

TO ENCOURAGE GOD'S MINISTERS



MINISTERS
Practical
TRAINING

PROGRAM GUIDE
2026

TRAINING CENTER:
4746 DALTON PIKE SE, CLEVELAND, TN 37323

LADIES' SCHEDULE

Starts each day at 8:30 with song and prayer

MONDAY

6:30

Preaching Service Dr. Allen Barker & Dr. Tim Green

TUESDAY

9:00 – 9:45

Balancing Personal Life & Ministry
Mrs. Rikki-Beth Poindexter

9:45 – 10:00 BREAK

10:00 – 10:45 Dealing with Difficult People Mrs. Jan Barker

10:45 – 11:00 BREAK

11:00 – 11:45 Faith over Fear Mrs. Renee Gamble

11:45 – 1:00 LUNCH

1:00 – 1:45 Personality Conflicts Mrs. Heather Sexton

1:45 – 2:00 BREAK

2:00 – 2:45 Dealing with Emotions Mrs. Nolita Gravley

2:45 – 3:00 BREAK

3:00 – 3:45 Honoring the Past & Leading the Future
Mrs. Amy Sutherland

3:45 – 4:00 BREAK

4:00 – 4:45 Encouraging your Missionaries Mrs. Johanna Hudson

6:30

Preaching Service Dr. Allen Barker & Dr. Tim Green

WEDNESDAY

9:00 – 9:45

Co-Laborers & Friends Ms. Glenda McNeese

9:45 – 10:00 BREAK

10:00 – 10:45 A Worthy Calling Mrs. Jan Barker

10:45 – 11:00 BREAK

11:00 – 11:45 Expectations of a Pastors Wife
Mrs. Rikki-Beth Poindexter

11:45 – 1:00 LUNCH

1:00 – 1:45 Keeping Your Sanity (pt.1) Mrs. Heather Sexton

1:45 – 2:00 BREAK

2:00 – 2:45 Keeping Your Sanity (pt.2) Mrs. Heather Sexton

2:45 – 3:00 BREAK

3:00 – 3:45 Project Management Mrs. Nolita Gravley
3:45 – 4:30 Open Forum Mrs. Peggy Ellis



LADIES' SCHEDULE CONTINUED...

THURSDAY

9:00 – 9:45	Leading Hurting People	Mrs. Johanna Hudson
9:45 – 10:00 BREAK		
10:00 – 10:45	Loving Him Through it All	Mrs. Renee Gamble
10:45 – 11:00 BREAK		
11:00 – 11:45	Supporting Your Husband	Ms. Glenda McNeese

11:45 – 1:00 **LUNCH**

1:00 – 1:45	A Place of Prayer	Mrs. Peggy Ellis
1:45 – 2:00 BREAK		
2:00 – 2:45	Open Forum	
2:45 – 3:30	Special Presentations: Dr. Terry Ellis & Dr. Ricky Dunsford	



MEN'S SCHEDULE

Starts each day at 8:30 with song and prayer

MONDAY

6:30

Preaching Service Dr. Allen Barker & Dr. Tim Green

TUESDAY

9:00 – 9:45

Pastors Practical Care

Pastor Ray Haskett

9:45 – 10:00 **BREAK**

10:00 – 10:45

Navigating Landmines in Ministry

Pastor Michael Poindexter

10:45 – 11:00 **BREAK**

11:00 – 11:45

Honoring the Past, Leading the Future

Pastor Randy Sutherland

11:45 – 1:00 **LUNCH**

1:00 – 1:45

Balancing the Ministry

Pastor Ricky Gravley

1:45 – 2:00 **BREAK**

2:00 – 2:45

Saul and David

Pastor Matt Hudson

2:45 – 3:00 **BREAK**

3:00 – 3:45

Keeping a Sound Mind

Pastor David Sexton

3:45 – 4:00 **BREAK**

4:00 – 4:45

Special Needs Ministry

Pastor David Gamble

6:30

Preaching Service Dr. Allen Barker & Dr. Tim Green

WEDNESDAY

9:00 – 9:45

Saul and David

Pastor Matt Hudson

9:45 – 10:00 **BREAK**

10:00 – 10:45

Pastoring a Struggling Church

Dr. Allen Barker

10:45 – 11:00 **BREAK**

11:00 – 11:45

Honoring the Past, Leading the Future

Pastor Randy Sutherland

11:45 – 1:00 **LUNCH**

1:00 – 1:45

Keeping a Sound Mind

Pastor David Sexton

1:45 – 2:00 **BREAK**

2:00 – 2:45

Evangelism

Dr. Tim Green

2:45 – 3:00 **BREAK**

3:00 – 3:45

Pastors Practical Care

Pastor Ray Haskett

3:45 – 4:30

Legalism vs Liberalism

Pastor David Gamble



MEN'S SCHEDULE CONTINUED...

THURSDAY

9:00 – 9:45	The Role of a Pastor's Wife	Pastor Michael Poindexter
9:45 – 10:00	BREAK	
10:00 – 10:45	When the Arrow Lands Beyond You	Dr. Tim Green
10:45 – 11:00	BREAK	
11:00 – 11:45	Honoring the Past, Leading the Future	Pastor Randy Sutherland
11:45 – 1:00	LUNCH	
1:00 – 1:45	Church Missions Procedures	Dr. Ricky Dunsford
1:45 – 2:00	BREAK	
2:00 – 2:45	Project Management	Pastor Ricky Gravley
2:45 – 3:30	Presentation & Closing	Dr. Terry Ellis & Dr. Ricky Dunsford

Seasoned pastors, their wives, and missionaries will be available for questions pertaining to ministry.

MEN'S CLASS SUBJECTS

Dr. Allen Barker

Pastoring A Struggling Church

Some important things to consider include common causes of church decline such as spiritual stagnation, declining attendance or finances, leadership conflict, and loss of vision. Other key factors include gaining trust before implementing change, leading through resistance, addressing past wounds and unresolved conflict, and restoring trust within the congregation.

Dr. Ricky Dunsford

Church Missions Procedures

A practical course designed to equip churches with a clear understanding of how missions are organized, approved, and supported. We will learn missionary selection and endorsement, financial accountability, communication, and partnership with missionaries, practical tools and best practices to ensure missions efforts are effective, ethical, and aligned with the church.

Pastor David Gamble

Special Needs Ministry

The purpose of this lesson is to help individuals and groups understand the heart, principles, and practicalities of Special Needs Ministry in a church or ministry settings. This includes a focus on inclusion, support, and providing opportunities for spiritual growth for individuals with disabilities.

Legalism vs Liberalism

Helping students understand the dangers of both extremes. Learn how to uphold biblical truth without compromising biblical standards. Defining legalism and liberalism from a biblical perspective and the dangers and consequences of each extreme.



Pastor Ricky Gravley

Balancing Ministry

Understanding God's call and assignment, ordering priorities biblically, ministry duties, avoiding the trap of overcommitment, identifying time wasters and distractions, planning and scheduling wisely, knowing personal limits, and setting healthy boundaries between church and home.

Project Management

This lesson introduces the fundamentals of project management and equips participants with practical tools to plan, organize, execute, and complete projects effectively. Emphasis is placed on clear communication, wise stewardship of resources, teamwork, and accountability. Understand the basic phases of project management, planning projects with clear goals, timelines and responsibilities, and using resources effectively.

Dr. Tim Green

Evangelism

It is vital to the life and spiritual health of the local church. In this course, we will learn how to prepare the church for revival services, including 30 Days to Revival, with detailed guidance for each step leading up to the first day of revival and continuing beyond it.

When The Arrow Lands Beyond You

How to deal with negative solutions to interpersonal problems. With fellow preachers, parishioners or prodigals. Taken from the life & relationship between David & Jonathan.

Pastor Ray Haskett

Practical Pastoral Care

When we get formal training for ministry, it helps us to prepare for our study of the Bible. We learn valuable information from the wisdom God has given to professors who have unique abilities to teach us things we need to know about the Bible. As we all know, there are some things we do not learn in college, but we gain from personal experience and the experience of others. Some of the

greatest lessons come from the practical side of ministry. These things are not new, but a refresher on motivating us to be more effective in the ministry God has called us. It is the intent of this class to touch on some of the practical areas of ministry.

Pastor Matt Hudson

Saul and David

The Life of David - God took him from following the ewes, to guiding mighty men! (Psalms 78:70-72)The course will give practical lessons from David's life in contrast and comparison to Saul's life.

Pastor Michael Poindexter

The Role of a Pastor's Wife

What exactly are the responsibilities of a minister's wife? Opinions vary but what does the Bible say? Answering that question relieves many ministry wives from unrealistic and even unscriptural expectations.

Navigating Landmines in Ministry

Stepping on a landmine can be damaging if not deadly. The ministry has several landmines and learning how to navigate them may keep us from becoming a casualty.

Pastor David Sexton

Keeping a Sound Mind

Ministry comes with pressures, long hours, high expectations, constant demands for attention, and emotional exhaustion which can lead the preacher to burnout. Ministry is demanding, and as a result preachers often neglect their own health and wellbeing. Recognizing and acknowledging these challenges is the first step toward maintaining sanity. The aim of this lesson is to equip preachers with practical tools and strategies to maintain mental, emotional, and spiritual health while serving in the high-demand environment of ministry.



Pastor Randy Sutherland

Honoring the Past, Leading the Future

Spiritual mentors play an invaluable role in shaping the next generation of leadership in churches, in ministries, and in Israel's case, an entire nation. Joshua had the privilege of following a great leader, not an obligation to replace him. Transition can be challenging. We will look at Joshua's Relationship, Respect and Reward for waiting on Moses, while waiting on God.

LADIES' CLASS SUBJECTS

Mrs. Jan Barker

Dealing with Difficult People

Dealing with difficult people can be very challenging. But, as always, God gives direction in His Word. How can we deal with difficult people without going to jail? Whooping them with a Nerf ball bat won't hurt them but it sure might make you feel better!

A Worthy Calling

The ministry is a worthy calling. Let us not be weary in well doing but rather be encouraged to remain faithful to this great ministry God has allowed us to be a part of.

Dr. Peggy Ellis

A Place of Prayer

When Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane, His sweat became as great drops of blood because of the burden He carried to redeem humanity. We will examine Jesus' prayer life, His burden, and His care for others as revealed in Scripture, and then make practical applications for our own prayer lives.

Mrs. Renee Gamble

Loving Him Through It All Learning to love and trust God consistently during joy, pain, success, and struggle. Loving God is not based on circumstances. We must recognize that trials can deepen our faith. Loving God isn't just about the good seasons in life, it's about faithfulness in every season. Loving God involves trust, obedience, and commitment. It emphasizes the importance of balance, communication, mutual respect, and shared spiritual growth to ensure both the personal and ministry aspects of their lives thrive.

Faith Over Fear. Faith helps us trust God even when we are overtaken with fear. Our fears may be real, but they don't have to control us. Fear does not mean weak faith and exercising faith doesn't mean fear disappears. Courage often comes after we act, not before. Learn how faith helps us face our fears instead of avoiding them.



Mrs. Nolita Gravley

Project Management

Stewarding God's work with prayerful planning, wise leadership, and faithful execution. Seeking the Lord first, organizing people and resources responsibly, and carrying out ministry tasks in a way that honors Him. Rather than relying solely on human ability, faith-based project management depends on God's guidance, values, order, and excellence, with the goal of glorifying Him.

Dealing with Emotions

Allowing God to shape our hearts through His Word, helping us respond with grace, self-control, and faith.

Mrs. Johanna Hudson

Leading Hurting People

All of our lives have been touched by pain. Let's look at ways we can grow through that pain so we can help lead others who are hurting.

Encouraging Your Missionaries

Missionaries and their children face unique challenges. We are given opportunities to encourage them along the way. We will look at practical ways to be a blessing to them.

Ms. Glenda McNeese

Supporting Your Husband

Ministry as a husband and wife is not just about the husband. It takes both to make it work. What can a wife do to help her husband be as successful and productive as possible? The Bible has the answer.

Co-Laborers & Friends in Ministry

Working together in ministry is not always easy. Someone has to be in charge, and sometimes issues must be addressed. How can we do that without destroying relationships? Let's look into God's Word for the answer.

Mrs. Rikki Beth Poindexter

Expectations of a Pastor's Wife

As a pastor's wife, we can allow spoken and unspoken expectations from others to either drive us or crush us. We must be sure that any expectations placed on us come from the Lord

Balancing Personal Life & Ministry

We benefit everyone around us when we maintain balance between home and ministry life. When we are out of balance, we can drive everyone crazy. Let's look at some warning signs that show we may be out of balance and discover how to keep a healthy grip on both.

Mrs. Heather Sexton

Keeping Your Sanity

In today's fast paced world, ministry often brings significant stress and responsibility. God promises His servant a sound mind rooted in His peace. This lesson explores how to cultivate that sound mind while navigating the realities of the ministry.

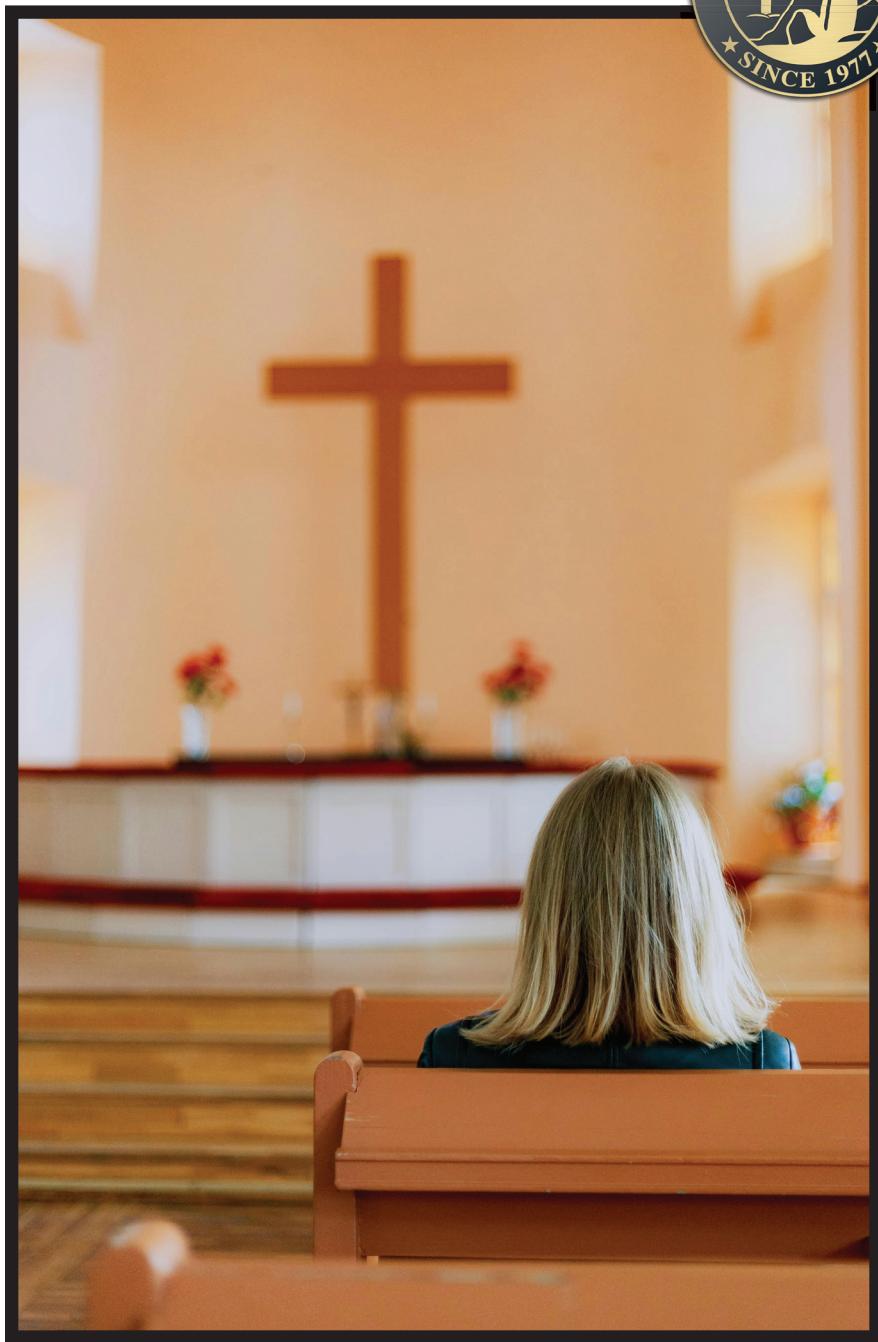
Personality Conflicts

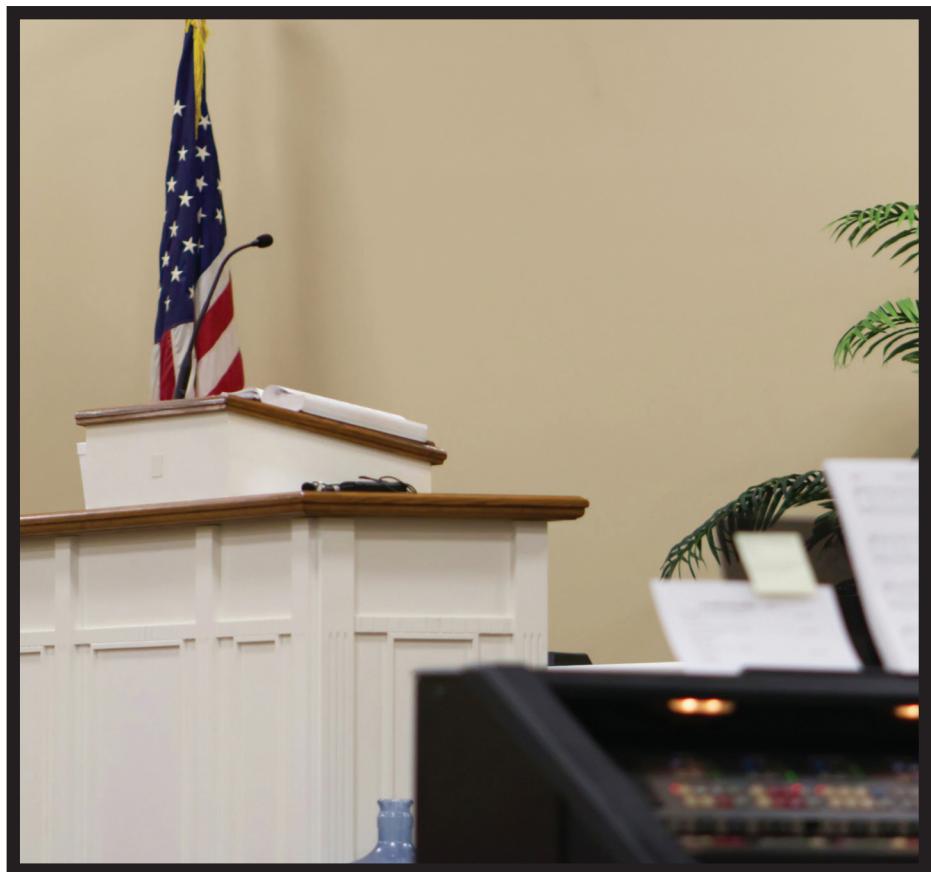
Because ministry involves working closely with people, conflict is inevitable. Responding to conflict as Christ did is essential to sustaining peace, effectiveness and long-term success in the ministry.

Mrs. Amy Sutherland

Honoring Past Leadership & Leading the Future

Serving as a successor while your mentor is still living can present unique challenges. Romans 13:7 reminds us to give honor to whom honor is due. Respectfully acknowledging and preserving the rightful place of those who have paved the way, while faithfully leading toward the future, is vital for a healthy and effective ministry transition.





SPEAKERS



**Dr. Allen &
Mrs. Jan Barker**

Dr. Allen Barker & Mrs. Jan Barker

Dr. Allen Barker is a native of North Carolina and was brought up in a pastor's home. At the age of 18 he was led to Christ by his dad, Rev. Olin Barker. Dr. Barker answered the call to preach when he was 22 years old. This year he will celebrate 50 years in the ministry. During those years he pastored 4 different churches, served as the North American Field Director for Macedonia World Baptist Missions and currently is a fulltime evangelist.

Dr. Barker has been married for 53 years to his wife Jan. They have 2 children who are serving fulltime in the ministry. His son Jonathan pastors Amazing Grace Baptist Church in Mt. Airy, NC where Dr. and Mrs. Barker are members. Their daughter, Rebekah is married to Jeremy Simpson who is the pastor of Thanks to Calvary Baptist Church in Elkin, NC. They have five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Jan Barker

Although she was not brought up in a pastor's home, she was brought up in a godly home and she is very thankful for parents that loved her and loved the Lord. She was saved at the age of 12. In 1970 she was married to Allen Barker and very soon after they dedicated their lives fully to the Lord. She has served the Lord alongside her husband for 53 years and has no regrets. They have 2 children who are fulltime in the ministry, Rebekah and Jonathan and 5 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren who are all in church and serving the Lord, for which she gives God all the glory.



Dr. Ricky Dunsford

Dr. Ricky Dunsford serves as Executive Vice President of Rock of Ages Ministries. He experienced salvation in 1980 while on the job in Atmore, Alabama, and felt the call to preach just one year later, in May of 1981.

Dr. Ricky Dunsford

Following his time in Bible College, Dr. Dunsford and his wife, Judy, served as youth directors in their home church, Faith Bible Baptist Church, until April 1988. It was at that point they felt the Lord's calling to join Rock of Ages Ministries. Dr. Dunsford dedicated two years to serving on the ministry's revival teams. In May of 1991, he participated in the first Rock of Ages international trip. The Board of Directors later requested Dr. Dunsford to assume the role of Foreign Director. In the following years God used him to develop and establish the ministry's international outreach. He faithfully served for the ensuing years as Foreign Director and eventually became Foreign Vice President within Rock of Ages. In September 2006, he transitioned to the role of Executive Vice President, where he continues to serve diligently.





Dr. Terry R. Ellis

President, Rock of Ages Ministries

Dr. Terry Ellis serves as President of Rock of Ages Ministries. He was saved in the summer of 1977 at Dogwood Valley Baptist Church, Tunnel Hill, Georgia. He was called into the gospel ministry two months later.

Dr. & Mrs. Ellis joined Rock of Ages Ministries January 31, 1986. He served as a Missionary Chaplain at the Wyoming State Penitentiary in Rawlins, Wyoming for seven years, followed by eleven years of service in Portland, Oregon serving as Western Director. January 2004, Dr. Ellis was appointed North American Vice-President, and by July 20, 2005 he was assigned to the position of Executive Vice President. He was appointed President of Rock of Ages Ministries September 13, 2006, a role in which he continues to serve. Rock of Ages Ministries is a mission outreach to governmental establishments including prisons, schools, and military correctional facilities throughout the world.

Dr. Peggy Ellis

Mrs. Peggy Ellis is the wife of Dr. Terry Ellis, President of Rock Of Ages Ministries. She was raised in a pastor's home and has been married to Dr. Ellis for 47 years, and serving as a missionary alongside her husband for 40 years. They have two children who are actively involved in ministry, and they are blessed with five grandchildren and one great grandbaby.

In 2005, she earned her Doctorate degree in Biblical Studies from Rock of Ages Ministries. Mrs. Ellis initiated the Lovely Ladies ministry outreach to prisoners' wives and children in Wyoming where Dr. Ellis served as a missionary chaplain. Additionally, she founded the Essential Women's Prayer Group, which includes a prayer app she helped develop. This platform features organized monthly and daily prayer requests, as well as special prayer meetings. Mrs. Ellis is a frequent speaker at ladies' conferences, mother-daughter banquets, and prayer breakfasts, bringing with her extensive experience in ministry.



Pastor David and Mrs. Renee Gamble

Pastor David Gamble was raised in the hills of East Tennessee in a Christian home. He was saved at age fifteen in an old fashion revival meeting and later called to preach during his sophomore year at Pensacola Christian College. After graduate school he married Renee Knierim and began serving as a youth pastor in Florida. He was called to his first pastorate at Grace Baptist Church of Newport, TN (1996-2004), and then to Bethel Baptist Church of Hartselle, AL (2004-2013). He later accepted a pastoral staff position at Temple Baptist Church and Crown College in Powell, TN (2013-2015) and then served at Tabernacle Baptist Church of Hickory, NC for 2 years. In the summer of 2018, the Lord led the Gamble family to Shenandoah Baptist Church where he currently serves as the senior pastor. He and his wife Renee, have three children: Michael, Mitchell and Bethany.

Pastor David & Mrs. Renee Gamble



Pastor Ricky & Mrs. Nolita Gravley

Dr. Ricky Gravley has been the pastor of Bible Baptist Church in Rossville, GA since 1998. He was saved through a bus route at the age of thirteen, began preaching at the age of fifteen, and pastored his first church at the age of eighteen. He is a graduate of Faith Baptist Bible College in Resaca GA. He is the founder and president of Heritage Baptist Bible College and is being used in revivals and conferences across the country. He has a heart for the local church, missions, and to see God send revival to our generation.

Pastor Ricky & Mrs. Nolita Gravley

Mrs. Nolita Gravley

Mrs. Nolita Gravley was saved at an early age and has been faithfully serving by her husband's side since their marriage in 1993. She has been a pastor's wife for over twenty-eight years. During this time, she has taught both Christian education and Sunday School. She earned a Bachelors degree from Heritage Baptist Bible College in Rossville, GA. She has spoken at several ladies' conferences and has hosted an annual ladies' conference each fall at her home church for the past eighteen years.



Evangelist Tim Green

Evangelist Tim Green

Evangelist Tim Green has been preaching revivals for over 50 years in America & scores of evangelistic crusades in over forty countries of the world. He is a preacher from a family of preachers that have faithfully proclaimed the Gospel of Jesus Christ since the 1940's. Dr. Green and wife Sandy have three sons that are ordained Baptist preachers.



Pastor Ray Haskett

Pastor Ray Haskett

Dr. Ray Haskett assumed the position of Senior Pastor at Calvary Baptist Church, Colonial Heights, VA in 2004. He came from Rural Retreat Baptist Church where he served as Senior Pastor for 11 years. Pastor Haskett began pastoring in 1986 and graduated from Tabernacle Baptist Bible College in Greenville, SC in 1987. Members at Calvary Baptist Church would say that Pastor Haskett has a unique love for his people and a passion for missions.



**Pastor & Mrs.
Hudson**

Pastor Matt & Mrs. Johanna Hudson

Pastor Matt Hudson was raised in a Pastor's home and at the age of 9, he received the Lord Jesus Christ as his personal Saviour! At the age of 15, he yielded to God's call upon his life to preach the Gospel. Pastor Matt Hudson and his wife served as missionaries in Belarus and Ukraine for 17 years where they planted two churches. In May of 2012, the Lord called his wife home after a short battle with cancer. The Lord blessed them with three children.

He remarried in 2014, he and his wife Johanna have been serving the Lord at Bella Vista Baptist Church in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The Lord has since blessed them with another daughter. All of their children serve the Lord together at Belle Vista Baptist Church. They have been serving the Lord in Albuquerque since 2014.



**Ms. Glenda Grace
McNeese**

Ms. Glenda McNeese

Glenda Grace McNeese - was raised in the home of a pastor. She started playing piano for her church at the early age of 13 and was married to a pastor, Dr. Clay M. McNeese, for over 56 years. She has successfully led several local church Ladies Ministries for the past 40 + years. She has spoken as a guest speaker in numerous states across the country. She has raised 6 children who are all serving in fulltime ministry today. It is her great joy to invest in the lives of young Christian ladies through biblical life lessons.



Pastor & Mrs. Poindexter

Pastor Michael and Mrs. Rikki Beth Poindexter

Michael Poindexter is the pastor of Lighthouse Baptist Church in Asheboro, North Carolina. The Lord used him to plant the church in March of 2005, where he continues to serve as pastor. He holds a Bachelor of Theology from Calvary Baptist Bible College, where he also serves as an instructor, and has been awarded an honorary Doctorate from Midwestern Theological Seminary. He has been married to his wife, Rikki Beth, for 26 years, and they are blessed with five children and two grandchildren.



**Dr. David
Sexton, Pastor**

Dr. David Sexton

Pastor Sexton is a graduate of Tri-State Baptist College, and has been serving in the ministry full-time for 16 years. He has served in various ministries during those 16 years including bus captain, Sunday school teacher, assistant pastor, Christian school teacher, college professor, and pastor of the LaMarsh Baptist Church in Mapleton, Illinois. In 2017, he and his family moved and became the senior pastor of Bethel Baptist Church in August of 2019. Pastor and his wife, Heather, were married in 2004, and they have three beautiful daughters - Madelyn, Julia, and Brooke.



Mrs. Heather
Sexton

Mrs. Heather Sexton

Mrs. Heather was saved when she was eight years old. Her grandfather started the church where her husband currently serves as Senior Pastor. They have both served in ministry since 2003. And in 2017 the Lord moved Dr. David Sexton and his family back to Bethel Baptist Church to become co-pastor. However, he now serves as lead pastor since August of 2019. The church is excited to see what the Lord has in store under his leadership. Mrs. Sexton not only serves as a pastor's wife, but she is a frequent speaker at ladies' conferences.



Pastor Randy
Sutherland

Pastor Randy Sutherland

Pastor Randy Sutherland was saved at home on October 20, 1997, and six days later joined the Concord Baptist Church in Fairmount Georgia, Pastored by Dr. Sammy Allen. Pastor Sutherland is a graduate of Faith Baptist Bible College where he earned a B.A. in Theology. On April 3, 1999, he married his wife Amy, who was raised at Concord Baptist Church and is a faithful helpmeet.

In 2004, he went into full-time evangelism, which continued until Dr. Allen approached him about being his assistant.

On August 16, 2020, almost 23 years after walking into Concord Baptist Church, he was voted in as Pastor after the homegoing of Dr. Sammy Allen, a faithful servant of the Lord for nearly six decades. The Lord has blessed Pastor Sutherland and wife Amy with four children who are all serving the Lord faithfully.



Mrs. Amy Sutherland

Mrs. Amy Sutherland was raised in church at Concord Baptist Church under Pastor Sammy Allen. She is the wife of Pastor Randy Sutherland, and they have been married since April 3, 1999. Pastor Sutherland says he got "the best of the West since her maiden name was Amy West. Her husband served in evangelism for several years and as assistant pastor for five years before becoming the pastor of Concord Baptist Church, Fairmount, GA, August 16, 2020. The Lord has blessed them with four children, Luke, Katie, Hannah, and John. Mrs. Sutherland comes to us with years of ministry experience.





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