



Blessings,

I want to thank everyone who made this past year possible. Even during a pandemic with government directed shut downs, your prayers and investment in ABBA's mission bore much fruit. The following outlines just a small fraction of the efforts you've made possible. So thank you and know we all look forward to the day when we can once more fellowship in person.

Now and then, life catches you unaware or even prepared for the storms it is about to bring. This was never truer than of this past year. I knew immediately, I would need to hear from our Lord: *what does He want from ABBA and from my leadership in such a time of contrasts and conflict?* So, I began to take long morning walks where I could experience the awakening of God's creation. At first, my ears were filled with chirping birds, rustling leaves and the distant sound of a train slowly moving along its tracks. Then just as if He were walking alongside me, the Lord said: not alone, we are not alone.

At ABBA, we say we are all about **connecting people with purpose**. In this case, God was connecting me back to His purpose for ABBA but more specifically toward 2020. Clarity always has a way of bringing forth life to vision. This year was no exception and is why early on ABBA pivoted to begin our podcast series titled **"Conversations with ATX Leaders"** so everyone in the community could hear **how Christian leaders were responding to a worldwide pandemic**. Of all the stories Owner **Melanie Jacobs**, CEO of Deep Roots ATX, was my favorite. She leads a team of 50 employees at two locations then, suddenly, public authorities closed her business down as nonessential. Though she was forced to immediately furlough everyone she was determined to remain connected to her people. She set up a network that provided transportation to and from local HEBs for her employees in need; but most importantly, she called to ensure every team member was ok and would be able to make it. She demonstrated leadership in a time of crises. Yes, the pandemic brought bad news and she had to make hard decisions but that did not mean she couldn't care and demonstrate the love of Christ to others. Today, both locations are back and she has a list a mile long of people who want to work with her. Why? Because word got out: she cares.

We can allow circumstances to bring us together or tear us apart: let us all choose the former. As a neutral convener, ABBA brings individuals, organizations, and communities together. It is what we do. But make no mistake, your investment and partnership this past year advanced God's purposes in 2020.

Here is some of what "you made possible."

GLS-ATX 2020



**THE GLOBAL
LEADERSHIP SUMMIT**

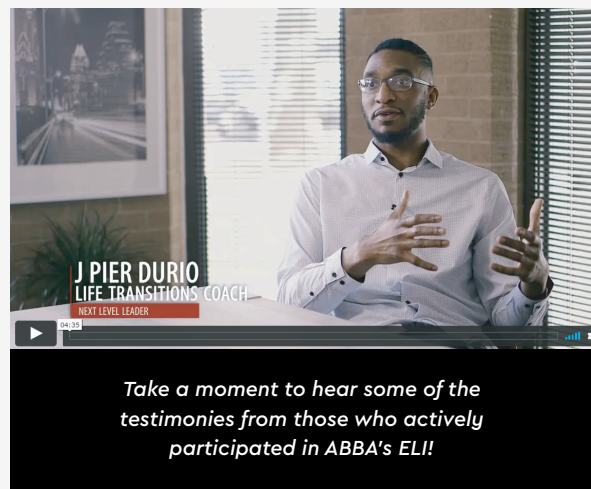
AUSTIN



We pre-sold over 500 tickets for this year's gathering. Who could have predicted the unprecedented response with approximately 1,000 people registering for this year's GLS-Austin Summit. Due to COVID-19, we **hosted two events**: one digital in August and one live in-person event in November. The live November Summit saw 300 plus people in attendance and provided the best of GLS digital 2020 along with several in-person speakers including [Jason Dorsey](#), Author of **Zconomy: How Gen Z Will Change the Future of Business—and What to Do About It**.

Emergent Leader Initiative

ABBA provides an environment where young leaders can receive both top-notch leadership instruction combined with 1-on-1 coaching from some of Austin's best leaders. This leadership class is somewhat unique in that we weave discussions of faith into business practices in a practical way. Our goal is to invest in young leaders who will ultimately shape tomorrow's Austin, and we believe that when leaders get better, Austin wins. We've been pleased to host more than 70 emerging leaders and coaches over the past two years.



Conversations with ATX Leaders

We interviewed, 55 leaders in 10 weeks. These interviews impacted hundreds and hundreds of people across Austin. One response echoed what many felt:

“ After listening in, I felt like I was not alone, that someone understood what I was going through and that maybe I could make it through all this mess. ”

Go to <https://www.abbaconnect.net/blog/atx-leaders/> for a complete listing of this year's interviews. Some of our guests included: [Britt Harris](#), President, CEO and CIO for The University of Texas/Texas A&M Investment Management Company (UTIMCO); [Jurie Kriel](#), Pastor of 5 Twelve City Church; **Ken Schiller**, Co-Owner of Mighty Fine & Rudy's; [Dr Daryl Horton](#) of Mt. Zion Church of Austin; [Alan Graham](#), CEO & Founder of Mobile Loaves & Fishes; [Joel Trammell](#), CEO of Khorus and author of the CEO Tightrope; [Donald Christian](#), President of Concordia University; **Ivan Geraldo**, President of Cleanscapes; **Pastors** [Mark Westerfield](#) of Central Baptist Church and [Keith Ferguson](#) of CityView Church; **Jamie LaGarde**, CEO of Sedera; [Chris Champion](#), Field Director for Corporate Chaplains of America; [Wade Lombard](#), Managing Partner and CEO of Square Cow Moovers; **Eric and Andrea Moore**, Lead Pastors of Summit Worship Center; [Josh Hares](#), Chief Revenue Officer for Austin Better Business Bureau; [Nick Alter](#), President and Founder of Alter Endeavors; [Mark McClain](#), Founder and CEO of Sailpoint; and [Chris Meroff](#), CEO & Owner of MSB Ventures.

CEO/Pastor Dinner

CEO & PASTOR DINNER

An annual event designed to affirm business leaders and pastors and to encourage cooperation for the good of the city. Executives from business and the local church lead busy lives but once a year we come together to celebrate what God is doing in our city and to listen and learn from one another. This year, 250 Christian Leaders came together to listen to **Brian McCoy** and **Meagan McCoy Jones** (Chairman and CEO respectively of McCoy's Building Supply).

Pastor's Faith & Work Cohort

ABBA began the journey of connecting churches around the idea of spiritually investing in marketplace leaders almost 7 years ago with our first CEO & Pastor dinner. That led to a small cohort of 4 churches who really pressed into figuring out how that journey could make a tangible impact on things like discipleship, preaching, and even local missions. This past year ABBA invited 4 additional churches to join that cohort and benefit from the shared learning of the initial group. Now, similar to how we've seen other ABBA initiatives grow and mature, we are seeing geographically centered F&W cohorts spring up around the city. We look forward to supporting, encouraging, and in a few cases leading those groups this coming year.

ABBA's Team and Board

The Lord continues to bless our efforts to connect people with purpose. If you want to know how "you've" made a difference through your financial partnership with ABBA, look no further than the ABBA Team. We are blessed to have eight team members working to connect individuals, organizations and our community to God's purposes. [Lauren Mendez](#), Office Manager; [Jennifer Mazzola](#), Director of Project Management; [Jeff Johnson](#), Strategic Relations; [Amanda Gallagher](#), Communications Management; [Rene Green](#), Donor/Sponsor Relations Manager; [Kennisha Moffit](#), Prayer Coordinator; and [Gail Long](#), Prayer Coordinator. In addition, we are proud to have a governance based Board. This year we've added several new Board members including: [Norma Barr](#), Owner, Barr and Barr Consultants; [Patti Boyle](#), Best Selling Author and Owner, Pure Potential Consulting; [Andrew Tull](#), Partner, Tailwind Business Ventures; and [Eric Hehman](#), Best Selling Author and CEO, Austin Assets.

Thank you for accepting ABBA's invitation to advance the Kingdom of God all across greater Austin.
Be blessed my friend!



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