



## **What is our spiritual goal?**

As business people we have goal planning as a regular task whether these be annual revenue targets, employee professional development, or short term project goals. How can we challenge ourselves to place our spiritual goals side-by-side with these financial and organizational ones?

This and more is what was discussed at BELIEVES on Tuesday, June 12, 2018 when Scott McMichael (President – Innovative Architects), and Mark Pugh (Chief of Staff – Brown Bag Marketing) led everyone to explore their own challenges and lessons learned when answering the question “What is our Spiritual Goal?”



“I’m not necessarily an authority on this,” said Scott McMichael when opening his remarks. “When I was asked a year ago or so to speak at BELIEVES on this topic, I thought ‘this will give me an endpoint to shoot for.’”

McMichael then asked everyone what he considered the essential question – *Have you considered your spiritual goal for 2018?*

“Maybe you have a business goal, process goal, or project goal, like opening a warehouse,” he stated. “Goals, goals, goals – we always have them in our lives.”

Can we measure spiritual goals at the same level as other goals?

To start exploring this further, McMichael borrowed from James as a “doer of the word” and gave everyone 30 seconds to write down their 2018 spiritual goal.

McMichael then continued, “For me in 2018, I borrowed from Psalms in the Bible. I realized I had a disconnect between faith and work. Psalm 46:10 is what God honed me in on. I wondered where my quiet time was.”

Those in attendance, then began sharing what they wrote down as their 2018 spiritual goals.

“Time for me to allow the Spirit to move me, versus discern what I need in the Spirit,” said Jaime Lanier, CTK parishioner.

Walter Kozik, another CTK parishioner, added, “I am having a challenge coordinating spiritual with concrete. Spiritual is the affect the leaven is having in my life.”

BELIEVES leadership team member and CTK Parishioner Maureen Becker said her 2018 spiritual goal is to do 3 hours of community service each week.

McMichael applauded all for what they shared.

“Mark Pugh is an ordained pastor,” he commented. “When we talk about this He’ll ask me, ‘Is God in that goal?’ This morning I am going to share three vignettes of spiritual goal reflections in my life.”

McMichael’s introduction to putting spiritual goals in place goes back to 2005, prior to being at Innovative Architects. At the time, he felt he needed to make sure his work was nourishing his soul.

“I don’t know if there was a ‘God word’ to it at that point,” he said.

In the consulting work he was leading, the numbers were up. McMichael said he would engage in the work, get it done, and then move on.

“I thought I was a relational being. However, I really needed to look more deeply for Jesus in this.”

It’s around this time that he and Dan Michaels, founder of Innovative Architects, met in a small group.

“Both of us had 3-year-old boys and were at the same church,” McMichael stated. “From that I made a prayerful change to shift to Innovative Architects.”



McMichael’s second spiritual goal vignette is tied to happenings in 2014 when Innovative Architects was celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

“We had nothing formal planned to celebrate, just a gathering. It had been a journey to try and fulfill many things. At the gathering, Dan said, ‘This is for you Harrison (Dan’s 13-year-old son) ... this is about God,’” said McMichael. “Dan’s wife, Michelle, had told him, ‘Dan, just make sure God is in this business, and I’ll pray for it every day.’”

For Michaels and McMichael the spiritual shift from all this was in things like compassion and kindness – not necessarily, automatically or initially at the top of their list, according to McMichael.

“For me, I was asking God, ‘Humility, kindness, compassion, patience – all at once?’” he said.

The third spiritual goal McMichael told everyone about occurred around 2017.

“We decided to invest in the lives of 10 young professional men between the ages of roughly 25-35 years old,” mentioned McMichael.

Michaels and McMichael decided the men didn’t necessarily need to be in their company. They would leverage the platform at the mega-church they attended.

“Dan and I were sure it was noble ... but you can feel the build up to the failure,” he remarked. “When we showed up, we were listed as focusing on 45-55-year-olds at 8 AM on Wednesday mornings. We thought, ‘Hmmm ... this may not work out. How are we going to fix it?’”

He then added, “There’s no end to this story. The reflection is maybe we had cast a net too wide and should have started within Innovative Architects first.”

McMichael then introduced Mark Pugh, Executive Pastor at the Vine Community Church in Cumming, and the COO of Brown Bag Marketing.

“I’ve known Dan Michaels for years,” Pugh remarked when he started to share his remarks. “I remember him saying, ‘I want us to be a God-fearing company.’”

Whether at Brown Bag, BELIEVES, Innovative Architects, or elsewhere, Pugh emphasized the big question is – *Where’s Jesus in this?*

“To accomplish what God wants, it will require more than knowledge, more than anything. It will require God.”

Pugh then asked, “If Jesus is in our goals, what’s that look like in the gospel? The gospel story is bigger than what we may think of. He’s restoring the world and creation.”

According to Pugh, gospel coaching conversation is an intentional conversation that applies Jesus.

“I like to think of the RPM gauge on a car,” he said. “The ‘R’ is relational, the ‘P’ is personal, and the ‘M’ is missional.”

He then complimented this by saying, “Everyone’s got a back story. I know Scott and Dan, but I might provide help in a harmful way, unless their ‘back story’ is considered via Jesus. We’re all in restoration headed to heaven. I’m still a sinner, but also a saint. I’m in that tension everyday.”

So again – *How is Jesus in this?*

“We need the help of someone to come alongside of us,” said Pugh. “We’re not the hero of our stories. Jesus is the hero. What helps us is to help one another see Jesus in things.”

