

# BUSINESS AND MISSION

ACU Summit 2017

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This year at Summit, ACU's Halbert Center for Missions and Global Service partnered with the College of Business Administration to sponsor an inaugural all-day track on Business and Mission. Twelve speakers presented throughout the day, coming from places as far away as China, Sweden and Kenya, and as close as Lubbock and Oklahoma. The presenters ranged from non-profit founders and small for-profit business entrepreneurs to executives and founders of large for-profit businesses with a missional purpose.

The day's presentations focused on building businesses with the end in mind. Many of the speakers talked about starting "kingdom" businesses, founded solely as a means to use profitable business to build God's kingdom, as opposed to ones founded primarily for the business' own sake with the intention to use part of the profits for philanthropy. Other speakers talked about how to guard against being tempted by the greed and materialism that can come with financial success.



Lauren McAfee, Hobby Lobby executive and granddaughter of the founder, David Green, told of the company's humble beginnings, and how it has grown to be one of America's most admired companies. She shared the story of the company's victory at the Supreme Court when it challenged government healthcare laws the company felt violated their dedication to godly principles. She also shared how the company honors its number one principle - "Honoring the Lord in all we do by operating the company in a manner consistent with Biblical principles" - by doing things like giving away half of its profits, and paying employees a minimum wage of \$15.70.

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Gary Ginter founded Chicago Research and Trading, one of the most successful options and futures trading companies in America at its time. Gary shared how God has used him throughout his life a career. He challenged the audience to adopt John Wesley's principles for the lifestyle of a disciple: identify a modest standard of living before starting a career and to stick to it no matter one's level of success, donating any earnings above that standard to kingdom work. Gary has funded numerous kingdom businesses as a result of practicing these principles.



Chi-Ming Chien is founder of Dayspring Technologies, a high-tech company in the Bay Area that moved its headquarters from a downtown highrise to one of the poorest neighborhoods in San Francisco. Dayspring pays their employees and executives below market salaries, while charging market rates for their services. They use the difference to pour back into their community. Dayspring is an inspiring example of how a company can have a kingdom focus and serve its community with purpose, while still providing a quality product, creating a positive work environment and making a profit.

ACU alumnus Jarrod Brown ('00), Mission Lazarus founder, presented on the story of how he founded the ministry and on the importance of building sustainable businesses that use the talents and abilities of local people.



Feedback from the day was unanimously positive. May God use the day to inspire many ACU students to put kingdom and mission first as they plan their future careers! Recorded presentations are available on iTunes; search for ACU Summit 2017.

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