

Book Review – Mats Tunehag

When Jesus Calls: Transforming Businesses into Expressions of God’s Kingdom

By Peter Lawry

Business as Mission Ltd, 2021. 233 pp, £12.11 (from AbeBooks), ISBN 0-473-608-316

“What if it’s not your business? What if you make God your CEO and you become nothing more than His employee?” New Zealand businessman Peter Lawry was asked this question and it became a game changer for him. Peter had failed and succeeded in business, and he was a Christian. But this question put him on a discovery journey to further understand what it means to be a Christian in the marketplace.

His book *When Jesus Calls* gives glimpses of his personal journey through biblical reflections. It is like a Bible study compendium with bullet points, interspersed with 35 brief stories of other peoples’ journeys in faith and business.


Peter says that “this book is less of a ‘how to’ manual, and more of a ‘purpose for’ undertaking business God’s way”. He aims at being Christo-centric, breaking down the sacred – secular divide, and attempting to see personal lives and business activities through a Kingdom of God lens. The book is full of Bible references, and Peter doesn’t succumb to simple steps and models. Doing business for God and the common good is not a technique, but a worldview and a lifestyle.

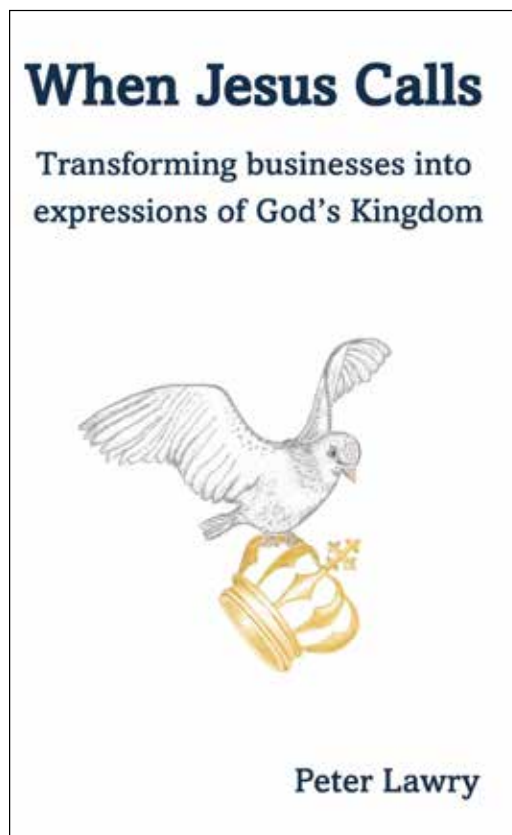
The book has a focus on aligning personal life with God’s purposes and transforming business practices. That is a good starting point, and is like a good appetiser. But it falls short on going deeper and wider; more recommended

reading would also be helpful. Peter refers to the Great Commission, but he doesn’t look deeper at the global thrust implied, the call to preach, manifest and

wider, and applies beyond us and our businesses. Thus, I would have liked the book to touch upon and address issues with which the church could engage: with business solutions to environmental degradation; what business means in terms of human dignity and freedom; how wealth creation and holistic human flourishing are an integral part doing business with God; how industries and nations can be transformed; and our call to do business among all peoples.

Peter’s contribution to the conversation about faith, work and business is good and needed, and resonates with many in the global Business as Mission movement. Hopefully it will whet your appetite for more, to go deeper and wider. *When Jesus Calls* relates to a Judeo-Christian tradition which has a rich heritage found in many church traditions, with many examples across the globe and throughout history.

Today there are thousands of leaders in business, church, missions, and academia who are engaged in Business as Mission (BAM), and they operate in over 25 languages. If you want to learn more and connect with others in the global BAM community, go to the world’s most extensive Business as Mission resource library: www.businessasmission.com. 



extend God’s Kingdom among all nations including through business – especially in areas with dire economic, social, environmental and spiritual needs.

It is important to explore God’s purposes for us and business, and Peter’s book is helpful towards that end. But the Kingdom of God is bigger and



Mats Tunehag is the co-founder and Chairman of BAM Global (BAMglobal.org), and he has worked in over half the countries of the world to develop the global Business as Mission (BAM) movement. Learn more at MatsTunehag.com/about, and find BAM material in 23 languages.