

# Marketplace ministry finds its Purpose in faith

## At workshops, employees discuss morals, job obstacles

BY JACOB DIRR  
Courier Contributor

When Chuck Proudfit sensed there was something missing from his career, he found that his faith and his job were disconnected. Then he found that hundreds of area professionals were thinking the same thing.

Proudfit is the founder of At Work On Purpose, a Cincinnati-based marketplace ministry aimed at Christians finding practical ways to live their faith as they do their daily jobs.

About 2,000 mostly local people have joined the nonprofit organization, which will sponsor a marketplace ministry workshop from 8 to 11:30 a.m., Oct. 7 at the New Life Temple in Madisonville.

The free event, which is open to the public, will include a panel of national marketplace ministry leaders and should generate hundreds of attendees, Proudfit said.

"This is movement that is happening everywhere," Proudfit said. "I think people are searching for a way to feel like they are not just making a dollar, but making

a difference."

At Work On Purpose holds regular workshops at several Cincinnati locations, which allow people to network with other professionals, discuss their faith and learn solutions to workplace obstacles based on a moral path.

"We have designed At Work On Purpose to represent all Christians and our leadership is drawn from all over the city," Proudfit said. "We are very focused on helping to train people."

One of those leaders, Jackie Messersmith, president of Anderson-based Workflow Dynamics, participates in a 20-person executive roundtable, which is aimed at developing a holistic approach to life, she said.

Messersmith said that when Proudfit, a longtime friend, told her about At Work On Purpose, she was skeptical.

She said people are drawn to workplace ministries because they are tired of business models that put profits before everything else.

"I'm not overt about (my faith) at all. It probably comes through with the way I talk about my business or how we run it," she said.

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