

Summit 2018

Business & Mission

ACU Summit took place in September with the theme “Wholeness in a Broken World”, and featured several tracks, or Pathways. The Halbert Center partnered with The Lytle Center for Faith and Leadership to present a Pathway on Business Wholeness. The Pathway included five speakers that challenged attendees to consider the role of business in the life of a disciple.

Jeff Van Duzer is Provost at Seattle Pacific University, and author of the book, “Why Business Matters to God.” Van Duzer presented a compelling discussion on a new way to look at the origin and purpose of business through a biblical and spiritual lens. While profit is important to sustain and grow a business, it is not the main purpose of business. According to Van Duzer,

- Business exists to provide goods and services that will enable the community to flourish
- Business exists to provide opportunities for individuals to express aspects of their God-given identities in creative and
- meaningful work.

Pete Leonard, founder of I Have a Bean coffee, is joining God in His work of restoring the lives of broken people. I Have a Bean hires only ex-convicts, for which finding employment after prison is extremely difficult due to their record. While Pete’s coffee is world class and his business is profitable, the kingdom impact of his work is what drives him.



Alan Barnhart and his brother took over Barnhart Crane and Rigging from their father and grew the business into a multi-million dollar enterprise. Barnhart told the Pathway crowd that he read in scriptures the many warnings against the temptations and dangers of wealth. To avoid the pitfalls he read about, the Barnhart’s committed to capping their salaries at an average middle class level, no matter how profitable their company became. Eventually, they even gave away the company to a Christian foundation.

Patrick Lai and Tim Bock rounded out the day by presenting on the numerous kingdom businesses they have each started. Bock’s businesses have been primarily in Chicago, and the profits support numerous ministries. Lai’s businesses have been international ones amid unreached people groups. Lai is so committed to his businesses having a kingdom impact that he told of closing one very profitable business due to its failure to reach the kingdom goals set for the business.

Each of these speakers have what many may call radical views on business. They are clearly individuals that put their mission as disciples ahead of success as defined by the world.
