Dr. George Ross

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Age: 53

Profile

I was saved when I was eleven years old at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Olive Branch, MS., during a revival week under the preaching of Dr. Lewis Ferrell. I heard and understood the Gospel responding in repentance and faith. Shortly after my conversion I was baptized.

During my high school years I went to a private school where I attended weekly chapel. It was while listening to a preacher during my 10th grade year, that I knew God called me to ministry. Although I had no real understanding of what it meant to be “called” to ministry, I knew God had called me to preach. It was not until my early college years after being discipled and involved in a local church that I publicly affirmed my call to ministry. In my college years I served in a para church organization (Young Life) and in volunteer positions at several local churches. I was blessed to be mentored and coached by tremendous pastors along the way. I have been involved in local church ministry since 1994. I was the founding Pastor of Lifepoint Church, in Senatobia, MS. I was also a founding member of the ONE8 Church Planting Network, where I served as Director. Currently, I serve as the Send Network Regional Director, South Region, NAMB Church Planting and Ministry Center Director, Replant Pastor at Lakeshore Church, and Ministry Based Faculty at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

I have been married to Joy Ross for the past 23 years, and we have 6 children: Isaac, Hannah Ruth, Abigail, Jeremiah, London, and Reuben.

Doctrinally, I affirm the Baptist Faith and Message 2000. Included in my resume, is an article I wrote for the ONE8 Network on “Why I Am a Southern Baptist.” I am a Southern Baptist by choice, by conviction, and because of cooperation.

By Choice: My journey to this choice started in a Southern Baptist Church when I was very young, during that same time I went to a Church of Christ High School (K5-12th grade), later working with Presbyterian

affiliated ministries in college, volunteering as campus BSU Director at a Catholic College, and having many relatives and friends who are Methodist. The choice for me to be a Southern Baptist did not come without experience and information from many other denominations.

By Conviction: Over the last 20 years my choice has turned into “conviction”. I have had the privilege to serve the last 18 years in Southern Baptist Churches. Through education, experience, and example there has been a cementing of conviction for the reasons I am a Southern Baptist. Two of the most important reasons are: 1. The unwavering commitment to the Word of God, scripture is our authority; 2. The outstanding doctrinal statement of faith called the“Baptist Faith and Message”.

Because of Cooperation: Early on in my ministry I was exposed to missions, this profoundly shaped my life and ministry. My introduction to missions came through the greatest mission sending agency since the disciples left Jerusalem, cooperating Southern Baptist Churches. Southern Baptist Churches are autonomous Churches who partner together with resources to advance the gospel locally, regionally, and internationally. With over 4000 missionaries in North America and over 5000 missionaries Internationally, there is no denomination more committed to proclaiming Jesus to the “Ends of The Earth” than Southern Baptists.

Experience

VOLUNTEER COLLEGE PASTOR, HELENA, MT- 1994

I served as volunteer College Pastor at Helena Valley Baptist Church, coordinating all College ministries and working to establish a Collegiate Ministry on the campus of Carroll College.

HIGH SCHOOL BIOLOGY TEACHER, FOOTBALL COACH, OLIVE BRANCH, MS- 1996-1998

I served as a High School Biology Teacher and High School Football Coach for 2 1/2 years at Olive Branch, High School.

VOLUNTEER COLLEGE PASTOR, OLIVE BRANCH, MS-1996-1998

During my time as a High School teacher and coach, I served in a volunteer capacity at Olive Branch First Baptist Church as the College Pastor.

STUDENT PASTOR, OLIVE BRANCH, MS-1998-2004

Longview Heights Baptist Church in Olive Branch, MS. called me as there Student Pastor in June of 1998. I served there for over 7 years. During my time as Student Pastor we developed a strategic missions initiative and participated local, national, and international mission trips every year. Student Ministry grew from 20 students to over 180, adult Sunday School leadership grew from 10 to 42. The Student Ministry staff grew from 1 to 4 staff positions.

MISSIONS/CHURCH PLANTING PASTOR, HERNANDO, MS-2004

I was called to the Church Plant of Longview Heights, Longview Point in August of 2004. My job description involved developing a core group, implementing a strategy and launching a church plant from Longview Point in Hernando, MS. Longview Point commissioned a core group of 30 and after 2 months of core group training, launched Lifepoint Church Senatobia in March of 2005.

SENIOR PASTOR, SENATOBIA, MS- 2005-2013

I was the founding Pastor of Lifepoint Church Senatobia, MS. Lifepoint Church started with a core group of 30 in 2005 at Magnolia Heights High School. Over the the course of 9 years Lifepoint Church recorded over 350 baptisms and had a church membership over 800. In 2011 we completed a new 700 seat sanctuary, preschool and nursery, student area, and renovated children's area. Lifepoint had 8 full-time and 4 part-time staff members. Our operating budget was over 1 million and we actively participated in the cooperative program, church planting, and international missions.

While at Lifepoint we implemented strategic community missions outreach, national and international church planting partnerships and actively participated as a sponsor or parent church in 7 different SBC church plants. Lifepoint developed national mission partnerships in Canada and Montana. Our international mission strategy included Zimbabwe, Honduras, France, and Israel.

FOUNDING MEMBER AND DIRECTOR ONE8 NETWORK, HERNANDO , MS- 2011-2013

The ONE8 Network is a group of like minded SBC churches across Mississippi, Memphis and the Mid-South region, working together to advance the gospel through Church planting. ONE8 existed unofficially since 2006, but with the gracious funding and partnership of the MS Baptist Convention and partnering SBC Churches, the Network became a reality in 2011. The history and work of the ONE8 Network can be found at www.one8.org.

NAMB SEND MISSIONARY, NEW ORLEANS, LA - 2013-2021

SEND North America is a strategic church planting emphasis in 32 metropolitan cities across North America. I serve as a Missionary here in New Orleans and have the following responsibilities: 1. Developing and implementing a strategic church planting vision for New Orleans, 2. Mobilizing churches to partner with church planting in New Orleans through prayer, participation, and provision, 3. Coaching existing planters in their church planting journey.

SOUTH REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR THE SEND NETOWRK, NEW ORLEANS, LA - 2021-CURRENT

As the Regional Director for the South, I am responsible for building and maintaining gospel partnerships with Southern Baptist and State Conventions to see churches planted everywhere for everyone. Helping provide contextual vision and leadership to southern partners while overseeing the implementation of Send Network strategies.

DIRECTOR OF CHURCH PLANTING AND MINISTRY CENTER, NEW ORLEANS, LA - 2021-CURRENT

In partnership with the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, the Church Planting and Ministry Center serves as a hub for urban ministry, church planting, church revitalization, and compassion based ministry. The center provides educational and training opportunities for students and churches to discover, develop, and deploy church planters and church planting teams across North America; and to be developed and equipped in compassion and relief ministries. As Director of the Church Planting and Ministry Center I partner and collaborate with NOBTS on strategic use of the ministry center coordinating mission opportunities, network resources, and church planting efforts.

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF CHURCH PLANTING AND EVANGELISM, OCCUPYING THE CECIL B. DAY CHAIR OF CHURCH PLANTING-2019-CURRENT

I became a Ministry Based Faculty member in 2019 at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Responsibilities include teaching church planting courses for undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral students, giving oversight to the NAMB/NOBTS Multiplication Pipeline Partnership, and occupying the Cecil B. Day Chair of Church Planting.

CO-PASTOR, LAKESHORE CHURCH, NEW ORLEANS, LA - 2016-CURRENT

Working with Canal Street Church, the North American Mission Board Re-planted Pontchartrain Baptist Church in 2016. Pontchartrain Baptist closed its doors July 2016 and relaunched as Lakeshore Church in January 2017. Since launch Lakeshore Church has grown and thrived as a multiplying church. Co-Pastoring responsibilities at Lakeshore include directing the NAMB Pipeline Residency and monthly preaching.

DIRECTOR/FOUNDER, GO ISRAEL BIBLICAL STUDY TOURS, NEW ORLEANS, LA – 1999-CURRENT

My first trip to Israel was as a college student, leading student camps. The experience changed me forever and God placed a passion for the history, people, and land of Israel on my heart. GO Israel Biblical Study Tours was birthed out of the desire to help Christians understand their heritage and to create an experience where participants could explore God's Word on location. To date there have been 16 GO Israel Trips with over 500 participants.

Work in New Orleans- Written by Lane Corley- Send Network Louisiana State Director

In 2012, New Orleans became a Send City in the North American Mission Board's Send City Strategy & George Ross became the Send City Coordinator. In May 2013, we held the first Send City Strategy meeting at Celebration Church to coordinate strategy & try to open a door for church planting to make a difference in the area. Since that time, over 70 Churches have been planted in New Orleans.

New Orleans is a tough place to minister and we have some incredible young families laboring to plant literally in some of Louisiana's toughest neighborhoods. I'm inspired by their courage and hard work and pray for them by name on a weekly basis. I also thank God for George and Joy Ross. George has given all his energy and influence to enlisting his network across the south to support and sponsor church planting in New Orleans. I don't know of another person who could have brought the number and type of churches together for this effort as George has. And as those who planted virtually alone, Heather and I have been a bit envious of the resources and fellowship that planters today have across the state, but especially in New Orleans, as Joy and George have pastored & coached the planter families with great care.

Education

Crichton College, Memphis, TN- Bachelors of Science, Secondary Education and Biology- 1995

Liberty University, Lynchburg, VA- Masters of Divinity in Evangelism and Church Planting- 2009

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary,- Doctorate of Ministry, Spiritual Formations- 2018

Skills

Certified Sunday School Trainer, Mississippi Baptist Convention, 2003

Certified Sunday School Equipper (Flakes Formula), Lifeway, 2004

Completed LOGOS Bible Study Training, Morris Proctor, 2009, www.mpseminars.com

Completed LOGOS Inductive Bible Study Training, Morris Proctor, 2010, www.mpseminars.com

Certified Gospel Coach, Scott Thomas Gospel Coach Ministries, 2013, www.gospelcoach.com

Certified Prepare & Enrich Facilitator, Prepare & Enrich Ministries, 2013, www.prepare-enrich.com

Certified Churches Planting Churches Trainer, Dynamic Church Planting International, 2013, www.dcpi.org

Served on the 2014 Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission Leadership Council

Certified Train the Trainer/Multiply Trainer, October 2017

Certified MAP Coach, October 2019

Marriage Enrichment Weekends

Marriage Enrichment Trainings

Parenting Conferences

Mission Conferences

Gospel Life Plan Workshops

Spiritual Renewal and Revival Preaching

Deacon Training & Development

Church Growth Consulting and Staff Development

Articles, Blog, Podcasts, Videos (More on Request)

Church Planting in New Orleans
Creating Partnerships in New Orleans
Send Cities and College Graduates: Why They Must Work together
The Journey of Fostering: George and Joy Ross
GA WMU Mission Curriculum: Adoption and Foster Care
Students Mission Curriculum WMU: Adoption and Foster Care
The Importance of Coaching
Menotoring Initiative Nurtures Students and Seminarians
Be a Positive Advocate for CP
The Emerging Tide of Co-Vocational Church Planting
My Heart for New Orleans
Knowing Your Role: Self Awareness
History of Mardi Gras
Caught Not Taught: Gospel Awareness
Sermon Video New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary: An Everday Missionary in Babylon
Sermon Video First Baptist Houma: Leaving a Legacy of Disciple-Making
georgeross.net

References on Request