lost momentum.

And I was beginning to lose my momentum too. Were we really making a difference? Is this still what small business leaders were looking for from their local church?

Turning off the main road, my thoughts drifted to personal matters. I was leaving for the airport at 5:00 the next morning, and I still had not packed or prepared for my business trip. It was going to be a long night. The bright California sun and the beginning of summer did nothing to alleviate the weight and pressures of life that accompanied me in the car that afternoon.

In the four years I have been leading the Business Connection at Saddleback Church, thousands of people have come for the purpose of connecting to people, connecting to business and connecting to their work purpose. In spite of the fruitfulness, the value, new business development and the ministry, in that moment I wanted to quit. I have been told that rarely is there a pastor who doesn't want to quit at least once a month—and often every Monday morning!

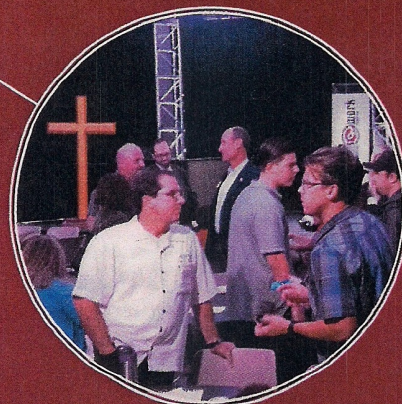
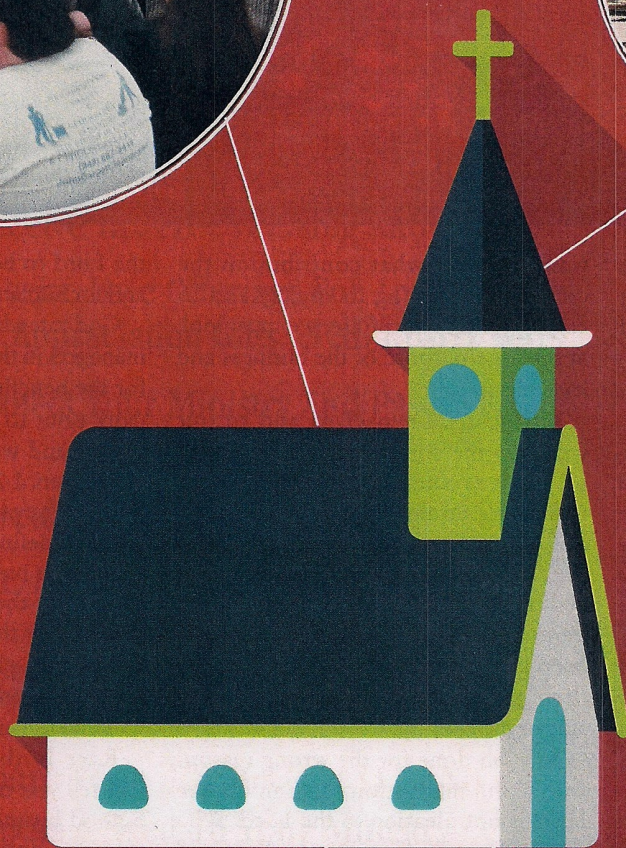
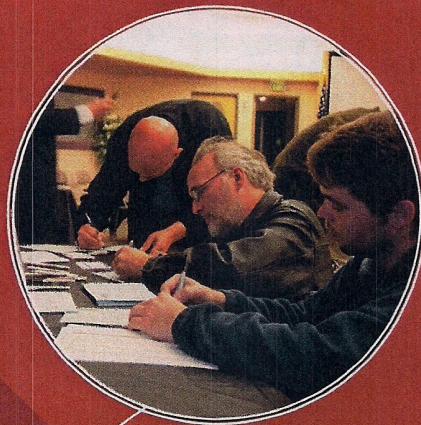
Unable to clearly discern God's will and direction, two questions came to mind: 1) Should the church continue

with the monthly Business Connection event? and 2) Was I to continue to lead it if we did? Was it time for a big change?

At the end of the event that evening, John, a regular participant, approached me. He'd casually told me in the past that the hour's drive was not too much for the value he gained in listening to inspiring and knowledgeable speakers and to clarify where God was in the midst of his business. This night, however, he was a man on a mission and not at all casual in expressing the value that he and other small business leaders gained. He was direct and strong with his words. It was as if he knew what I needed to hear. "Don't stop meeting," he said. "We need this."

Either God was really making a point about the need to meet and minister to small business owners or He didn't want me to miss the answer to my first question—or perhaps both.

It also turned out we had an abundance of help that night, so I was able to leave earlier than usual, as I was eager to get home and on with my packing. Before I left that evening, I walked up to thank our speaker one last time and realized a quick exit was not to be. Another attendee who had been talking with our





The monthly Business Connection event aims to build competency, character and community among its members.

speaker commented on how passionate he thought I was for these folks and that I obviously was the right person to lead this group. I had just met this guy!

An Unknown Need

In my journey with workplace ministries, I have learned that there is both a need and a huge opportunity for the church to make a difference in the business community—but most pastors are not aware of it.

Most of the pastors and seminary students I've spoken with through the years have not considered how or why they should support the business leaders in their church. Central to the church's role in supporting businesses are questions like these: Is work good and a gift of God? Are only certain types of work pleasing and acceptable to the Lord? Which jobs are considered doing God's work? Words like profit, competition, money and business can elicit negative connotations for some. Today's anti-capitalist news headlines seem to reinforce stereotypes.

Others may view businesses simply as sources of funding for the local church or their employees as a mission field ripe for evangelism. While in some cases those descriptions may be accurate, it's important to remember that a business is a combination of the organization and the people who work in it. If we

want to know what contribution the company is making to society and to employees' quality of life, we must look at both the purpose of the business and its leadership.

Businesses themselves add to our world by the contribution of products or services and the employment of individuals. In the case of medical technology, for instance, improvements in the field have brought life-saving procedures and much-needed relief from pain. A smartphone and a computer keep grandma connected with her children and grandchildren on the other side of the country.

Any job done for the wrong reasons with sinful motivations and an impure heart is not pleasing to the Lord. Who does the work, how it gets done and for what reasons reflect the state of the leader's heart.

The pastor plays an important role in serving business leaders. Ephesians 4:11-13 expands the pastor's role by instructing God's representatives to equip the saints for the work of ministry. The word "works" in this passage is the Greek word *ergon*, which can mean business, employment, task, product developed or anything accomplished by hand, art or industry. Part of the pastoral job description then is to help God's people find the right job and to do their work with excellence as unto

the Lord to benefit the common good and for human flourishing.

God intends for His people to be His managers in the world for His glory and for the benefit of others. God ordained work prior to the entrance of sin in the world, and work in itself has intrinsic value (Gen. 1:23-28; 2:15).

Almost every pastor I know can tell you that defining moment when he felt called into pastoral ministry. These pastors knew their work reflected God's purpose for their life. They were to lead His people, grow them to be more like Christ and prepare them for a ministry and mission in the world.

Rare is the business leader who will tell you that he was created to run a good business and that his worship, ministry and evangelism flows from work that is pleasing to God. Ephesians 2:10 tells us, "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, so that we should walk in them." Again we find that the word "works" is *ergon*, the same used in Ephesians 4. God planned long ago for some people to run a good and profitable business and to develop a good product or service. These leaders are to have a ministry inside and outside the local church and a mission in the world.

The pastor plays an important and influential role for business leaders. Faith,

R: Reinforce the Role

What is their job description for Jesus? A mature theology of work facilitates an integrated understanding of work, stewardship and calling from a biblical perspective. Pastors need to include work illustrations in their teaching. Although not everyone in the congregation will work in the field of business or have a career, everyone can identify with words like job, work and workplace.

I: Identify the Influence

Now that your congregation has the big picture, help them to see what this looks like in their work life. Use testimonials, stories and practical examples to provide a mental model and fuel creativity. Business leaders influence their employees with their character, their company with their ideas and leadership, their industry by their decisions and those around them by how they live.

D: Disciple

With a high-level understanding of God's purposes in the marketplace and what leaders can do in connecting their daily schedules to God's work, the pastor can effectively disciple the business leader. This discipleship can occur in the church's weekend service, through classes or on an individual basis. Small and consistent activities shape beliefs and facilitate cultural change. If people are effectively disciplined in their work life, lives will be changed, and companies and communities will be transformed.

At Saddleback, we focused on growing and discipling marketplace believers, primarily through one of our 500 workplace small groups. Twenty-five percent of our workplace small groups had one or more people come to Christ by first developing disciples, so at our December 2014 Business Connection event, I invited the small business leaders to offer their business to Jesus as their Christmas gift. Using large wooden crosses placed throughout the room, the leaders nailed their business cards to them in surrender.

E: Empower to Multiply

With the right soil, the planting of seeds and consistent watering, you will

"There is both a need and a huge opportunity for the church to make a difference in the business community—but most pastors are not aware of it."

begin to see lives change, people coming to Christ, businesses transformed and communities impacted. God is eager to make Himself known through the business leaders in your church and through their businesses.

How to Guide Business Leaders

1) Increase understanding on the integration of faith, work and economics.

Books such as *Business for the Glory of God* by Wayne Grudem, *Work Matters* by Tom Nelson and *Business for the Common Good* by Kenman L. Wong and Scott B. Rae are a few of my picks. Theologyofwork.org is a robust website with articles, resources and an in-depth review for each book of the Bible. Convenenow.com is a nationwide group of Christian CEOs growing exceptional businesses built on kingdom principles.

2) Join a community of like-minded pastors in this work-life conversation.

Made to Flourish, a pastors' network for the common good, is an effective forum for pastors to support and learn from one another, as well as access tools, resources and assistance. Learn more at madetoflourish.org.

3) Visit your business leaders at their place of business.

Walk with them and experience their life on a regular basis. Understand how their company operates, their challenges and opportunities.

4) Read what your business leaders are reading.

Pick up the latest management, leadership or business book, and

discuss it with your business leaders. Subscribe to a business journal or magazine to keep current with business and economic trends.

5) Consider the needs of the unemployed in your church.

Consider what your church can do to provide assistance in finding a job for the unemployed, from resume writing to interviewing skills. The unemployed may, in fact, be a talent pool for your business leaders, so this could be a win-win.

6) Find someone in your church who is passionate about Christian leadership in the marketplace.

Pray for and find individuals with whom you can collaborate, and empower to lead and develop marketplace initiatives in your church for your working congregation.

7) Cast a vision of being a whole-life discipleship church.

Helping your congregation identify the godly value in their daily work is not another idea to add, but rather one to integrate into the ministries and culture of our churches.

As mentioned earlier, as we were preparing for yet another monthly Business Connection meeting, God took me on a drive to get my attention. He reminded me of the role of the church in supporting and meeting the needs of business leaders and those who have been called to do His work in the marketplace. He showed me, again, that it's not about me, but about serving our business leaders. This ministry is not easy, but it can bear much fruit for the kingdom of God. What local business leaders can your church help develop? ■

HELEN M. MITCHELL is the architect and visionary of the Saddleback@Work ministry, where she served on the pastoral staff at Saddleback Church. As CEO and founder of Strategic Management Resources, she is a speaker, author, licensed minister and consultant to business leaders and pastors. She is director of the Talbot Center for Faith, Work and Economics at Biola University, as well as an adjunct faculty member at Biola's Crowell School of Business. Her business career started with AT&T, where she became a vice president at the age of 30.