

Tom Savage

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Personal Information

Married to Pat (Beck) Savage. We have one son, Greg. He and his wife Val (Teuscher) Savage have four children - Phoebe, Joanna, Will, and Nathan.

Ministry History

Executive Pastor:	Longview Heights Baptist Church; Olive Branch, Mississippi	2004 to 2014
Senior Pastor:	Grace Baptist Church; Evansville Indiana	1998 to 2004
Associate Pastor:	Grace Baptist Church; Evansville Indiana	1995 to 1998
Pastor:	Pinecrest Baptist Church; Johnson City Tennessee	1988 to 1995
Pastor:	Guaranda Drive Baptist Church Johnson City, Tennessee	1984 to 1988

Multiple mission trips nationally & internationally including Romania, China, Venezuela, Suriname, Columbia, Ecuador, Macedonia, and England. I am a pastor-teacher with experience and training as a financial coach, marriage & family life counselor. I have conducted many evangelistic meetings, nine-to-noon workshops, as well as small and large discipleship groups.

Certification, Training, and Teaching Involvement

Financial Coach, Master Life, PrayerLife, Wise Counsel, FAITH Evangelism, Evangelism Explosion, Share Jesus Without Fear, Experiencing God, Christian Life Coach.

Associational, State, and SBC Involvement

Tennessee Associational Strategy Planning Task Force Chairman; President Holston Association Pastors Conference; Director of the Church Ministers Relations Department; Assistant Director of the Evangelism Department; Holston Baptist Bible Institute instructor; Assistant Moderator; Moderator.

Indiana Served on the Southwestern Association Personnel Committee. Served on the Executive Board and the Missions Development Committee of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana.

SBC Trustee on the International Mission Board where I served on the finance committee, the personnel committee and served as chairman of the Caribbean Basin regional committee.

Education

Graduate Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary; Fort Worth, Texas	A Div
Graduate Milligan College; Milligan College, Tennessee	BS
Graduate Master's International School of Divinity; Evansville, Indiana	M PMin; D PMin

License & Ordination

Licensed to preach: Grace Baptist Church Evansville, Indiana	August 5, 1981
Ordained to the ministry: Grace Baptist Church; Evansville, Indiana	June 17, 1984

References

Dr. Mike Womack, pastor 423.920.6555	Dr. David Shackelford, professor 901.751.3025	Rev. Gary Thacker, pastor 423.464.5300
Mr. Rick Griffin, deacon 901.491.7917	Rev. Paul Brown, pastor 901.832.5461	Mrs. Debbie Bryan, housewife 901.603.6148

Doctrinal Statements

I believe the Bible to be the inspired, inerrant, infallible Word of God, written by men inspired by the Holy Spirit. The Scriptures are without error and by them we know of the life and saving power of Jesus Christ our Lord.

I believe the Holy Spirit convicts people of sin and God draws them to salvation through Jesus Christ. God the Father is the initiator of salvation which is a gift of grace through faith. Therefore, man can do nothing to work for nor preserve redemption. A Christian will, however, persevere and show fruit of that salvation.

I believe in the security of all believers who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ as the Savior of the world. Jesus is the incarnate Son of God, conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of a virgin, who lived approximately thirty-three years on this earth, died on a cross, and there paid the penalty of sin. After three days He arose from the dead which is our guarantee of a resurrection from the dead. After His resurrection, Jesus was with His disciples for some forty days. He ascended to the Father promising He would come again and receive us to Himself. Jesus will someday return to call the church to Himself, where we will be with Him forever.

Philosophy of Ministry

Knowing that we are all limited in the number of years we have to serve the Lord on this earth, and believing His return is near, it is my desire to be as effective for Him as possible. It is God's will that we bring glory to Him and fulfill the purposes He has designed for each one of us. A part of that is living an abundant life in His power and reaching the lost so they will experience the same.

Currently, the Father is using various effective ways to accomplish reaching people for Jesus Christ, and seeing them baptized and become active church members. Some of the many strategies are personal evangelism, Sunday School / Bible study, small and large group discipleship, and corporate worship where people can come together and experience meaningful dynamic preaching in a Spirit-filled worship setting. These individual strategies are not ends to themselves, but are some of the means God is blessing today to accomplish the purposes He has left us to carry out; purposes found in The Great Commandments and The Great Commission.

My personal statement of purpose or goal of ministry is *To Be About the Task of Building Kingdom Relationships for the Glory of God*. In carrying this out, I am mindful that I need to be presently and continually controlled by the Holy Spirit of God so that as I live, and when I preach or teach, believers will be edified and the lost will be saved. Coupled with the above strategies, a pulpit ministry of applicable expository preaching-teaching of God's Word that exalts Christ and ministers to the needs of the lost and saved conducted within a healthy worship atmosphere are vital to the ongoing quality of an individual's Christian life and the long term ministry of the church.

Salvation Experience and Early Christian Life

Reared in a Christian home and taken to church from a very early age, I look back and remember that I was almost one of those who "slipped through the cracks." At the age of eleven, I made a "walk up the aisle." At that time, for reasons I can only guess why, no one spoke with me as to what I needed to do to be saved. Having grown up in the church I suppose they thought I knew what I was doing; I thought I knew what I was doing. Two weeks later I was baptized and they told me, "You're now a Christian."

Later, I came to realize that I had completed all the steps that I "saw" others do. I had walked the aisle, they put my name on a card, the pastor presented me as a candidate for baptism and church membership, the people of the church came by and greeted me, and I was baptized. The only problem was, I had never asked God to save me. For the next several years I lived under the assumption that all things were right between myself and the Lord.

In the spring of the year of my salvation through the prompting of the Holy Spirit and a few very carefully spoken words from a friend and co-worker, the Lord began dealing with me. I came to the point of really questioning whether I was, in fact, a Christian. For six months I tried to convince God I was saved all the while He was convicting me that I had never truly received the Lord at that earlier age. Those were months of intense struggle; they are still very vivid to me.

In the fall of that same year, as best as I can put it in human terms, I believed the Lord was growing tired of dealing with me. I knew what I needed to do; I just needed to do it. One night at home, I prayed and asked God to forgive me of the lie that I had been living. I asked Him to forgive me of sin and asked the Lord Jesus to come into my life. He did! I was eternally saved at that moment.

The next several months were months of tremendous hunger for the Word. God truly changed my life that day and continues to fashion me into the person He desires me to be. Two years later the Lord began dealing with me concerning the ministry. I do indeed believe in a divine call to the gospel ministry and would love the opportunity to share that with you in person at the proper time.