

LeaderImpact Podcast Ep. 14 Calvin Quek - Have a Joyful, Generous Year

Lisa Peters

Welcome to the LeaderImpact Podcast. We are a community of leaders with a network of over 350 cities from around the world dedicated to optimizing our personal, professional, and spiritual lives to have impact. This show is a chance to listen and engage with leaders who are living this out. We love talking with leaders so if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions to make the show even better, please let us know. The best way to stay connected in Canada is through our newsletter at leaderimpact.ca or on social media at LeaderImpact. And if you're listening from outside of Canada, check out our website at leaderimpact.com.

I'm your host Lisa Peters and welcome to our podcast with Calvin Quek. Calvin is the founder and owner of Brightmark, a Salesforce consultancy based in Toronto. He has spent the last fifteen years consulting with hundreds of companies on how to deliver stellar customer relationship management experiences through the adoption of cloud technologies. Calvin understands the specialized needs and true potential of Salesforce for companies in the financial services sector. And has developed a practice helping nonprofits take advantage of Salesforce and related technologies. Before Brightmark Calvin co-founded another \$4M Salesforce Consulting firm called Shift CRM.

And then he ventured a little further on his entrepreneurial journey and in 2021 he co-founded Lumishield, a Canadian manufacturer of the highest performing mobile air purifiers specifically designed to clean larger spaces. They invented their own air purifier that cleans the air 3 to 5 times faster than other brands to help customers achieve higher levels of clean air changes per hour. A solution that is mobile and easy to deploy

As Lumishield CEO Calvin leads their go-to-market strategy and business development. He is on a mission to help organizations achieve the highest levels of indoor air quality in their community spaces.

He wants to help communities flourish by bringing their people back together indoors safely. Welcome to the show Calvin. I am super excited to chat with you about bigger financial risks bigger steps and having a joyfully generous year. So thank you for joining us.

Calvin Quek

Thanks, Lisa. It's great to be here. Thanks for having me.

Lisa Peters

Well, I'm going to tell everybody that this morning I sent Calvin the link. And it was 7 in the morning. And unfortunately, I am a female who's got to do everything. And I was in my pyjamas when I sent Calvin the link. And then I follow up with a quick email to say hey in case,

you didn't get the link, goes to junk. Calvin clicks on the link and I'm in my PJs. So Calvin we're like besties now. (Laughing)

Calvin Quek

(Laughing) Yes, I like to be prepared and I wanted to make sure everything was going to work. So yeah, but so it was nice to catch you in that and I think you just look just as great this morning.

Lisa Peters

Yeah, thanks. I'm really excited to chat with you. I know that you've got some different things on the go. Amazing that you started a company right during...I mean it's an air purifier, right during COVID how cool is that? But so exciting that you just kept the momentum going as an entrepreneur, in that spirit. I'm gonna do something.

So I'm excited to get going on this. I know you have a great personal, professional, and spiritual journey. So we're gonna jump in sound good?

Calvin Quek

Sounds good.

Lisa Peters

So I want you to tell us a little bit about yourself because I love hearing a little bit about people. And I know that's important just to sort of hear a little snippet of who Calvin is and maybe a funny or memorable story from your childhood.

Calvin Quek

So I actually was born in Singapore and we moved to Canada in '94 when I was about ten years old. And so a lot of my childhood memories are really about making that transition from Singapore, being a city-country, and moving to Vancouver, BC where I grew up. So certainly I just loved having that much more space and lots more nature. I mean British Columbia is just beautiful. Vancouver is a beautiful city to grow up in. But I actually moved out to Toronto in 2004 and I've been in Toronto ever since. Met my then-girlfriend, now wife Peggy, and we've got two kids Haley and Elias so they're...One of each. Keeps us on our toes.

Lisa Peters

One in each hand I always say that's enough.

Calvin Quek

Yes, that's right. Yep, that was our thought which actually leads me to a memorable childhood memory. So I remember, I was fourteen years old we were having dinner. And my mom basically shared that she was expecting another child. And I'm 14, and my younger brother Casey was 10 at the time. So basically it'd been ten years where it was just the two of us. And

all of a sudden she springs this news that we're going to have our third brother Cullen. And I remember just standing up at the kitchen table in shock like really? And yeah, so fond memories of helping out with Cullen who, as a baby, changing his diapers and always hold that to him. And then four years after that we actually got another brother Cohen. So yeah.

Lisa Peters

Wow, that's a big gap for a woman. Usually, we just put them...not that we put them out but like we have them together. Wow.

Calvin Quek

Yeah, I think for my parents to wait that long I kind of joke and say that they were just waiting till my brother Casey and I were old enough to help out, and then they had those extra hands.

Lisa Peters

Yes, that is why they do it. Yes, Calvin so you are right. Oh, man. So your brothers to this day you hold it against them that you change their diapers.

Calvin Quek

Oh yeah, yeah, these really are things that will be shared on Cullen's wedding day for sure. And they're great, and actually, a number of them, a couple of my brothers have worked for me with my business so it's been good.

Lisa Peters

So your family was in Vancouver did some of them move to Toronto.

Calvin Quek

Yeah, so Cullen actually moved out to Toronto to come work with me and so he's actually in the consulting space now with Salesforce too and then my youngest brother is actually studying business at Simon Fraser University and in the summers he's actually been helping us out with consulting work too. Just a great skill for him to learn, technology and how to work with businesses or consult with businesses. So yeah, he actually just reached out and wants to work with us again starting in May.

Lisa Peters

It's nice to have family there with you. So are going to switch. I want to hear a little bit about your two companies. I'm excited to hear about them because Brightmark and Lumishield are, I mean, they're two very different companies. We got a CRM and then a mobile air purifier. So I'd like to hear more about that. And I'm wondering if you had any of those pivotal moments that maybe the switch or we talked about Salesforce but then you went on to shift CRM and just so many different pivots. And any moments that you can share with us that the listeners would be like yeah I get that. Those are big ones.

Calvin Quek

Yeah, so I think with Brightmark, I've been doing Salesforce for so long. I worked at Salesforce as one of the earlier employees there and Brightmark's actually my second consulting business focused on Salesforce. So for me, that's certainly been a big part of my career and my skill set is working with businesses and organizations. Helping them figure out their business processes and how those things could be improved with technology. And more recently I'd actually been spending more time with nonprofits as well because I really felt this desire to leverage those skills for these nonprofits who very much need that help and may not always be able to forward my services.

And so I think I already was sensing maybe in the last couple of years, definitely during the pandemic, the sense of are there other things that I could be doing? And really through a network of other business people in my faith community, that I'm connected with, I met Maurice who is my partner with Lumishield. And Maurice is an inventor. He runs a lighting design firm. He designs these beautiful lighted mirrors and things that you would see in hotels or the airport or even at the mall.

And he also wanted to start applying his skills towards something that could help with a pandemic. So he's the one that invented the air purifier in its current form. And so when we start talking, I really got the sense that he needed help kind of bring it to market. That he had this great product but we need to figure out how to get this out to customers and start building that brand. And for me, I think a lot of these things are things that I've always enjoyed with starting a business. Is building that brand. Forming a team. Figuring out all those sorts of things.

So I think from that side I felt like I had sufficient background. But I'm certainly learning a lot about manufacturing, getting very hands-on and ordering parts, and all these sorts of things that I would never need to do in the software business that I'm getting hands-on with now. But again what I love is that it's a tangible product. You can see you can touch and you can experience the air purifier and also know that it's making a difference and something that can help people.

Lisa Peters

I love that about it. Is that you feel that you are making a difference, and you are. I mean air purifiers right now are a big thing. How is Lumishield doing right now?

Calvin Quek

Yeah, I think it's been a lot more challenging getting into the market than we thought. I think part of it is we only started the company last summer and our product was ready to start shipping this past month. And so I think part of it is there's obviously a lot of changes happening right now with mandates being lifted and things like that. I think a lot of companies that we are talking to are interested but they're also a bit fatigued with thinking

about doing something about COVID. So I think we're still very optimistic. We've got some great partners through Staples and a few others that are representing us now. And it could be more of a timing thing.

Lisa Peters

I think depending on wherever you are in Canada, or around the world, the rules are different. I'm in Saskatchewan and you're in Toronto. People listening are all around the world. And not everyone is, I mean maybe by the time this airs, everyone will be open but we're all in a different space and you talk about fatigue. And people are just like I'm so done and I'm sure CEOs and buyers are just like I just need a break or so I know you'll do great.

Calvin Quek

Thank you. Yeah, I'm glad you mentioned that. Because we were just thinking Asia. There are countries in Asia for instance, that are still experiencing increased cases and things. So I think it's really going to be about doing that research, making more connections, and getting the word out there that we have a great option to consider.

Lisa Peters

Yeah, and you're the customer relationship management guy. So there you go. So how is Brightmark? I mean you have found a niche I think.

Calvin Quek

That's right. So what Brightmark...and actually Brightmark's really what allowed me to spend more time building up this new company. I built a great team. When I started Brightmark, I found some really good people to kind of work for me and some of them actually are now partnered with me. We're in the financial services industry, so it's a key industry for Canada. So a great market to be in. And definitely, with everyone working from home, there's been a lot greater emphasis for our clients to figure out how to allow for that to happen. That their staff has everything they need technology-wise, and CRM-wise to do their work from home.

So our business has continued to thrive and we're in fact, I think we're excited to get out there and start meeting our clients again. We were using Zoom before most people started using Zoom and so I think there's the sense of let's get back out there and spend time with our clients in person.

Lisa Peters

I wonder if some people can really resonate with Brightmark was doing well, and then you start a new company. And I'm sure it's kind of a side gig. It's a passion. It's a love. But you still have to do the other job. We need to make money. I get that. But when you get to sort of put your passion into something and making the world better, making the rooms better that we walk into, the air is better I love that. So thanks because that's a good thing.

So I'm going to ask you before we sort of switch into what we really want to talk about and I mean we talk generously giving because I think you're a great topic for that or a great person to talk about. Some of the best professional advice you have ever received? What can you share with us?

Calvin Quek

Oh yeah, I've learned so much. I can think of, for instance, my first manager at Salesforce. One of his mottos that he taught the sales team was Better, better, never best. So this sense that we can always do better. And don't settle on thinking that you're the best. And I think that is so applicable in so many ways. But just really for me, it sparks the sense of intentionality to improve and to learn. So I think if you think that you're the best I think there may be that tendency not to keep learning and growing and developing. But if you say, Hey there are people that are smarter than me, better than me, whether it's a competitor or what have you, then I'm going to think about what do I need to do about that. What can I do to improve? So I think that's something that's really stuck with me in everything whether it's small things, like preparing for a meeting or asking for feedback and asking how could I do better?

Lisa Peters

It's that word intentional I feel, and I don't know if it's just in my current leadership journey, that word is just I feel like it's my word of the year. Just be intentional in your leadership. Be intentional in what you're doing. That's my word of the year.

Calvin Quek

Yeah, I think that's a big one for me. It's something I use a lot with anyone I talk to whether it's my staff or partners or people that I mentor. Bring that level of intentionality to all aspects of your life. Not just in the workplace, but with your family, with your kids. And I think, What would that look like if you were intentional and not just multitasking and being torn in so many different directions as that can happen.

Lisa Peters

That's a great comment. Well, we're going to transition a bit because I think many people...you talked about, or well I sort of mentioned, just that passion. You went from one company and really wanted to make a difference and a lot of people want to connect their passion with their careers. And we all want to love what we do all day and some of us don't but we really do admire those people that do. And where I think the struggle is really to understand how does a CRM company and then a mobile air purifier company, how does it integrate into your spiritual side?

I think we don't all need to work for a not-for-profit or go on a missions trip or be a pastor to make a difference. We can make a difference as a CRM company or a mobile air purifier or a secretary. We can make a difference by being intentional. So my question for you is about

integrating your spiritual side into your career and professional because we all can do it. It's just what level do we do it at and be intentional. We all have skills.

Calvin Quek

I think that's a great question. So for me, I think about the contrast between my first consulting business shift that I started with a number of other partners and what I end up doing with Brightmark. So when I think about that shift, what I thought about being intentional in terms of just giving back. I think it was more of a bit of an afterthought. So as we made money we made profits I would say okay I'm going to set aside some of that for my church or these charities. But it wasn't really an integrated part of our essence as an organization. That we didn't see it as really just kind of the fruits of being successful in business. With Brightmark, I really looked at it as well, one it was easier because I owned the business so I could make a lot of those decisions. But I really told myself that Brightmark can't exist just to generate more profits for me to just keep growing my own kind of portfolio or nest egg.

And also just looking beyond just the money but saying hey we have this really valuable set of skills and experiences and actually Salesforce has a great set of products specifically for nonprofits. They have a very generous program where they donate licenses and they offer big discounts. But what's missing there is they need consultants like us to help these charities actually discover this technology and because a lot of them think Salesforce, Oh that's not for a nonprofit that's for a big enterprise company. And so a lot of my time was really just shifting into saying well I'm going to spend more time just educating these charities on what it is. And so I think that's where things really started to come alive for me. I could look at Brightmark as a business not just to generate money that I could give. But then also leverage my skillset, leverage my team and actually, that's been really fun too is to involve my employees. We give them actual paid volunteer hours or days each quarter that they can use to give back to charities as well. And so just trying to be more integrated.

And then of course with the air purifier business, that's kind of taken a whole different form. Because now it's...I think the nice thing for Maurice and I is because we both have our respective companies. When we started at Lumishield we didn't need it to generate income for us right away. And I think that's been really freeing for us to say, You know what? Let's leave the money, the cash in the business to help it grow so that we can have a broader reach, broader impact on more organizations. For instance, there's a school that ordered six units from us recently that we'll be delivering to. And we're just excited because they can use that to make it easier for them to resume their extracurricular activities. So I think that for us has been really cool just to be in a more tangible way to give back.

Lisa Peters

I wonder, as I listen to you, giving back is good business. Not that we do it to receive, but it is good business. So I wonder did you, this is like an odd question, did you grow up...did you

watch your parents do this? Have you sort of grown up in that, my parents, their legacy to you is I'm going to teach you how to give?

Calvin Quek

Yeah, so I would say probably one of the earlier examples that I saw was my grandfather. He was an architect in Singapore and he gifted our house there to my father. And it was really that gift that allowed us to move to Canada because we ended up selling that house and then buying our house in BC. And so that early on there's definitely been great examples. My grandmothers, who've both passed away, were very generous people. And not just monetarily but just in serving and making sure that we were fed. The kids were fed first before they even started eating and so I've had some great examples like that.

But I'd say that for me the biggest kind of transformation was probably when I sold my first consulting business, Shift, and that was back in 2014. Soon after that I was invited to this experience called A Journey of Generosity and it's a retreat. It was an overnight retreat as couples. There were 10 couples invited. And we spent time with the facilitator named Stephen who is a very successful home builder in Ottawa. And who we later found out actually sponsored or paid for all of our hotel and meals to actually be there with them. And we were essentially part of this experience where we could enter into this discussion on what does generosity really mean? What does money mean to us? Is it something that is used to just kind of help us buy whatever we may need to be happy and or is there more to that? And also really explore our hearts when it comes to money. Is money so important to us that it might be getting in the way of more important things?

So anyway, that experience was I would say game-changing just to kind of hear these and watch these stories of very generous people. People that had achieved huge success in business. We're talking hundreds of millions of dollars in business and deciding to give almost all of it away. And for me, that was very jarring. Like I'd always thought that you had never ever considered that as a possibility until you hear these examples. And so for my wife Peggy and I, that was very transformational in our journey. It caused us to really think about is there...do we ever have that finish line? Will we ever be satisfied with how much we have? Do we need that bigger house? Do we need more cars? Do we...and so on and so forth. Or what could it look like if we were content and were able to almost kind of break that cycle of what society often tells us we should be doing which is make more buy more stuff and have more stuff. And frankly, it's brought a lot of freedom and joy to us. And it's a journey. I think that's a big thing is over the years it's caused us to think about some of the decisions that we've made financially, but then also the other piece which is being able to start giving away more but doing that more strategically and actually partnering with charities versus just being very reactive.

Lisa Peters

So in Journey of Generosity is it just about...because generosity can mean so much more right? It can be generous with your time, or generous with your money. Does it sort of cover both? I think of Brightmark where you are donating your time to some of the charity groups to help them with their CRM. That's giving of your time I mean ultimately it's money you're not making but you're asking your team, yourself to give of your time. And sometimes I wonder if people think that's all I have right now. And I don't know if you can, well, how can you answer that like I don't have any extra money, Calvin I don't know.

Calvin Quek

Absolutely, that's a really good point. So when I think of generosity I think to be generous it's not just about money. I think it's also time which, for some, I've met people that are very happy to write a bigger check to a charity but it's so hard to get their time. And then talent. I would say the skills, the gifts, the abilities that you possess, the experience that you have, I think that's hugely valuable and sometimes more so than money.

But frankly, for me, I look at it holistically. When I give, I want to be able to almost combine those things together so that they can be more effective. I don't want to just give my time but if the charity actually needs some dollars to fund that project I'm going to do that or give up my skills. So I think that there are many ways for people to be generous without, even if they don't have money. Just by again, I'm going to bring that that I word back, of intentionality. I may not have the dollars in the bank right now. But what else could I do to help? And I think that's the important question that we each need to reflect on.

Lisa Peters

It's just starting the conversation of how I can give generously and right now it might be small as you continue and you move on. Is there, and you just you mentioned this about the finish line because I sometimes think in life, we get that, and then we go That's not enough and we want the next thing. And I sometimes wonder where does it stop? When do you stop? Or have you found that in your heart have you come to some sort of it's got to stop?

Calvin Quek

Yeah, absolutely. I could say that for instance, I love cars. And so I'll use that as an example where I've gradually over the years driven faster and faster and nicer cars. And I'm a big Audi guy. And then I just realized I just came to this point where I keep upgrading my car. So I lease my cars. So every two, three years I'm changing it. I'm getting something more expensive and even faster. And I realize that even with my current car I get bored of it. And I almost start itching for the next thing and I realize well am I going to just keep buying an even more and more expensive car. So actually what I recently did is I ordered a new car that is half the price of my current car because I realized that it's still going to be pretty fun to drive. Still got plenty of power. But it's half the cost which is significant. And so that was just something for me that I had to do to start breaking that cycle.

I think one of the other big decisions that Peggy and I made is we decided not to upsize and buy a detached house. We live in Richmond Hill. It's just north of Toronto. Beautiful neighborhood and the detached houses are really expensive and even more so now. But we made that decision to stay in our townhouse, which has plenty of room. It's an older townhouse. So definitely a bit more spacious than the newer builds that they do today. But that was huge for us because we don't have a big mortgage. And it's actually just freed us up where we don't have that big financial obligation. And as you may know the bigger the house, you just end up just buying more stuff and spending more anyways to maintain it or improve it

Lisa Peters

No Calvin, for women we just have to clean a bigger house. I'm so done I mean I get a cleaning lady. But no I want to teach my kids how to clean, but yeah, go small.

Calvin Quek

Yeah, so but look there are times where I say, It would be really nice if we had a bigger house so we could host more people. But this is one of those pandemic things. We actually started doing more in our backyard and getting some patio furniture and just taking advantage of the space that we do have. And I think again just that that sense of contentment and not feeling like we need to keep kind of getting more things.

Lisa Peters

So I'm gonna go back to the car. So that a begrudgingly where are you like because I mean I don't know I have a nice car. My husband always doesn't understand and my car's old but I like it. (Laughing)

Calvin Quek

(Laughing) I'm not sure how I'm gonna feel about it as I'm sure I'll miss what I have. But at the same time, it's also nice knowing that I don't have this huge car payment every month either. So I think that's good too.

Lisa Peters

So I want to bring it up because I think sometimes people they'll throw this at us and it's totally slipping my mind but the love of money is the root of all evil and it's not money is not the root of all evil it's the love. And people throw that in our in a Christian's face right? because Yeah, you don't want to have the money you want to give it all away, and because...I'm like no, you're reading into that. It's the love. It's the obsession. It's the I want bigger, better. That's not from your heart. And so I appreciate your story and good luck with the car.

So when did you start giving? Like when did this all start for you giving generously? Because I think I've said this before I'm not afraid, I'm 52. And I'm finding it life-changing. I'm ready to just stop keeping up with the Joneses as I would just put in the air quotations. But I'm older and I just wonder if someone asks you because you're younger than me and when did it start for you when did you start this journey?

Calvin Quek

Yeah, so I think so as I mentioned that Journey Generosity, we'll call it a JoG for short, that was 2015. So I think that was the turning point because I was actually expecting some lump-sum payments to be made to me from the prior business sale. So it's just the perfect time to think about okay, are we just going to take those lump-sum payments and again up upside, upgrade and or put it all in our investment portfolio and let it grow even more? Or are we going to maybe consider carving out a bit more of that to make a difference earlier? And I'm a big thing about opportunity cost. So a lot of people think, Hey I'm just going to build this huge portfolio and when I die, I'll donate that to charity. And for me what I think about is, really and everyone's familiar with compound interest, but they always think about it in terms of financial terms. But I think what they forget about is the impact that our money could have in helping charities, helping ministries, and good work to be done now and all the lives that could be changed. I'm 39 this year for reference. So as I started giving, seven years ago in my early 30s who knows how many more lives I could impact when I'm in my 70s or whenever I pass and so I think that was important.

I would say again, it's a journey. We didn't suddenly jump to this huge percentage of our income right away. I think it took time to slowly just start to ramp it up and give more and give more. And I will safely say that it still hasn't frankly reached this point where I've really felt that it hurts to give. And some people might try to do that. But I don't think it has and I think part of is look, we're really just fortunate to be here in Canada. And so I think some people think that I have to be rich to be generous and that's not the case. In fact, I think it actually gets harder as you accumulate more to give that away when you're richer. So I think it's really just been in small and big things. We've just allowed this extra thought around. Yeah, do we really need this? Or could we not buy that thing and give more away.

Lisa Peters

Yeah, make that decision, be intentional.

So this morning when you caught me in my pyjamas when we talked for a little bit, you mentioned something about multiple impact. And I looked it up and it talks what I found in Wikipedia was theorizing that there are several smaller impacts throughout the course of the earth's formation. (Laughing)

Calvin Quek

(Laughing) Oh yeah, that's not it.

Lisa Peters

That was the definition but I'm thinking it's multiple impacts. So tell us what it means to you.

Calvin Quek

So I am so I have a mentor. Someone that I've been journeying with for years now. His name is Gregg Hinzelman and that's Gregg with two Gs. And he was actually part of Power to Change and then more recently he started his own kind of organization called Multiplied Impact. And so it's an organization that's looking to help professionals and business people kind of develop a bigger kind of vision and purpose for their lives and having this ability to start integrating their faith, their work, or their business their family, and their money and all these other aspects. Really with this view of potentially a greater purpose.

And the way I describe it is most of us have plans we make plans whether you're starting a new business. You're going to have some kind of business plan. If you are saving money and putting money aside, you probably have some type of financial plan or budget. But very few of us I think, in life, have kind of this plan or vision for our lives. What is this impact? What is this legacy that we want to have in the world when we die? And so that's really what Gregg and I have been working on.

We started a group together with a number of other business guys. Some of them are business owners. Some of them were professionals. But we've been journeying together to really explore what it means to be more intentional. And to kind of take bigger steps. I think we're all feeling a bit of that status quo, a bit of maybe a bit of stagnation where we're kind of itching for something more. And I'm sure we all have that feeling at some point right? We want to feel like that purpose is more than just our day jobs or what have. And so and I think a big part of that when we get to the multiplied impact part is if we can help more people discover more about what it means to integrate all these things together and to have a bigger purpose, a grander purpose that we can really have that multiplier effect which I love.

And in building consulting business, for example, I'm a big believer in teaching and training my staff and getting them to kind of that higher level because frankly, they will bring more value to our clients into our business. And so I just love that idea of just journeying with other people. Some of them I'm mentoring now are younger professionals earlier in their careers and just that ability and start to get them thinking bigger and thinking longer term has been really exciting for them because they can start to see that connection of where they're at so far and where they would like to be. And again, being more intentional about that.

Lisa Peters

Yeah, you use the word stagnation and that word just came and hit me as I think of the last two and a half years. That's what some of us just feel like we've been living there. We have to come out of it and we have to intentionally get out of this. And I found myself at a networking

event the other day and I was kind of dumbfounded. I surprised myself and I had to leave. Like I couldn't. I'm like I need to meet more people. But that stagnation you just talked about, I think we're all feeling that.

And so if somebody wants to learn more about Multiplied Impact, is there... because I don't know how big you are. Or is there a website where people can just learn more? What little steps they can do? How they can multiply their impact?

Calvin Quek

Yeah, yeah, absolutely so there is a website for Multiplied Impact I think it's <http://multipliedimpact.com>. And actually, Gregg wrote a book and it's called 'What are you Trusting God For?' that actually takes people through this exploration and this kind of sense that we were created for something bigger and something more purposeful. And just the joy that can come with that, starting to unleash that potential in each of us. And so there are great resources on that website. I mean certainly, I'm very reachable on LinkedIn. That's probably the easiest or fastest way to reach me and I'm happy to have conversations with people if they want to learn more about that movement.

Lisa Peters

Good. So over the past many years, I know that you've been involved in LeaderImpact. But I just want to ask how were you because right now a lot of groups are meeting online or virtual and it's all... But you've had some involvement with LeaderImpact in the past and I would love for you to share that because I think there are different ways that people could get involved. So tell us a little bit about your involvement.

Calvin Quek

Yeah, so I mean I have actually visited with a LeaderImpact group here in the York region yeah, where I'm in, and but I actually have connected LeaderImpact in a few other ways. One is on that consulting side as they think about technology to manage this growing group of all these business people and professionals not just in Canada but globally. It's a big movement and more and more people are getting involved. So I've certainly been trying to give back some of my skills there just to advise on ways that they could leverage technology for that purpose. My father Peter is actually actively involved in LeaderImpact as well in BC so I've been supporting him financially too as well as supporting the LeaderImpact national fund.

Lisa Peters

That's funny because I just got an email and saw your dad's name on it. Or actually, I saw Peter Quek and I'm like oh I wonder if that's related to Calvin. I didn't even put it together. Yeah, he gave us some advice so that's good. So I just want to talk about any group that because LeaderImpact has groups and we meet around the world and anyone can join. They're free to join. We do amazing studies. But I'd like you to give some advice about joining

a group. Whatever group it is and I mean we would love you to join ours. But just why is it important to join a group?

Calvin Quek

Yeah, so I think that certainly during the pandemic, I think we all realized that yeah when you're locked down and you can't even leave your house except for essentials, it can get pretty lonely. I think one of the things that really sustained me in terms of that community and connection is being part of a group. So I am part of a couple of groups and one of that groups is with these other Christian business people and professionals. And so our ability to just connect regularly, touch base, share what's going on with our businesses, work. Definitely explore something spiritually and finding ways to grow, finding ways to give back. I think that's been really beneficial for me personally and for one another. Just back to the sense of yeah like we want to keep growing. We want to keep learning and what better way than to learn from others. And sometimes we may be in different industries. We are in different kinds of jobs, but it's actually really cool to see how we can each be used in different ways just where we have been placed.

Lisa Peters

That's a great answer. Well done. Well, I always ask my guests two final questions. So you're gonna get it. LeaderImpact is about your impact through your leadership, so have and you talked a little bit...well we talked a little about legacy, but have you considered the legacy you want to leave, your faith legacy when you leave this world?

Calvin Quek

That is definitely something I've been working on and fine-tuning as part of my time with Gregg as a mentor. And so I would say for me it's really I want to use my skills and experience in technology to help non-profits and ministries be more effective and be more efficient. Right now it started with more consulting and kind of one-to-one but my hope is one day soon I'll be able to start building products and solutions that I can actually deploy to many nonprofits at once. So this kind of this one to many or that multiplier effect. So I'd love to develop products or apps that nonprofits could use again to do more because a lot of them just lack the resources internally to actually invest in R&D and business improvements and process improvements. So I think a more scalable way for me to have a bigger impact is to start designing solutions that benefit many organizations and not just one at a time.

Lisa Peters

Yeah, I love the whole concept of use your skills, your talents to make a difference. So great legacy you will leave Calvin. And my final question which I ask everybody is what brings you joy?

Calvin Quek

Oh yeah, lots of things bring me joy. I mean definitely giving. I'd be remiss to say that giving has always brought joy and just to see things like for instance, a well in Africa and seeing a whole village getting access to clean water. That brings tons of joy. But I mean selfishly or more personally, I'm a big foodie. So love to eat. Being in Toronto is great because we experience many, many different cultures of food and so that's been great. And so I think the other piece of that is travel. I'm very much looking forward to traveling again with the family and going to experience different places, different cultures, and most importantly, their food.

Lisa Peters

That's awesome. Well, thank you, Calvin. It has been fun to spend the last forty-plus minutes with you. And just hearing a little bit more about you and your involvement with the Journey of Generosity. Amazing. And I appreciate you just using your time, your talent to share with us and with the groups around you because I believe everyone has talent. And we just have to find it and we can share and that's how we will make an impact. So thank you, it has been a pleasure.

Calvin Quek

Thanks, Lisa.

Lisa Peters

So this ends our podcast with you. But if anybody wants to get in touch with you, engage with you in any way, where can they find you? You had mentioned LinkedIn is that probably the best spot or...?

Calvin Quek

That's definitely probably the fastest way to reach me is on LinkedIn and I'm pretty active there and in networking and messaging. So yeah, reach out that way.

Lisa Peters

Well, thank you for joining us, Calvin. It's been awesome. Thank you. Well if you are part of LeaderImpact, you can always discuss or share this podcast with your group. And if you are not yet in a LeaderImpact group, we would love to have you. Check out our groups available in Canada at leaderimpact.ca. Or if you're listening from anywhere else in the world, check out leaderimpact.com or get in touch with us by email info@leaderimpact.com and we will connect you. And if you like this podcast please leave us a comment and give us a rating or review. This will help other global leaders find our podcast. Thank you for engaging with us and remember impact starts with you.