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Back to Business: Can't-Miss Events, Big Opportunities, and Bold Kingdom Moves This Fall

1 message

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Kingdom Ledger - August 2025 Edition

ENGAGING BUSINESS LEADERS & INVESTORS FOR CHRIST

In This Issue: YBL Fall Breakfast with \$1.2B entrepreneur **Shegun Otulana** • Sukkot Family Reunion 2025 registration now open • **James Spann** launches Alabama's 24/7 weather network • Faith & Work Luncheon with **Joanna Meyer** • Market insights with **Chad Richey** • Local leaders driving Kingdom impact across Birmingham



☀️ **Welcome to the Kingdom Ledger** — a monthly briefing for faith-driven Birmingham business leaders and investors, built around **Events, Leadership, Empowerment, and Community**. ☀️

Hello Fellow Builders,



As summer winds down and many of us return to a steadier work rhythm, the late-summer and early-fall season offers a unique window to refocus, re-engage, and press forward with renewed clarity. On behalf of the Elders, shareholders, and Market Partners at **Oasis Venture Studio**, I'm excited to bring you the August edition of *The Kingdom Ledger*—spotlighting ventures, voices, and visionaries advancing God's purposes through business.

This issue is filled with momentum: from gatherings that will strengthen your leadership, to opportunities that connect you with influential Kingdom-minded peers, to initiatives shaping our city's future. Every feature comes directly from our Birmingham-centered ecosystem, with links to help you connect, collaborate, and encourage those featured.

Whether you're launching something new, scaling what's in motion, or discerning your next step, I pray this month's edition equips you with wisdom, courage, and renewed Kingdom focus. Let's finish this season strong—together.

With purpose and expectation,

Martin A. Briggs

Executive Producer & Franchise Advisor

Oasis Venture Studio



YOUNG BUSINESS LEADERS

2025 Fall Breakfast

with Shegun Otulana

September 12, 2025
6:30 am – 7:45 am
Vestavia Country Club
400 Beaumont Dr,
Birmingham, AL 35216

Join YBL as Birmingham entrepreneur Shegun Otulana shares about his remarkable journey in leadership, resilience, and building businesses that make a difference.



Reserve Your Seat Now!

How Shegun Otulana Turned a Birmingham Startup into a \$1.2 Billion Exit



[Rob Genin](#) of YBL invites you to the **YBL Fall Breakfast 2025** on **Thursday, September 12 at 6:30 AM** at **Vestavia Hills Country Club**, featuring special guest [Shegun Otulana](#), CEO of Harmony Venture Labs.

Born in Nigeria and now a Birmingham-based entrepreneur, Shegun founded **Therapy Brands**, which became **Alabama's largest startup exit at \$1.2 billion**. At this event, you'll hear how he scaled from startup to 10-figure exit—and how he's now building companies that strengthen communities and create lasting opportunity.

*NOTE: To my brothers in Christ—I've reserved **two tables** for this powerful gathering. If you'd like to join me and my guests, please reply to this message to reserve your seat.*



EVENTS



October 6 - 13 **Columbiana AL**

As author of the **Kingdom Ledger**, I want to personally invite you to join me for the **2025 Sukkot Family Reunion** at the Alabama 4-H Center in Columbiana, AL, October 6–13. This is one of my

favorite weeks of the year—a time set apart for worship, fellowship, and adventure as we joyfully rehearse the Kingdom together. Whether you can come for just one day, enjoy a weekend pass, or stay for the full week, there's a place for you. It's a chance to connect deeply with God and one another, and I'd love for you to experience it with me.

[Click here to learn more and Be Part of the Celebration](#)

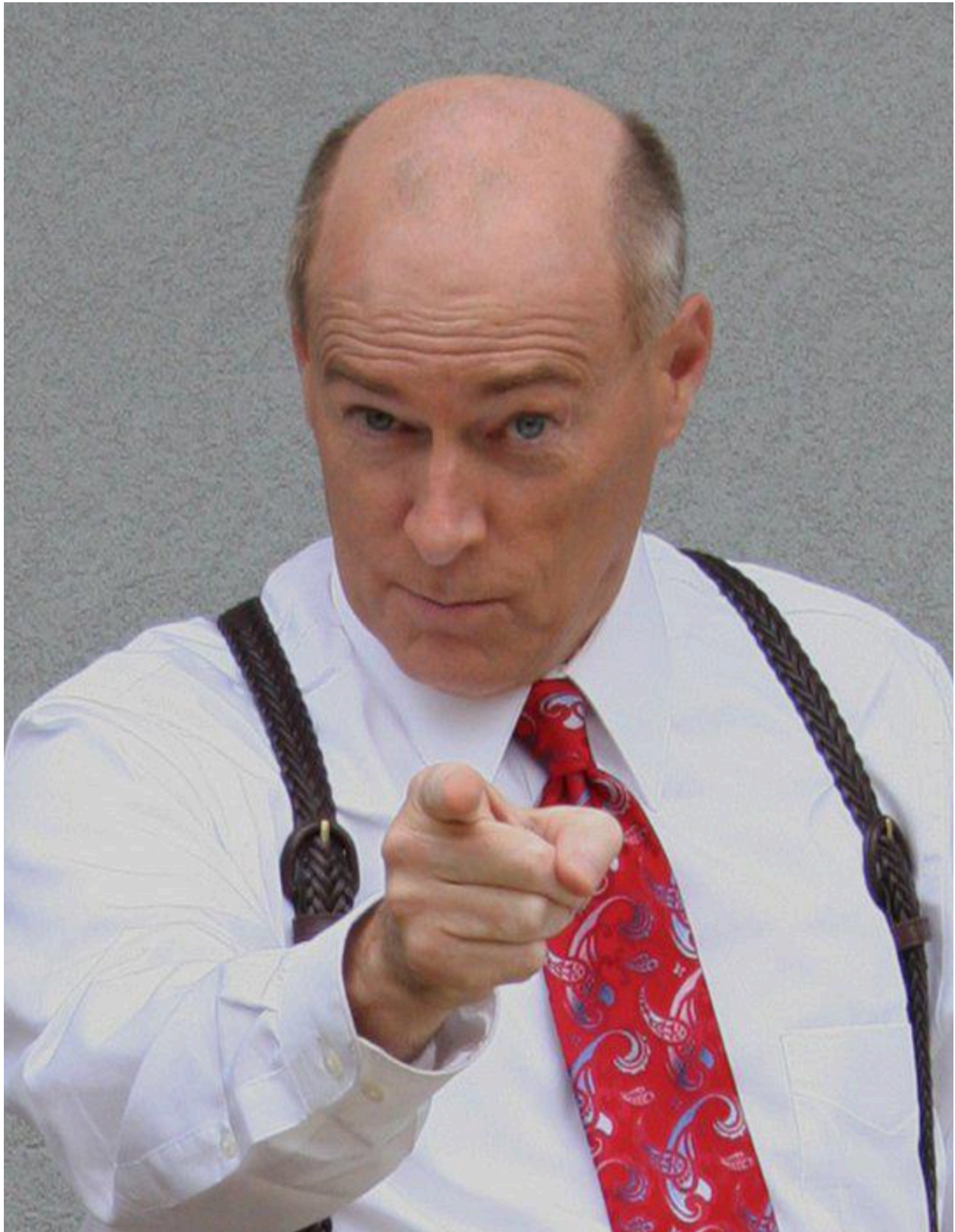
[Kevin Moore](#) invites you to **Cause Conversations – Q3 2025** on **Wednesday, August 20th, from 11:30 AM–1:30 PM** at **Shades Mountain Community Church (2290 Tyler Road, Hoover, AL 35226)**. This quarterly gathering brings together leaders from **Business, Church, Nonprofit, and Government** to address some of the Birmingham metro and Alabama's most pressing issues—including **Workforce Development, Transportation, Prison/Re-entry, Human Trafficking, Refugee/Immigrant support, and more**—through collaborative strategy and shared resources. **Lunch is provided, no cost to attend, registration required — [click here to register](#).**

[Lori Chambers](#), Senior Development Officer at HOPE International, invites you to **save the date** for a special Birmingham gathering on **Tuesday, September 9, 2025**, from 6–9 p.m. at the Country Club of Birmingham. Come hear from President & CEO Peter Greer and celebrate how microfinance and savings groups are helping families worldwide rise out of poverty through HOPE's global programs.

[Sharon Head](#) of **WBL** invites you to the **2025 Faith & Work Luncheon** on **Wednesday, September 24th** at **The Club** in Birmingham, featuring **Joanna Meyer** of the **Denver Institute for Faith & Work**. Joanna is director of public engagement at the Institute, host of the Faith & Work Podcast, and founder of **Women, Work, and Calling**, a national initiative equipping Christian women for godly influence in public life. She is the author of *Women, Work, & Calling* (2023) and a contributor to *Women & Work* (2023), and has served as associate faculty at Denver Seminary. **11:45 AM–1:00 PM** (doors open at 11:15 AM), **\$30 per seat — [click here to register](#).**

LEADERSHIP





James Spann—beloved chief meteorologist at ABC 33/40 with a 47-year career and a longtime supporter of faith-based initiatives through Grace Klein Community, Movement Birmingham, and more—has launched the [Alabama Weather Network](#), going live **Aug. 11 at noon**. This will be Alabama's only 24/7 digital weather channel, committed to providing comprehensive severe weather coverage for **all 67 counties**, especially areas currently underserved. Features include a statewide network of skywatchers, cutting-edge drone technology, and cameras across Alabama, with live coverage available on mobile devices, the network's app and website, streaming platforms (Roku, Amazon Fire TV, Apple TV), and social media. "I love this state... I'm thrilled to now be able to protect Alabamians in all 67 counties," **James Spann** said.

[Duane Donner](#) of Founders Advisors and Heritage Forum offers a powerful **Word of the Week** on the theme *Generational*, drawing from Psalm 145:4 and his own experience building both family legacy and enduring businesses. In this reflection, Duane challenges leaders to think beyond the next 5–10 years and instead build organizations that remain **Kingdom-focused and impact-driven for generations to come**. He shares practical steps: starting with a God-centered vision, instilling and reinforcing clear values, and intentionally developing multi-generational structures and leaders. This is a rare and necessary conversation about creating generational wealth and impact through our companies — one we need to have far more often. [Read his full insight here.](#)

[Bethany Meadows](#) of **Vertical Solutions Media** invites small business owners to book a **free GROW Coaching Session** designed to help you overcome roadblocks, streamline your strategy, and accelerate growth. With 30+ years of experience in branding and marketing—and nearly 17 as president of her own firm—Bethany offers expert insights and AI-powered tools to help you make smarter decisions and scale with confidence.

👉 Don't miss this opportunity to work on your business, not just in it—[book your free session here.](#)

EMPOWERMENT

[Chad Richey](#) of **Merrill Lynch Wealth Management** reminds us of the importance of staying informed on market developments—something I personally believe is essential, as the **stock market** along side real estate remains the **single greatest mechanism for long-term wealth storage and growth**. Chad is a highly reputable financial advisor and offers a valuable **twice-weekly audiocast series** featuring insights from the **Chief Investment Office, BofA Global Research**, and guest speakers. New episodes are available every **Monday** and **Friday** at **2 p.m. Eastern**—[click here to listen](#) and keep your market knowledge sharp.

[Shawn Lovejoy](#) of CourageToLead wants to know: *Are you maximizing the support of your Executive Admin?* If you're looking to elevate your EA's leadership, initiative, and impact, consider enrolling them in the **Fall 2025 Killer EA Coaching**—a 90-day intensive designed to supercharge the Leader/EA partnership. [Book a Breakthrough Call here](#) to explore how it could transform your ministry's efficiency and mission impact.

[Jeremy Duckworth](#) of CARA invites Jefferson County small business owners to apply for the **Micro Business Accelerator**, a powerful growth initiative with only 30 spots available. Learn more in [this video](#) about how Auburn and UAB professors, access to contracts and capital, and a real plan can help you accelerate—visit caranow.org to apply.



COMMUNITY

[David Fleming](#), **President & CEO of REV Birmingham** and a longtime friend of YBL, invites you to take the [Downtown BHM Community Survey](#) to help **guide the future of Downtown Birmingham**. This quick survey is part of a **strategic planning process** led by REV Birmingham and the **Downtown BHM Business Improvement District (BID)** to set priorities and improvements for the next five years, shaping efforts like the **CAP Clean and Safe Program, beautification, small business support, data and research, marketing, and activations**.

[Andrew Clark](#) of **Jeremiah Fund** is leading a seed-stage venture fund backing faith-driven founders across the U.S., with a track record of over **\$50M raised** and **7x average price increases**. The team is actively seeking **referrals to aligned founders and strategic partners** as they deepen their focus on **spiritual formation, AI, and wholehearted faith in venture**—and Andrew welcomes suggestions on where to connect this fall.

Thanks for reading this August edition of The Kingdom Ledger. If there's any way I can serve, support, or connect you further, I'd be honored—just reach out.

If the stories and opportunities have encouraged you and you'd like to support the ongoing mission, you're welcome to give through the [Oasis Venture Studio giving portal](#).

With appreciation,
Martin A. Briggs
Executive Producer, **Oasis Venture Studio**



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