



ADVANCE
FAITH • WORK • LEADERSHIP



ADVANCE Phoenix renews spirits in the Valley of the Sun

In March of 2018, FCCI began a journey toward a renewed focus in the collaborative work of transforming the world through Christ, one company leader at a time. At the Impact Summit, hosted at the Museum of the Bible, marketplace ministries came together to discuss, pray, and explore the question, “What might it look like to work together, in a coordinated effort - for greater engagement of business owners and leaders? All to the glory of God, greater impact for the Kingdom, and the benefit of others.”

FCCI leadership interacted with many national ministry leaders to seek out answers to the question, and as conversations and prayer took place, so did a combined sense of hope. Then, not long after the Impact Summit, amidst many attempts to make progress, God made known His work that was already in motion through the prayers of faithful FCCI family from Albuquerque, New Mexico. Long time FCCI member, Brian Butler, was in Phoenix, Arizona for treatment as he battled cancer

and continued leading his Albuquerque based company for Christ. Brian longed for the fellowship of other FCCI members – but none existed in Phoenix. Others from Albuquerque joined Brian in prayer, and soon, some grassroots leaders, drawn by God into the work He was doing, began to emerge. With a patient emphasis on prayer, other marketplace ministry partners began exploring the idea of ‘better together’ for the sake of the Kingdom in

prayer, it became clear that FCCI could be a catalyst for cooperative marketplace ministry and ADVANCE, as a new brand and initiative connected to accepting God’s invitation to join in His work for the sake of cities, was born.

To date in Phoenix, God has brought together over a dozen marketplace ministries, and two city-wide events have taken place. God has also raised up an FCCI leader, formed new groups of business owners and leaders, developed a prayer focused partnership, and connected marketplace believers previously alone and isolated.

Ministry leaders in Phoenix continue to meet via conference call to pray for their city and one another, and God continues to build intimacy and unity in relationships.

Out of the work of God through ADVANCE Phoenix, we see the potential to join Him in similar efforts for other cities. **One element that is very clear**

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March 2020 Phoenix team

Phoenix. Meanwhile, back in Atlanta, discussions continued around collaborative work. Again, through much



Bobby Mitchell, Jr.
President & COO, Applied Ceramics
Atlanta, GA



Daniel Higbie
CEO & Co-Founder, St. James Tea Room
Albuquerque, NM



Dr. Wes Griffin
Pres & CEO, Int'l Leadership Institute
Carrollton, GA



Paul A. Schlumpberger
CEO, Emergent Health Care Solutions
Tualatin, OR

New FCCI Board Members *(with Lee Truax)*

At the heart of the leadership for a Christian non-profit ministry is the Lordship of Jesus Christ and the devoted servant leaders serving as board members and staff. God uses humble and committed men and women to steward His work at FCCI. As I have come to serve in the role of president, I have been blessed to get to know passionate, dedicated, and talented board members that have long served the ministry.

In these times, it is as important as ever that a board seek God's heart and plan for the ongoing work of the ministry. It is also exciting when He adds to the leadership through additional board members who generously bring their labor, influence, finances, and expertise to bear on the mission and vision of God's ministry of FCCI.

In early 2020, just before the shift of a global pandemic, God added four new board members who prayerfully agreed to serve Him through serving FCCI. We are grateful to welcome these new voices to the fellowship and work of our board, replete with godly leaders com-

mitted to enabling the transformation of the world through Christ, one company leader at a time.

It's been my experience that upon arrival, new board members always bring fresh ideas, energy, and expertise that reenergizes the work of the organization. The impact of the pandemic plus political and racial division in 2020 did not surprise our Heavenly Father in the least – and provided for the addition of four prayerful servant leaders just when FCCI could use the increase. I am so grateful for God's timing.

As we serve together this Fellowship of Companies for Christ, please continue to pray for clarity in following God's lead, consider generously supporting God's work through FCCI and rejoice with us in God's blessing of our new and devoted board members.

FCCI Board of Directors

Bobby Mitchell, Sr. Chairman
Atlanta, GA

Lee Truax, President
Dayton, TN

Mike Amoroso
Oxnard, CA

Daniel Higbie
Albuquerque, NM

Paul Jew
Albuquerque, NM

Jörg Knoblauch
Giengen, Germany

Pat McGrath
El Paso, TX

Chad Merrill
Atlanta, GA

Bobby Mitchell, Jr.
Atlanta, GA

Jim Moyer
Atlanta, GA

Marian Noronha
Madbury, NH

Paul Schlumpberger
Tualatin, OR

Jim White
Tualatin, OR

Remembering Cleve Whitener *(with Bobby Mitchell)*

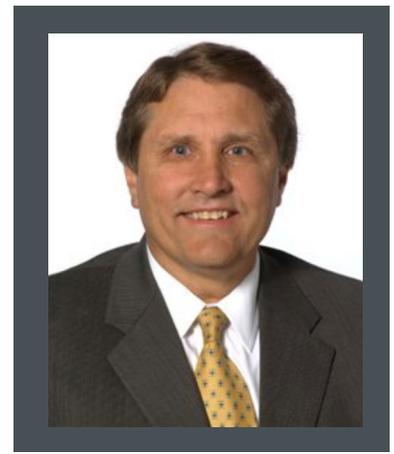
Cleve Whitener was a trusted advisor and friend to many, and Cleve was my great friend and confidante. He was trustworthy, an exceptional thinker, and I could trust him to help me think through sticky issues and come up with good solid solutions. I knew I could always count on him. Even in the most difficult and trying times he was brave, courageous and unafraid.

Cleve served as a member of FCCI's Board of Directors for more than a decade, was passionate about FCCI, and lived his life in a way that exemplified our mission - absolutely committed to Christ and running his company for God's glory. He understood that God owns everything, and we are stewards of what He entrusts to us. FCCI was a blessing to Cleve, too. FCCI provided teaching, fellowship, and friends for a lifetime - and helped

build him into a man after God's own heart.

In addition to being honored as the nation's best collegiate scholar-athlete in 1972 by the National Football Foundation, Cleve was trained in Mechanical Engineering, Theology, and Business. He used all those skills to build a great company, and from the world's perspective, he 'had it all', excelling in everything he did.

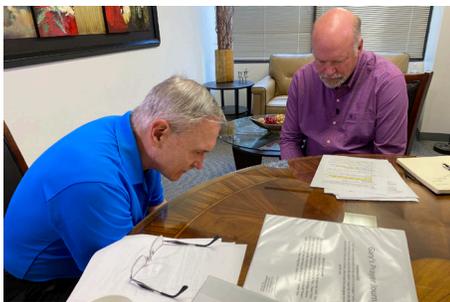
But Cleve wanted more. He desired to be all God created him to be. In his journal, Cleve asked the question, "How do you finish well?" Nothing was more important to Cleve than to hear, "Well done, good and faithful servant." His prayer was that he would be filled with the Holy Spirit, walk daily with Christ, and be a blessing to others.



Cleve left a legacy of commitment, faithful service to Christ, and a love for others. He shared the Gospel, helped people grow in the Lord, and served his community; Salvation, Sanctification, and Service exemplified his life. What an example for us to follow, and we are grateful for Cleve's life of service - well lived. Cleve will be greatly missed.

Prayer Makes All The Difference

As COVID-19 strikes hard...Lee Truax and Gary Williams discuss a consistent, intentional prayer life.



Recently, Lee Truax met with Gary Williams in Atlanta to discuss the prayer journey that God has woven into Gary's life.

LT: Tell me how prayer became so vital in your life?

GW: It's been a long development process for me, but it really started when I attended an FCCI conference where Bill Moeny, FCCI's Director of Prayer Ministries, taught a session on prayer which launched me into

journaling and committing an hour or more a day to prayer. Bill said, "Instead of trying to fit God into your life, you've got to fit your life around God." **And that changed everything for me.**

LT: You obviously journal your prayer life extensively - why?

GW: I'm a business guy. I prepare thoroughly and carefully for my business meetings. I realized that with God as the CEO of my life, why wouldn't I prepare and give as much attention to my conversations with God?

LT: Has there been a period of testing or struggle when you've seen prayers answered?

GW: During the recession of 2008, our hotel management company took some hard hits. And I realized that as I prayed consistently for God to reveal

His purpose, those problems became less overwhelming as I focused on God's will - and not so much my own. God wants us to trust Him, and that happens as we submit ourselves to Him in prayer. I look at the life of Joseph, and although he went through many years of terrible experiences, God used all of that for His good.

LT: I'm reminded of the statement, "God doesn't waste pain" - especially when I look at the life of Joseph. Is there a current scenario where you're seeing God work through prayer?

GW: As our company is facing huge setbacks during the COVID-19 pandemic, my son Mark determined we would have a 40 Days of Prayer challenge. It's amazing to see many employees' answered prayers. God is faithful even in the most difficult of times.

FCCI Partners with Foundation for Servant Leadership

(with Chad Merrill) Together we pray we will help leaders along their journey to Advance in Faith, Work & Leadership.

FCCI/Advance is excited to announce a joint venture with the Foundation for Servant Leadership (FSL). This partnership leverages world class content, wisdom, and experiential learning for Christian CEOs and business leaders around the world.

FSL is an organization founded by Jim Blanchard, Henry Cloud, Erwin McManus, Ken Blanchard, Craig Groeschel, Mark Floyd and Patrick Lencioni - with the mission of building the Kingdom and lifting up the name of Jesus.

The directors of FSL are international best-selling authors, best-in-class speakers, and consultants in the areas of organizational development, human capital and values-based leadership. Together they have sold tens of millions of books and consult-

“FSL is an association that includes some of the very best Christian speakers in America. Both FCCI and FSL seek to build the Kingdom of God across the country and around the world. We believe this venture will help us achieve explosive impact in the marketplace and help us complete our mission.”

Bobby Mitchell, Sr.

ed with governments, military and Fortune 500 companies.

This unique opportunity to learn and interact with experts who literally wrote books such as, *Lead Like Jesus*, *Integrity*, *The Last Arrow*, *Dangerous Prayers*, and *The Ideal Team Player* will position FCCI to bring the faith driven leadership message to the

next generation of Christian entrepreneurs and leaders. Additionally, the directors have access to other best-in-class business leaders, pastors, leadership consultants and entrepreneurs to equip and encourage us. The directors have created some of the most innovative churches in the country as well as over \$40 billion in market capitalization through their business leadership.

Together, FCCI and FSL have a long history of producing world-class conferences, retreats, and city events. We are excited to bring together the timeless message of Servant Leadership with FCCI’s foundational principles to equip and encourage a new generation of Christian business leaders.

ADVANCE Phoenix, continued from page 1

in this initiative is the power and priority of prayer.

God is the focus of the work of ADVANCE and His glory is the ultimate

(and only) goal in the journey together. To this end, FCCI will continue to invest in the servant-led work of ADVANCE. While Brian Butler passed to his heavenly home in March of

2019, his legacy of prayer, passion for the city of Phoenix to know Christ, and longing for the fellowship of like-minded believers to advance faith, work, and leadership lives on – in Phoenix and beyond, and truly, in the heart of ADVANCE.

We pray God uses the generosity of His people mightily - as we give of our time, talent, and treasure - to see cities come to Christ and experience an ever-increasing family and fellowship of companies for Christ across the globe.



Vision Transforming the world through Christ, one company leader at a time.

Mission In pursuit of Christ’s eternal objectives, we equip and encourage Christian business leaders to operate their businesses and conduct their personal lives in accordance with Biblical principles.

Support God’s work through FCCI!

Go to www.fcci.org/give to invest in the ongoing work of equipping and encouraging business leaders to advance God’s priorities in the marketplace.

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