

Michael W. Player - BIO

Michael Player, is a portfolio entrepreneur who sold his first Advertising Agency (MVP Marketing of Kansas City) in December 2015 following 28 years of ownership. MVP was an award winning, recognized Regional Advertising Agency/ Digital Marketing and Public Relations Firm based in Kansas City.

Michael then accepted the Founding Director position for the McNair Center for Entrepreneurship and Free Enterprise at Houston Baptist University following a \$5 million grant given to the University by the owner of the Houston Texans, Bob McNair. This led the Player's to move back to Texas from Kansas. Michael is a Behavioral Scientist and has taught marketing, management and operational leadership for 20 consecutive years at 4 Universities (Baker University, MidAmerica Nazarene University, University of Missouri at Kansas City and Houston Baptist University). He is a visionary.

Rhonda his wife, served as Operations Director for their Ad Agency, MVP Marketing. Prior to meeting Michael, she had served in upper management positions for Sprint as a business operations expert opening Call Centers in over 20 countries across the globe. She is an integrator. She met Michael soon after accepting a special buy-out package from Sprint when they downsized. Michael & Rhonda have been happily married for 14 years.

While in Houston, Michael took a turn into vocational ministry full-time by accepting the National Communications Director position for the U.S. Pastor Council. He was able to help grow the para-ministry Senior Pastor Councils from 6 to 14 States prior to the Covid Pandemic. He stepped away from the ministry due to a major decrease in donations brought on by the pandemic but, God had a different turn-of-events planned for Michael as he was picked up within a few weeks by moving in July of 2021 to Colorado Springs to join Focus on the Family as their new Marketing Manager over Church Engagement. In 2022 he pivoted roles and joined Pinnacle Forum as Director of Affiliate Services, currently working as a liaison between Pinnacle Forum and the Colson Center. He and Rhonda count it as a dual blessing as their youngest daughter lives a few miles north of them in Denver. God has always had them in His hand guiding them both in where He wants them to be. Michael recently was promoted as the Marketing Manager over both Church Engagement and Community Engagement yet, he sees all of these transitions as God's leading in his life to best utilize those specific spiritual gifts he has been given for Kingdom Construction.

MICHAEL CRAVEN - BIO

Michael is an accomplished executive, worldview expert, cultural apologist, and author. Ever since leaving his career as a corporate CEO in 2001, Michael has been working to equip the Church in America with a robust Christian life and worldview.

In 2007, Michael founded the Center for Christ & Culture where his popular weekly commentaries grew to reach more than two million readers through Crosswalk.com, Christianity.com, The Christian Post and numerous other web-based outlets. In 2009, Michael authored his critically-acclaimed book, *Uncompromised Faith: Overcoming Our Culturalized Christianity* (NavPress). He also contributed to the 2014 book, *Same-Sex Marriage: A Thoughtful Approach to God's Design for Marriage* by John Stonestreet and Sean McDowell.

Michael has been a featured speaker at many venues including, the University of California at Berkeley, the National Conference on Christian Apologetics, and numerous churches across the country. He served as an adjunct professor at Western Seminary where he was invited to teach on Cultural Apologetics. He has appeared on Fox News, CNN, ABC, NBC, and many other national television and radio programs.

Prior to joining The Colson Center, Michael served for five years as the president of Bridge Builders, an inner-city ministry in South Dallas, where he pioneered a missional strategy for transforming the "culture of poverty" into a culture of flourishing, breaking the cycle of poverty that dominates America's inner-city communities.

Michael lives in the Dallas area with his wife and three children.