



Nashville, Tennessee  
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Baptist Press**

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January 4, 2001

(01-02 )

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**Missouri Baptist widow  
sworn to U.S. Senate seat**

By Kenny Byrd

WASHINGTON (ABP) -- Accepting a U.S. Senate seat won by her deceased husband of 45 years, Missouri Baptist Jean Carnahan said she planned to rely on her faith.

"God does not give us any task that he does not give us strength for," she said at a press conference following her oath of office Jan. 3.

Later, in an interview with Associated Baptist Press, the political newcomer reflected, "For the first time in my life, I really feel the power of prayer from all over."

Her husband, Democratic Gov. Mel Carnahan, died while campaigning Oct. 16 in a plane crash near St. Louis, along with their son, Randy, and a campaign adviser and longtime aide, Chris Sifford.

She likened dealing with the tragedy to "having a pebble in your shoe. "You always know it's there, but your have to learn to walk with it, she told reporters.

The governor's death came too late to remove his name from the ballot. In a Senate first, however, voters elected him posthumously, 50 percent to 48 percent. Missouri's replacement governor then appointed Jean Carnahan to fill her husband's seat.

At a press conference following her swearing in, she told reporters that winning the Senate seat "was a dream" held by her husband. "He worked so hard," she added. "But life goes on, and we deal with it the way it is."

Carnahan, 67, said she has received more than 10,000 inspirational letters of support from around the country of people "telling me their own story -- their own losses."

The Carnahans have been active members of First Baptist Church in Rolla, Mo. Both have held leadership positions in the Missouri Baptist Convention

Though lifelong active Southern Baptists, some of their political views are out of favor with conservatives that now control the Missouri Baptist Convention. "I know they were opposed to my husband because of the abortion issue," she told ABP. "I feel like we didn't get the support there that we might have gotten. But there's always people of good will around and they will always come out and support you."

At the press conference, Carnahan described her swearing-in as historic. She not only fills the seat once held by Harry S. Truman but is also Missouri's first woman U.S. senator.

She faces another first as she takes her place in a Senate chamber divided 50-50 between Republicans and Democrats. Democrats will control the Senate until Jan. 20, when Vice President-elect Dick Cheney replaces Al Gore as president of the Senate and swings the potential tie-breaking vote to the GOP.

Because of that stalemate, Carnahan said lawmakers will have to work together in "the sensible center."

"My husband always said he never wanted to go into government just to warm a seat," she said. "I have the same feelings. I want to do something that's going to make a difference. I don't want to be part of a logjam, a deadlock up here."

She answered several questions about her husband's political rival, outgoing Sen. John Ashcroft, R-Mo. Ashcroft has since been nominated by president-elect George W. Bush to become U.S. attorney general. Women's and civil-rights groups are challenging the nomination, however, because of Ashcroft's public stand against abortion and other issues.

Carnahan said Ashcroft would have to answer questions about "whether he would be willing to enforce those laws that might be contrary to his ideology."

Carnahan is one of 13 women in the Senate -- the most ever.

Another first is the election of a first lady to the Senate. Hillary Rodham Clinton was sworn in as President Bill Clinton grasped daughter Chelsea's hand, smiled, cheered and wiped away tears.

The Senate's close division parallels the GOP's slim majority in the House of Representatives where the split is 221-211, plus two independents.

Not since the 83rd Congress in 1952 have the two houses been so closely divided. And it marks the first time Republicans will hold control of both houses of Congress and the White House since 1955 when Dwight Eisenhower was president.

"Never before has America had a 50-50 Senate," said temporary Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle. "As we begin this historic Congress, let us resolve that we will work in good faith with each other to do the people's business."

But across the Capitol, partisan rancor was already brewing. Democrats complained about proposed changes in the House rules they say would deny them adequate representation on committees. In a written statement, top Democrats called the GOP rules "blatantly partisan" and an effort to "silence a fair debate."

Senate leaders are still negotiating how they will divide up committees and rules that will govern the closely divided body.

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## **Baptist leader Ken Chafin dies of leukemia Jan. 3**

By Marv Knox

HOUSTON (ABP) -- Longtime Baptist pastor, seminary professor, evangelist and strategist Ken Chafin died Jan. 3 of leukemia.

Chafin, 74, enjoyed a varied and influential career. He taught at the Southern Baptist Convention's two largest seminaries, was pastor of two influential inner-city congregations, directed evangelism efforts for the nation's largest Protestant denomination and worked alongside world-famous evangelist Billy Graham.

He also was one of the first so-called "moderates" to speak out against a strategy by conservatives to gain control of the SBC in the early 1980s.

Chafin first taught at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, from 1957 to 1965. He later taught at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., 1965-1969 and 1984-1987.

He led Southern Baptists' outreach efforts as director of evangelism for the SBC Home Mission Board from 1969 to 1972.

His long association with Graham included service as dean of the Billy Graham Schools of Evangelism, held in conjunction with crusades around the globe, 1967-1983.

He was pastor of South Main Baptist Church in Houston, 1972-1984, and Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville, 1988-1992.

Chafin also was known for his denominational leadership. He was a member and chairman of the Southwestern Seminary board of trustees. He was a trustee of Georgetown (Ky.) College; Baptist Healthcare System in Kentucky, including chairman of the board for the system's flagship institution, Baptist Hospital East in Louisville; and Houston Baptist University. He also served on the executive board and the administrative committee of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Chafin provided informal leadership for moderate Baptists, particularly during the 20-year controversy between so-called conservatives and moderates.

He was a leader of the so-called "Gatlinburg Gang," a group of pastors who organized the first resistance to the "conservative resurgence" in the SBC in the late 1970s and early '80s. The group asked moderate-leaning SBC agency leaders to join in the resistance, only to be criticized by moderates and conservatives alike for "politicizing" the convention.

A decade later, however, after conservatives had gained control of the national convention, Chafin helped organize the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, a para-denominational organization for moderates disaffected by the emerging convention leadership.

News of Chafin's death prompted words of admiration from Baptist leaders who knew him for decades.

"I would call him one of those watershed people in Baptist life in the South who saw transitions in the old Southern Baptist Convention and spoke about them before a lot of people did and who paid dearly for it at times," said historian Bill Leonard.

"He was not only an outstanding pastor, but he was a grand teacher," added Leonard, dean of Wake Forest University's divinity school and a former colleague of Chafin's at Southern Seminary. "I'll remember him as a person who mentored several generations of students in Texas and Kentucky."

Leonard said one thing he loved about Chafin is "there was not a passive-aggressive bone in his body."

"He said it straight and direct, but gently. You always knew where he stood," Leonard said. "And that terrified some people."

"He was one of the people you ride the rapids with, and you never forget," Leonard said. "We were great friends."

Charles Wade, executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, noted how Chafin shaped his life, as both a professor and a friend.

"Dr. Chafin helped me greatly in his class on personal evangelism," said Wade, a student of Chafin's in the 1960s. "He was a man of enormous conviction and courage. Baptists everywhere have lost a great friend."

Words that describe Chafin's life and ministry include "calling, commitment, creativity, courage, compassion and consistency," said Roy Honeycutt, former president of Southern Seminary.

"At the personal level of our relationship, Kenneth Chafin embodied the best in friendship, vitality of life, wide-ranging interests, poetic expression, Christian charity and compassion," Honeycutt added. "He bound all life together with unswerving commitment to Jesus Christ and his church, the gospel with its

distinctive challenges and counsel for contemporary life, plus the larger missionary calling of believers to be on mission with God in his world, whatever the context, challenge, controversy or consequences."

"For Baptists, Ken Chafin has been a prophet," said Daniel Vestal, coordinator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, who called Chafin "a mentor and a friend."

"He spoke the truth when it wasn't popular and was a discerning spirit and saw what was happening in Baptist life. He also was a pioneer. He helped shape not only CBF but the moderate Baptist movement."

As an evangelist, Vestal said, Chafin had "a gift for articulating the gospel that really met people where they were -- in their church family, secular culture and everyday life."

Dwight Moody, dean of the chapel at Georgetown College, cited Chafin's "articulate, passionate, intelligent vision of Christian ministry." School officials plan to host a banquet in Chafin's memory April 17 as part of its pastors' conference.

A native of Oklahoma, Chafin was a graduate of the University of New Mexico and Southwestern Seminary, where he earned two degrees.

He wrote six books, including volumes on evangelistic witnessing, marriage enrichment and biblical commentary.

In retirement, he became a published poet and wrote devotionals for "The Daily Guidepost," organized Georgetown College's annual pastors' conference and founded a Sunday school class for young couples at South Main Baptist Church.

Chafin is survived by his wife, Barbara, of Houston; two daughters, Nancy Chafin of Boulder, Colo., and Ellen Wavro of Houston; a son, Troy, of Austin; and a grandson, Daniel Wavro, of Houston.

Funeral services are scheduled at 2:30 p.m. Jan. 7 at South Main Baptist Church in Houston. He will be buried in a cemetery adjacent to the family farm, Windy Hill, near Brenham, Texas.

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-- Bob Allen and Trennis Henderson contributed to this story.

## **Baptists respond to Texas ice storm**

By Dan Martin and Ken Camp

DALLAS (ABP) -- A pair of winter storms hitting parts of Texas between Christmas Eve and New Year's Day left many holiday travelers in dire straits.

Hotels filled quickly, and, often, churches came to the rescue of travelers stranded along treacherous roads.

Early Dec. 26, the American Red Cross alerted Eddie Tubbs, pastor of First Baptist Church of Dumas, Texas, that the snow, sleet and a thin glaze of ice was making holiday travel increasingly dangerous.

Tubbs said the church began preparations for the care and feeding of stranded motorists soon after lunch. "By 4 p.m., the activities center of the church was prepared to house an estimated 50 to 75 people," he said. "By 5:30, the weather had become even more serious. "Then, all of the highways leaving Dumas were closed and being stranded became a cold reality."

A call at supertime reported 75 people were at the church's activities center. Tubbs started toward the church, and by the time he arrived the number had grown to 150.

By 6 p.m., First Baptist opened its 900-seat worship center to accommodate the growing crowd. All told, the church provided shelter for more than 600 travelers. Three other shelters in Dumas were opened as well.

Local restaurants, grocery stores and merchants pitched in, giving services and goods at reduced prices or without cost. School buses ferried motorists to the Dumas High School athletic center so people could take hot showers.

Tubbs said the travelers kept asking the workers, "Why are you doing this?"

"Probably the best response was given by a church member who simply answered, 'Because of Christ,'" Tubbs said.

Ron Fox in Vernon, Texas, received a call about 11 p.m. Christmas night. "A policeman called to ask if we could help an older couple and their grown daughter who had no place to stay. The motels were all full, and the roads were too bad to continue their trip," said Fox, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church.

Fox agreed to open the Family Life Center, and by 3 a.m. Dec. 26, the church housed 136 stranded motorists.

"We put them in the Family Life Center and in the sanctuary," he said, adding that while the church had a few blankets, "most of the travelers were on ski trips and had sleeping bags."

The church was able to feed the motorists from food stocks on hand. "We keep sausage and gravy in the freezer, and my son [David, the associate pastor] is a pretty good cook and made biscuits from scratch."

One family of 12 from Alexandria, La., was on the way to Colorado to ski when they were stranded. "They are good Pentecostal people," Fox said, adding that after one night at the church, the family was able to obtain hotel rooms. They stayed an extra night in Vernon until the roads cleared. "They came back to the church Tuesday and fixed some authentic Cajun food for the church staff."

Across town, at First Baptist Church, pastor Robert Prince opened the facilities to motorists after a motel desk clerk -- a church member -- called asking for help in finding places for the stranded motorists.

"It was so slick on the roads that the people weren't even able to park straight in our parking lot. The cars were just every which way," Prince said. The church played host to about 70 travelers, allowing them to bed down with blankets, pillows and sleeping bags in educational space and the Family Life Center.

"Normally we would have had a lot of food on hand, but it was a holiday weekend and our cupboard was nearly bare. Fortunately, the grocery store in town opened at 7 a.m., and we were able to get coffee, muffins, donuts, cereal, fruit and milk."

Prince said he talked with one young boy in the church's gym, who said he was glad he had been stranded at the church rather than the motel because he could shoot baskets.

In Belleview, Texas, a youth group from a Methodist church became stranded at a truck stop. The proprietor called Tom Dobbs, pastor of First Baptist Church, to see if he could help.

Dobbs opened the church building, and the 60-plus members of the Methodist group spent the night on Baptist church pews.

Gene Pepiton, director of missions of the Wichita-Archer-Clay Baptist Association, said Dobbs described the group as being "very reverent . conscious that they were staying in the house of God."

Meanwhile, the Texas Baptist Men missions organization dispatched four disaster-relief mobile units to provide Northeast Texas residents with water and hot meals.

The Red Cross classified the ice storm -- which extended into southern Oklahoma, southwestern Arkansas and northwestern Louisiana -- as a level-four disaster on a scale of one to five. A week after the ice storm, an estimated 15,000 homes still lacked utilities.

The East Texas Disaster Relief Mobile Unit from Gregg Baptist Association was activated on Dec. 28. Volunteers set up emergency food service at Wake Village First Baptist Church on the outskirts of Texarkana.

The Tarrant Baptist Association mobile unit set up at Texarkana's Southwest Community Center. The Smith County Baptist Association mobile unit set up its field kitchen at the Community Center in nearby New Boston, and the Wichita-Archer-Clay Baptist Association mobile unit set up at First Baptist Church in Clarksville.

In their first week, 28 Texas Baptist Men Disaster Relief volunteers -- joined by an equal number of local church volunteers -- worked from the four regional disaster relief units to prepare more than 15,000 meals.

"There are still a lot of roads that we haven't been able to get down yet, so I expect the numbers to go up," said Mel Goodwin of Kilgore, on-site coordinator for the multi-unit disaster relief response.

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## **Split decisions can drive wedge in churches**

By Michael Leathers

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (ABP) -- After winning the presidency by a paper-thin margin and navigating weeks of legal maneuvers over the outcome, President-elect George W. Bush faces the daunting task of how to bring together a nation sharply divided between two candidates.

It's a challenge familiar to many Baptist churches.

Unlike many churches, Baptists have a congregational polity. Each local church decides in democratic fashion who its leaders will be, how its money is spent and whether or not to build new buildings.

Often, disagreement occurs. And when close votes dominate business meetings -- even over minor issues -- church members often polarize, say Southern Baptist leaders with experience in resolving church conflicts.

"We often polarize over internal decisions that don't impact how we are fulfilling the Great Commission," said Lindsay Cobb of the Chicago Metro Baptist Association, who has been called on to intervene when crises have threatened to derail churches.

The problem is that the very nature of voting encourages a win-lose mindset, he said. That fosters a competitive environment rather than a collaborative one.

Cobb said some churches could avoid arguments at business meetings by delegating decisions to appropriate committees or church staff, but that works only as long as those making decisions have demonstrated they can be trusted.

Some churches avert disruptions in fellowship by agreeing to table close votes and allow more time for discussion and study. Some hold off action even if 75 percent of the congregation approves, said Sylvan Knobloch, director of church-staff-development ministries for the Illinois Baptist State Association. Through such dialogue, opposing sides may discover another solution that all can support.

Knobloch noted that even with 80 percent in support of a vote, one in five church members will oppose the measure and could potentially try to sabotage the issue or bring it up for another vote later.

Churches should also be careful not to dismiss the minority as not being in touch with God's will, warned pastor Fred Winters of First Baptist of Maryville, Ill. "I think there are times when a minority can be speaking with a prophetic voice," he said.

A key to building unity is to make sure church members have plenty of opportunity for input before significant votes take place, Winters said. That's why First Baptist of Maryville now conducts budget

discussions three weeks before the church votes, instead of only a week before. Some members had felt that their input didn't matter, because one week didn't allow time to make budget adjustments based on their comments. Now they can truly be part of the process, Winters said.

Once a church is polarized, there's no single solution to make everything fine, Cobb said. The tension might appear to go away in a few weeks, but people often just bottle up their feelings until the next conflict surfaces. That's why a trained mediator from outside the church is crucial to heal congregations torn by conflict.

Jim Shemwell, director of missions for the Kaskaskia Baptist Association in Illinois, spent 13 years in Togo, West Africa, as a Southern Baptist missionary.

When conflict threatens churches there, the elders spend most of their time listening and allowing people to vent before proposing a solution. They know every voice has to be heard before reconciliation can occur, he said.

That's different in many American churches, where the majority sometimes cuts off discussion so they can vote and be done with it. "We prefer to split more than we would to heal," he said.

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## **Actions speak louder than words for retiring news anchor**

By Lonnie Wilkey

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (ABP) -- As news anchor for Knoxville's WBIR-TV for 23 years, Bill Williams may be the most recognizable face in East Tennessee. On his final newscast Dec. 1, the station honored him with an hour-long special highlighting his career in broadcast journalism.

What many longtime viewers don't know about, however, is the Baptist layman's commitment to God and ministry.

The Oklahoma native grew up desiring to be a preacher in the Christian Church and even went to college and seminary with those intentions.

When he finally decided God was not calling him to preach, Williams turned to broadcasting, a career that eventually allowed him to combine his desire to minister to others with his profession.

Williams moved to Knoxville in 1977 to anchor the 11 p.m. news for Channel 10. A year later he moved to the 6 p.m. broadcast and did both until last year when he dropped the 11 p.m. newscast as he moved toward retirement.

After moving to Knoxville Williams related he was "fortunate to marry an East Tennessee Southern Baptist."

Williams later joined his wife's congregation, Central Baptist Church in Fountain City. Bill and Wanda have two children, both of whom accepted Christ and were baptized at Central.

He remains a member at Central and attends when he can. He also attends an interdenominational church in Loudon, where he resides.

Williams said he has never "made a big deal" on the air that he was a Christian or Southern Baptist. "I don't think you have to," he said.

Rather, he let his life mirror his faith. People have always come up to him and said, "I can tell you are a Christian."

"That's a high compliment," he said.

The veteran journalist said he learned early that on TV, and in particular in the East Tennessee market, "you could make a difference in people's lives by presenting problems and showing how those problems could be solved."

Two news segments that have become synonymous with Williams' name are "Hunger for Hope" and "Monday's Child."

"Monday's Child" is a 20-year-old feature of Channel 10. Every Monday, Williams highlights a special needs, adoptable child or sibling group. The segment is shown in on all three news broadcasts (noon, 6 p.m. and 11 p.m.).

Over the lifetime of the feature (which Williams will continue to do in retirement) about 1,000 kids were presented. Of those, 630 were adopted, Williams said.

He got the idea from a woman who had seen it somewhere else. "It clicked with me," Williams said. "Here was a way to make a difference in lives. And what a powerful and wonderful difference it has made."

He observed that the success of Monday's Child is a tribute to the people of East Tennessee.

"The gratifying part of my career and ministry here in the East Tennessee market is the way people have responded.

"The response of people here to the needs we presented far exceeded any expectations I may have had."

"Hunger for Hope" highlights the vast needs of people of Appalachia. A report last year prompted Central Baptist Church in Bearden to begin a year-round ministry to provide help to the needy at Christmas.

Williams is convinced God led him into broadcasting in order to broaden his ministry.

"I was led by God to do what I did and am continuing to do," he said.

Williams has given of himself to the Tennessee Baptist Convention by providing the narration for a new video on Appalachian Outreach Ministry, "Ministry in the Mountains." He also has spoken at events in Knox County Baptist Association and in numerous churches. Last year Williams was presented an honorary doctorate from Carson-Newman College in recognition of his contributions.

"You don't have to listen to someone long to get a sense of who they are," said Walter Taylor, director of missions for Knox County Baptists. "Bill has always presented a positive image of himself and the station."

Williams' pastor, Marvin Cameron, agreed.

"Bill takes seriously Jesus' call to care for the 'least of his brethren' in a multitude of ways. His Christianity is heart-felt and ministry-centered. The people of East Tennessee have not only heard the news reported accurately by Bill, they have been inspired by him to produce good news in the lives of the less fortunate people of our area."

Cameron also noted that Williams is a "Christian with a song in his heart.

"The song reverberates throughout our part of the world in the homes of children who have been adopted through Bill's work, and in the homes of some of the poorest people who have clothes to wear because of Bill's work on their behalf."

Though retired, Williams will continue to do special assignments.

He also hopes to get back to his love of music and find time to sing in the church choir.

As he looked back on his career Williams noted he has been blessed in so many ways to "find the acceptance accorded here."

## **Divinity school student still asks why after tragedy**

By Irma Duke

BUIES CREEK, N.C. (ABP) -- Forty-four years after he was burned beyond recognition, Frank Hensley is still asking why. But the student at Campbell University Divinity School is not questioning why this awful tragedy happened to him, but instead why God chose to use him in this way and how he can use his experience to glorify God.

Frank's elementary school in Mt. Airy, N.C., burned to the ground Feb. 22, 1957. With third-degree burns over 75 percent of his body, the 10-year-old faced eight months at Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem, N.C. -- three weeks of that in a coma -- and dozens of surgeries. Decades later, he doesn't want to talk about his pain or struggles, however, but his spiritual journey.

If his scars get in the way of a person seeing God in his life, he says his witness has failed.

Frank was the last person to leave his fourth-grade classroom, because he wanted to get his brother's jean jacket hanging in the back. As he entered the hallway, he lost consciousness in the smoke and intense heat. When he came to, he tried to open the door of another classroom. It immediately exploded when he edged open the door. The impact threw him back across the hall, into the wall, where once again he passed out. He remembers waking up out in the schoolyard and running toward home. "God had to be the one that carried me outside," he believes.

A high school student corralled him and other injured students and led them toward the principal's office, located in the adjacent high school. An ambulance took five badly burned children to a nearby clinic in Dobson, N.C. It wasn't until he was there in a room alone that he saw himself in a mirror and then saw a "figure dressed in white who said, 'You will be all right.'"

During the next eight months, he had skin grafts all over his body. When he had no more skin to graft, his father volunteered to be skinned from his thighs to his ankles on both legs to provide what Frank needed.

During Frank's hospital stay, his mother missed visiting only one day. She and another burned child's parent wore out a car, so the community purchased one for them.

Frank remembers his own pain, but tears come when he talks about what his parents went through. "The pain and itching that my father experienced had to be almost unbearable," he says as he wipes his eyes.

When Frank first came home from the hospital, he wanted to die. His sister screamed in shock when she saw him the first time. Others just stared. He felt helpless. He was able to wear street clothes but he couldn't buckle his belt or tie his shoes. A banner waved to welcome him, but he didn't want to be there. If his 52-pound body had had the strength to pull the trigger on his father's gun, he says he would have done it.

Just days later, he says the Lord turned him around. "God said you can't do that. You've got to do something about your life."

On his 11th birthday, just 10 days out of the hospital, Frank joined the Boy Scouts. He passed every requirement for Eagle Scout except the swimming merit badge.

At age 12, he started going door-to-door selling Fuller brushes with an older gentleman. He later drove a school bus for two years and worked at a service station before going Campbell University in Buies Creek, N.C., to start his college career.

In the meantime, he was a member of the student council, the Spanish club, and the key club in high school. He was determined to be all that God wanted him to be. "I had to get myself out in public."

Life still wasn't easy, however. He had blood transfusions every week for several weeks. He had a tube in his throat for four years to help with breathing. He and his family created therapy machines for stretching his elbows and fingers, which had drawn up in the healing process. He put together model cars with intricate

details such as spark plugs to push his fine motor skills. His surgeries continued four or five times a year until after his freshman year in college when he refused to have any more. The doctors had done all that they could do to help him functionally. "At least, I never had to worry about 'zits,'" he says with a chuckle.

He completed his requirements for a degree in business administration, married his high school sweetheart, whom he met on his school bus route, and moved to Salisbury, N.C., where she completed her nursing degree. He worked in vocational rehabilitation for nine years there.

While in Salisbury, they attended Stallings Memorial Baptist Church. That is where they first became involved in preschool work. Soon thereafter, the pastor "sat me down and told me that we were going to Ridgecrest [Conference Center] for training, and we did." Along the way, he has been involved in a variety of secular jobs, but "God was continuing to work on me."

He said he visited the Campbell University Divinity School to see what it was all about and had every question answered and every objection dismissed. "Every time I tried to run, something was there to put the skids on it."

He finally gave up and "decided to make something of myself." He admits that he probably should have been in ministry 20 to 30 years ago. During his time as director of the preschool department at Green Street Baptist Church in High Point, NC, the department grew from 80 to 350 preschoolers and from 12 to 45 teachers. "If you see me in the hall, I'll be on my knees, eyeball to eyeball with those little kids." For the past year, he has served as the interim minister of education.

"One of my passions in life is putting people at ease with me," he explains. He remembers as a 12 year old catching himself staring at a person in a wheelchair. "I've got to help them look past my scars and see Christ in me."

Part of the reason that he says he resisted the ministry so long was that "the devil constantly made me question my motives. Did I just want to draw attention to myself?"

He says he has failed Christ if all people see is Frank.

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