

**#215 – February 27, 2009 Interview: Patrick O'Neal and Keith Schauer –  
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[Easley:] I want to welcome you to *inContext* today with Patrick O'Neal and Keith Schauer. Patrick and Keith, thanks for being in studio with us.

[O'Neal:] Pleasure.

[Easley:] Patrick, you are the president of CBMC, also known as the Christian Business Men's Connection. All right, tell us a little about the history of CBMC.

[O'Neal:] Well, let's see, it's a little over seventy-five years old. Started here in Chicago.

[Easley:] Really? I didn't know that.

[O'Neal:] 1931, coming out of the depression.

[Easley:] Wow. Wow.

[O'Neal:] A group of, it started out as five business men and these are men that had an unbelievable heart to bring hope to the men in Chicago. They were seeing the depression -

[Easley:] Yeah.

[O'Neal:] - and they knew they had to do something about it because of the God they had in their life.

[Easley:] Yeah.

[O'Neal:] And they did.

[Easley:] Now, CBMC had an impact in your life.

[O'Neal:] It did. 1977 I was living in Newport Beach, California and my life was a mess and I had myself convinced I was in great shape.

[Easley:] Hmm.

[O'Neal:] And a businessman by the name of Hal – something different about him and he invited me to go to a breakfast meeting at the Big Canyon Country Club. Couldn't wait to go.

[Easley:] Mm hmm.

[O'Neal:] Needed to make all my business contacts and that's totally why I went.

[Easley:] Yeah.

[O'Neal:] And over the period of the next six weeks by hearing life stories, real life stories, of business men and the most important decision they every made it their life –

[Easley:] Mm hmm.

[O'Neal:] - I realized they had something I didn't have and I surrendered my life to Christ.

[Easley:] So you're attending these meetings, you're going somewhat reluctantly -

[O'Neal:] Very reluctantly.

[Easley:] Uh huh. Uh huh. And what was it like when you went to this thing? A bunch of religious guys in there eating lunch, or what?

[O'Neal:] Well, it was – they met 6:30 in the morning, which I thought was really foolish.

[Easley:] Okay. Uh huh.

[O'Neal:] And about sixty of them and in Newport Beach some of these guys were very identifiable as what you'd consider the heavy hitters. So I said, "I'm in the right place. My future is about to get a big kick here. Things are going to go great."

[Easley:] Right. Connections. Yeah. Now, Keith, how did you get involved with CBMC and, as I understand it, you're responsible for the Chicagoland area groups. Tell us a little bit about your journey.

[Schauer:] Well, I came to Christ later in life. I was thirty-three years old, through the faithful preaching of a pastor. And at that time I was a business owner, so after I came to Christ, I began to seek ways to grow and had a hunger for God's Word and through that a dear brother at my church invited me to a CBMC outreach meeting and at that meeting I was informed about a group starting in Chicago called CBMC Forums, which was for Christian business owners. And so I went to a training session called "Business By the Book" and from there I joined my first Forum meeting.

[Easley:] Now, when they invited you to this group, were you suspicious of what this was going to be like or was this something you were interested in?

[Schauer:] Well, yeah, I mean, at our church there wasn't really a strong men's ministry and I'm really thankful God gave me a strong passion for His Word and I was just looking at any way I could grow in my faith.

[Easley:] Mm hmm.

[Schauer:] When I first came to Christ I thought that being a business owner and a Christian were not two things that could be -

[Easley:] Mutually exclusive?

[Schauer:] [laughter] Yes, mutually exclusive. So, I was encouraged to hear that actually were Christian business owners like me.

[Easley:] Before we look a little bit at the Operation Timothy, also known now as OT Materials, Patrick, I want to ask you a little bit about, what is it like to lead an organization like this when you've come out of the business world and somehow they drug you into this new role? What's it like to lead this organization?

[O'Neal:] Well, first of all, it's a volunteer army and so, as you probably experience yourself, that's very different trying to lead men by casting vision, of what it is that God would really like to do in their lives, really be empowered by having a purpose and a plan and a passion and a mission; having your life really count for something. So, first I get the joy of going city to city and seeing that happening in real life situations. Leading it – I think it's more of, instead of doing the leading, I'm doing the learning.

[Easley:] Mm hmm.

[O'Neal:] And we're trying to find all about how to build a team of men around the country and it's a grassroots movement that's absolutely powerful in city after city, watching what God's doing through men's lives.

[Easley:] When you look at the average guy who's got a business, he's responsible for employees, for benefits, for product, revenue, services; what are the top two, three issues that are causing him stress?

[O'Neal:] Certainly, the finances always enter in there really close to the top. H.R. problems, because his employees are going to have the same problems that you and I could have and that is marriage, family, mixed in with all of the attacks that are coming on his business at the same time. He's trying to be able to monitor that stress level. As we watch what happens with those guys, they are looking for answers as to how to do it all and they admit they don't have it on their own. Once they get perhaps far enough down the line to realize of their own strength they can't have it.

[Easley:] Mm hmm. When you look back on businessmen who've gone through CBMC, are they getting the kind of tools and help and say, "Now I can approach this a little differently?"

[O'Neal:] Very much so. Especially if they've, and you had just mentioned a minute ago that we're going to talk a little bit about Operation Timothy; and if they've gone through a discipleship active plan and they're getting answers for their lives of what Scripture has to say about every part of their life, it really will impact not only where they get there answers, but how they live that out in day to day, real life struggles in life and life situations.

[Easley:] Operation Timothy now has been expanded and enhanced and improved. I'm looking at an extraordinary product. Tell us a little about this new product you guys have developed.

[O'Neal:] Well, first if I can go back and compare the old product. When I, in 1977, came to Christ, this man came alongside of me. A very humble guy, and for the next two years he invested in my life through the old two book series we had.

[Easley:] Mm hmm.

[O'Neal:] It was still a fill-in-the-blank.

[Easley:] Yep.

[O'Neal:] But he took me into the Scriptures every week and we would just spend hours and hours with him putting up with me, answering questions and he would be faithful at saying, "Hold it. Hold it. Let's go and see what Scripture says about that."

So he taught me how to look into the Word of God. Now, we wanted to expand that to reach the new generations. It needed a different look, it has the same content, but it asks the questions differently. It also has some drive-time CDs that can just take you a little bit further in the chapter you just went through as well as a DVD on answering some of life's questions and even the series of it now. It talks about, "What are life's biggest questions?" "How do we get people interested to dig into that with you?"

[Easley:] Looks like you have a three part series here, "Life's Perspectives", "Life's Questions", and "Life's Foundations". Where does a person start?

[O'Neal:] "Life's Questions" because we all have those and what in the world is this crazy life about?

[Easley:] Mm hmm. What is the purpose of life? Is the Bible credible? Where is God? Who is Jesus? Why did Jesus come? And, can I be accepted and forgiven?

So, a businessman would take another guy through these a page at a time, chapter at a time, just kind of walk him through?

[O'Neal:] He's going to walk him through and it's not so important that he get through a chapter at a time -

[Easley:] Mm hmm.

[O'Neal:] - as it is that he does life with the man and can show real life application coming from Scripture. And in the first book there's Scripture in it, but he's not digging into the Bible yet.

[Easley:] Mm hmm.

[O'Neal:] They're building in relationship so that there's a trust established between to two of them.

[Easley:] Keith, did you go through this material?

[Schauer:] Yes, I have.

[Easley:] Tell me about the individual who led you through it. What was that like?

[Schauer:] Well, the gentleman's name is Carl Boonder, he's a local Chicago Metro

Director and just, he's been on staff I think now for about seventeen years with CBMC. Also a business owner and felt the call to sell his business and join CBMC as a staff guy. But I think we spent the first year in the book of Genesis.

[Easley:] Wow. [laughter] Now, wait a minute, if I'm a businessman hearing that right now, I don't know if I want to spend a year in the book of Genesis with some guy.

[Schauer:] Yeah. It was just a lot of questions and it was a very special time in my walk with the Lord.

[Easley:] Patrick, tell me about the individual that brought you through Operation Timothy.

[O'Neal:] Well, his name was Felix and Felix was actually a mint farmer from Yakima, Washington.

[Easley:] Mint. He grew mint.

[O'Neal:] Mint. He did.

[Easley:] Okay. Uh huh. Where I come from, that's a weed.

[O'Neal:] [laughter] Well, down south, you know. I'm down south and we still use mint.

[Easley:] Absolutely, yeah.

[O'Neal:] But Felix was just as I mentioned, a humble guy, and he challenged me to meet with him one time over a cup of coffee -

[Easley:] Uh huh.

[O'Neal:] - and started asking me some questions about life of which I didn't have any of the answers. And over the next two years, as I mentioned, as he invested in my life he showed me one of the, what I realize now, is one of the real core values of CBMC, the value of one man. It's all about life on life. And with Keith starting out in Genesis, actually that makes a lot of sense since Scripture talks about us being made in the image of God.

[Easley:] Mm hmm.

[O'Neal:] Well, what in the world does that mean? I had no idea. And so Felix walked me through that. Understanding being made in God's image, that we're body, soul and spirit, just like the trinity is. And, how does that apply, though, to real life?

[Easley:] Mm hmm.

[O'Neal:] That's what Felix taught me.

[Easley:] We're talking today on *inContext* with Patrick O'Neal, the President of CBMC and Keith Schauer, who is the area director in Chicagoland for the CBMC groups in the Chicago area. Let's imagine a person, a businessman, listening to us talk right now and

they're sort of interested, what's this CBMC like? I don't want to go to some meeting you get pulled in and have people call me and badger me. How can I find out about it and what would that look like and are you going to bother me if I contact you?

[O'Neal:] [laughter] Well, I'm going to maybe have Keith talk a little bit about forums first. And that's one area where we can work with Christian business owners and then I'll take the businessman who is day to day out there and he's trying to figure out life too.

[Schauer:] The CBMC Forums group is a small group, six to eight Christian business owners, and they typically get together once a month for about four hours. The way it works is you rotate business to business over the months and the host is the focal point for that meeting, for that four hour time. What we're trying to do really is just work with this man, help him to better glorify and honor God through his business, help him in life struggles as Pat talked about.

And today, a lot of that is family. A lot of these men are very good businessmen, but it's lonely as a business owner. So we come alongside of him, love him and disciple him and minister to him and to each other. And then, really, it's about living a legacy. It's getting past our business. It's reaching out to all those people that we come in contact with which we already have relationships with: Employees, customers, vendors, and sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

And then there's a new movement, really which came from Moody, from my studies here; which is to get beyond our own businesses, internally focused, but to reach out to the community as well. And that's our two major strategies. Internally, helping the businessman better glorifying God through his business; and then helping him to live a legacy through reaching into his community.

[Easley:] You know, often times we talk about pastors having other pastors that they're closer to than folks in the congregation. You look at the men and women in law enforcement. You know, there's a club, there's an understanding there. Medicine. Each profession. Business has kind of been left out there. I mean, it's generic, it's not as specific perhaps, and these guys do face an incredibly challenging issue and they are alone and, "How does that look, you know, for me to love Christ, to love me family, to – can't tell my employees all my problems," and this provides a great opportunity.

[Schauer:] It's an honor.

[Easley:] Mm hmm.

[O'Neal:] We talk about all those folks that are out there that, they don't own their own business, but they're an employee. They're a manager of someone else's business and they have the same life issues that we're all dealing with. Not only in the work place, but also at home and as marriage and in being the dad he wants to be. A lot of this and a majority of those that are Christians may be plugged into a church, a good Bible teaching church, and they do get that input on a Sunday, but when Monday comes –

[Easley:] Yeah.

[O'Neal:] - and real life takes over, how do they walk that walk? So what we've learned to do through CBMC and what made such a difference in my life was learning how to

experience the power of God on a day to day basis in the workplace and then when I go home and I'm with my family.

And so this practical aspect of having a track to run on of understanding God's plan for my life and to really understand that He's totally trustworthy in every situation. I have the answers in Scripture on how to love my wife, but I need another man to kind of challenge me to live it.

[Easley:] Mm hmm.

[O'Neal:] You'd think that God would be enough, but He's put men all around us and then, as men, we do tend to be pack animals, I think. So being surrounded by other men who are like-hearted and like-minded and will hold us accountable to learn how to do this walk with God and then go through that journey together in real life. What a marvelous difference it makes in the men's lives that we see.

[Easley:] Give me a little more. Color it in some, Patrick. What does it look like to walk with God in some of these: In your business, in your family, in your marriage?

[O'Neal:] Okay. Let's just take one that so many men wrestle with. What about the finances? How do I know that there is a plan that God has of how I can balance the money that I earn, how I be a good steward, not just with the money, but in my time, talent and treasure?

And so walking through Operation Timothy, we'll really help a man understand that from a Scriptural standpoint.

The relationship with my wife, God calls me there in Ephesians chapter five, that I'm to love my wife like Christ loves the church. Wow! What a challenge.

[Easley:] Mm hmm. Mm hmm.

[O'Neal:] And so it deepens my understanding of that when another man will go down that road with me and what we watch happen, there's so many things that men can get involved in and what we notice the difference is when the wives are saying, "Will you please get up and go meet with those men? It's making a difference at home."

[Easley:] Something's happening. [laughter] Yeah.

[O'Neal:] Something's happening.

[Easley:] Are young men being attracted to this idea? We talked earlier about trust and the lack of trust trans-generationally from a twenty-something guy to a fifty-something guy or so forth.

[O'Neal:] Right.

[Easley:] How does that work?

[O'Neal:] Well, it's a crazy world we're living in right now. Just in the workplace alone we have four generations of men in the workplace and they all think differently, they act

differently, they respond differently.

[Easley:] Mm hmm.

[O'Neal:] The one generation we're dealing with now, with the Gen Xers is that lack of trust because of what they've grown up in. The environment from everything to the greed of the business world in the Eighties and Nineties, to the break up of families –

[Easley:] Mm hmm.

[O'Neal:] - and so they're looking for a mentoring relationship. They really want to know, "Can I trust you?" And they will test you and as that relationship gets established we can then start doing life together.

[Easley:] Discipleship is an ongoing process.

[O'Neal:] Yeah. It's ongoing.

[Easley:] It's becoming a student, a follower. When you're going to develop trust with a younger man you're going to have to tell, you know, some of your own challenges, your own warts.

Guys over fifty aren't so good at that.

[O'Neal:] Well, we've kind of been told that what you have to do is keep on your face. You can't let somebody get past that image that you have –

[Easley:] Mm hmm.

[O'Neal:] - and they won't trust that at all. They'll see right through it.

[Easley:] Keith, when you look at what's going on in the Chicagoland area, what's exciting you about CBMC?

[Schauer:] Well, I think it's the change in the Forum direction to be not only internally focused, but externally focused but also the Gen X situation that Pat just talked about. We're seeing a group of men, younger men, just crying out for discipleship. And a lot of the people we worked with before that time, it was difficult to get them to spend that time one-on-one with another man and so as we're approaching this Gen X culture, we're seeing them willing and available and actually desiring that one-on-one time with another man.

[Easley:] Mm hmm. Patrick, when you look at it from a national point of view, what excites you?

[O'Neal:] Oh, we kind of call ourselves a movement of men and the reason we do that is because we're watching on a national and a worldwide basis men wanting to be connected to one another and to understand their clear purpose and their calling from God. And what's exciting is to watch city after city, CBMC is located in over 250 cities now, and each of those the foundation is evangelism. Being able to bring a man and let him hear about the love of Christ, hear that story in a non-threatening setting through

another businessman, somebody he can identify with; and then to be able to introduce him to the person of Christ on an ongoing basis through that life on life discipleship.

So nationwide, it is just gaining momentum and we're seeing exciting things happening throughout the country. So we have our men getting a real focus and a vision for the world and how they get to play a part in it and yet it always starts with just one other life. It's not something that's impossible to do. It's life on life and it's really so exciting.

[Easley:] Keith and Patrick, you've got a website here: [www.cbmc.com](http://www.cbmc.com), or you can come to *inContext* and find out more about CBMC. Patrick and Keith, a pastor's hearing this and they're going, you know this is one more program, I don't have time for one more program. What would CBMC do for the local church?

[O'Neal:] Well, to begin with, I'm very pleased to say it's not a program. What it really is all about, again, is life on life discipleship which Scripture really challenges us to do. When you kind of turn loose the business leaders in your church, speaking from a pastor's point of view, those guys begin to understand that they come to church to be equipped to go to the marketplace to bring men to the understanding of who Christ is, disciple them to what? Bring them back to church. So it actually helps to grow a church and it puts it back into the hands of the lay ministry.

[Easley:] Mm hmm.

[O'Neal:] And so as we see those pastors who are starting to allow, not fellowship within their church getting together in a men's group, but real discipleship, they're having a tremendous impact, not only in their church and the challenge of the other men there, but in the marketplace where their church is.

[Easley:] What about the businessman who's hearing us going, "Man, I'm already working twenty hours a day, I can't take four hours once a month or one hour a week to meet with some guy." What would you tell him?

[O'Neal:] I would answer it the way I heard one of the stories from one of our men who happens to be an attorney and does quite a bit of traveling. When he'd come back into his office, he would pick up all his messages and his partners were always challenging him, "Here we are, we've been gone out of the office, we need to come back and go to work. You're going in your office and shutting your door. What in the world are you going to do?"

"Well, first I'm going to take these messages and I'm going to pray over them and see how I ought to answer each one."

And he said, "I work fewer hours because of going and understanding that by having this relationship with God, He has the answers and I don't."

So I guess that challenge would be to men, get God's answers and shorten down the time you're spending everywhere –

[Easley:] Yeah.

[O'Neal:] - and have more time to use for the important things.

[Easley:] Well, and if he schedules it in his day, like anything else, this becomes a priority and the flow out of there is what I hear you saying, will be far richer than any investment of time.

[O'Neal:] Not only will it be richer, one of the main principles we have in CBMC for every one of our men involved, is preeminence of Christ. It's our first core value, if you will. What we find that there is a lot of men who do have a relationship with Christ, but He really isn't number one. He's in with a group of three or four other things, -

[Easley:] Yeah. Yeah.

[O'Neal:] - rather than starting, learning how to make Christ preeminent in your life. And that's what discipleship makes a difference of. I can't encourage men enough, those that might be listening, to really consider what this might will mean to get into a real life discipleship with another man and get a deeper understanding of how to do life, how to understand your purpose, God's plan for your life, and to give you a renewed passion that will add so much significance to your life. There is nothing else like it.

Reminds me Second Corinthians chapter five, verse fourteen, "Compelled by the love of Christ." That's what Felix did for me thirty-one years ago. He introduced me in a new way to Christ that compelled my life from that point forward.

[Easley:] Patrick O'Neal, president of the Christian Business Man's Connection, CBMC and Keith Schauer in the Chicagoland area, thanks guys for being with us on *inContext*.

[Schauer:] Thank you.

[O'Neal:] Our pleasure.

[Lepine:] And Michael, of course if folks are interested in more information about CBMC, we have a link on our website at [incontextradio.org](http://incontextradio.org) to the CBMC website. You can find out more about different chapters of CBMC and how it might be happening in your community or how you might get it started in your community.

Again, our website is [incontextradio.org](http://incontextradio.org). There are also transcripts of these daily programs available online and you can listen back to each day's program on our website. Again, it's [incontextradio.org](http://incontextradio.org) and if you'd like to drop us an email, you can write to us at [incontext@moody.edu](mailto:incontext@moody.edu).

We heard recently from a listener who wrote and said, "I recommend your program to my Christian friends and I've also recommended it to some folks who aren't Christians."

And that was encouraging to us and we do hope you'll pass on the word about *inContext* to your friends. Again, our email address is [incontext@moody.edu](mailto:incontext@moody.edu).

Have a great weekend and join us back on Monday. We're going to continue our study through the book of Jonah on *inContext* with Michael Easley.