

Mark Wheeler

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Mark's blog – “On Target” - <http://wheelsms.wordpress.com/>

Ministry Philosophy

My mission is to serve the purpose of God in my generation, thus bringing glory to His name. My life vision is to train and equip others through preaching, teaching, writing, and leadership development.

I believe that the goal of ministry is to produce fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ who are grounded in their faith and established in sound doctrine (Colossians 1:28; 2:7). My passion is to preach and teach the whole counsel of God, and to equip people to walk with God and serve Him (Ephesians 4:11-16). I want to bring all to maturity and many into leadership. I feel that the role of the senior pastor is to communicate God's Word through preaching and teaching, to cast vision, and to train leaders.

My strengths and giftedness are in preaching and teaching, administration, and leadership development. I am committed to the exposition of the Scriptures, explaining the biblical text clearly and suggesting ways to apply the truths to our daily lives. Using enthusiasm and life-related illustrations, I strive to meet the needs of people and to motivate believers to apply what they learn.

Personal Information

I was born in Denver, CO. At the age of 10 years old, my family moved to Southern California, where I grew up.



Carol and I have been married since December, 1980. We have three children who are all adults—Jonathan; Amanda, who is married to Phillip; and Caitlin, who is married to Andrew. We have one grandchild, Juliette Rose.



I became a Christian at the age of five through a Vacation Bible School program at our church. I was taught that God loved me so it seemed natural to give Him my life. However, as I grew older, I doubted my salvation many times. Finally, during my junior high years, I remember vividly telling God that if He wasn't in my life that I wanted Him to come in. From that time on, I have had assurance and peace about my salvation.

My call to ministry is one which developed over a period of years as I saw God use me in ministry. I am committed to ministry in the local church because I believe it is the institution God has chosen to work through in the spreading the Gospel.

I was ordained by the College Church in Wheaton, IL, on April 17, 1988. My ordination was later transferred to the Evangelical Free Church of America on July 13, 2005.

Education

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| Ph.D. | 1989 | Biola University, Talbot School of Theology
<i>(The original degree was an Ed.D. awarded in 1989. It was later changed to a Ph.D. in 1999.)</i> |
| Th.M. | 1984 | Dallas Theological Seminary |
| B.A. | 1977 | Biola College |

Ministry Experience

SENIOR PASTOR, *September 2012 – Present* First Central Bible Church, Chicopee, MA

- My primary responsibilities are to preach, teach, shepherd, and equip
- I visit people in the hospital, conduct weddings and funerals, conduct performance reviews, lead the elders, participate in various boards and committees, recruit, mentor, counsel, and many other duties

ADJUNCT PROFESSOR, *Spring 2017 - Present*
Regent University

- Taught the following online undergraduate courses in the department of Biblical Studies and Christian Ministry for the College of Arts & Sciences):
 - BIBL 103: Old Testament Studies (Fall 2017)
 - BIBL 105 Introduction to Bible (Fall 2018, Summer 2020)
 - BIBL 106: Christian Doctrine (Spring 2018, Summer 2018, Spring 2020, Summer 2020, Summer 2021)
 - BIBL 200 Principles of Hermeneutics and Theological Thinking (Spring 2019, Spring 2020, Summer 2020)
 - BIBL 210 Biblical Background and Interpretation (Spring 2018)
 - BIBL 230 Theological Writing and Research (Fall 2019)
 - BIBL 250 Mission and Message of Jesus (Fall 2018)
 - BIBL 255 The Gospels (Fall 2021)
 - BIBL 282 Pentateuch (Fall 2020, Fall 2021)
 - BIBL 301 Apologetics (Summer 2022)
 - BIBL 313 Old Testament Prophets (Spring 2021, Spring 2022)
 - BIBL 316 Acts of the Apostles (Summer 2022)
 - BIBL 318 General Epistles (Spring 2021)
 - BIBL 330 Romans (Spring 2021)
 - BIBL 332 Systematic Theology II (Fall 2021)
 - BIBL 373 Preaching and Teaching the Bible (Fall 2021)
 - BIBL 401 Christian Ministry (Spring 2017)
 - BIBL 485 Senior Seminar (Spring 2021)

INSTRUCTOR, *1987 – Present*
Walk Thru the Bible Ministries

- I have been trained in several Walk Thru the Bible Seminars— Old Testament Classic, OTLive, New Testament Classic, NTLive, 7 Laws of the Learner, Biblical Portrait of Marriage, Effective Parenting, and Raise Up A Child. I have taught the seminars in North America and Internationally.

SENIOR PASTOR, *September 2004 – February 2012*

United Evangelical Free Church, Seattle, Washington

- My primary responsibilities were to preach, teach, shepherd, and equip
- I visited people in the hospital, conducted weddings and funerals, managed staff, conducted performance reviews, led various committees, recruited, mentored, counseled, developed policies and procedures, and helped plan, oversee, and manage budgets
- I created and implemented a strategy for church-based leadership development which focused on Biblical Studies, Theological Studies, Ministry Foundations, Ministry Skills, Character Development, and Life Skills. The courses I taught included: Book of Acts; Doctrine of the Holy Spirit; Character and Habits of a Leader; Elders and Leaders; Parenting with a Purpose; Principles and Stages of Spiritual Growth; Principles of Leadership; Leadership Principles in Joshua; and the book of Nehemiah.

ASSOCIATE PASTOR, *February 1990 – June 2004*

Crossroads Bible Church, Bellevue, Washington

Singles Pastor, 1990 – 1992

Pastor of Adult Ministries, 1992 – 1997

Pastor of Adult Ministries & Missions, 1997 – 2003

Acting Executive Pastor, 2001 – 2002

Missions Pastor, 2003 – 2004

- I mentored several individuals, preached several times a year, taught a weekly Adult Bible Fellowship Class, led the pastoral staff and support staff meetings, and led two pastoral search committees
- I oversaw the missions program of the church including missions education, budget, and leading and training short-term ministry teams
- I collaborated in designing and implementing a strategy for church-based leadership development, which included Crossroads' Institute for Biblical Studies and Veritas leadership development track. The courses I taught included: Acts, Pauline epistles, Doctrine of the Church, Doctrine of the Holy Spirit, Teaching to Change Lives, Character and Habits of a Leader, Life Development Planner, and Theology for Leaders.

PASTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION, *September 1986 – July 1989*

College Church in Wheaton, Wheaton, Illinois

- I oversaw the Christian education program from nursery through adults, small group ministries, premarital counseling
- I served as a resource for the Board of Christian Education, preaching on occasion, in addition to various other duties.

International Experience

- September 1992 – Orlyonek & Anapa (Black Sea region), Russia – participated in an evangelistic CoMission Convocation
- October 1993 – Murmansk & Tver, Russia – led team from Crossroads Bible Church to participate in an evangelistic CoMission Convocation
- November 1994 – Simferopol & Kiev, Ukraine – helped train Walk Thru the Bible instructors
- May 1995 – Kremenchuk, Ukraine – led team from Crossroads Bible Church to participate in an evangelistic CoMission Convocation
- February 1997 – Bryansk, Russia – taught a two-week course on “Marriage and the Family” at the Bryansk Bible Institute
- March 1998 – Leon & Toral, Spain – led a construction team to work on a conference center
- January 2000 – Leon & Toral, Spain – led a team of computer professionals for a conference
- August 2000 – Jos, Nigeria – investigated possible ministry with ECWA (Evangelical Church of West Africa)
- November 2002 – Moscow, Russia – spoke at the first ever Alumni Conference for the New Life Bible College
- May 2003 – Moscow, Russia – led a team from Crossroads Bible Church to participate in and teach at Leadership Development conference for the New Life Bible College, part of their continuing education program for graduates
- April 2004 – Moscow, Russia – led a team from Crossroads Bible Church to participate in and teach at a conference on Personal Spiritual Disciplines for the New Life Bible College, part of their continuing education program for graduates
- May 2006 – Moscow, Russia – taught at a conference on Biblical Church Leadership for the New Life Bible College, part of their continuing education program for graduates
- February 2011 – Tsibanobalka, Russia – taught a course on the book of Joshua with an emphasis on Joshua’s leadership principles at the House of Grace, a guest house for Russian pastors
- February 2012 – Tsibanobalka, Russia – taught a course on the life of David at the House of Grace, a guest house for Russian pastors
- February 2014 – Tsibanobalka, Russia – taught a course on the Patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, & Joseph) at the House of Grace, a guest house for Russian pastors
- February-March 2015 – Tsibanobalka & Elista, Russia – taught a course on the life of Moses in two locations—at the House of Grace, a guest house for Russian pastors in Tsibanobalka, and in Elista
- March 2016 – Tsibanobalka & Elista, Russia, taught a course on the book of Romans (chs. 1-8) in two locations—at the House of Grace in Tsibanobalka and in Elista

- March 2017 – Tsibanobalka & Elista, Russia, taught a course on the book of Romans (chs. 9-16) in two locations—at the House of Grace in Tsibanobalka and in Elista
- April 2018 – Anapa & Elista, Russia, taught a course on the book of Revelation in two locations—in Anapa and in Elista
- May 2019 – Anapa & Elista, Russia, taught a course on the Harmony of the Gospels in two locations—in Anapa & Elista
- October 2019 – Moscow, Russia, taught a week-long conference on “How do we identify and train the next generation of leaders in the church?” for pastors and leaders
- October 2020 – Taught a virtual class on Principles of Teaching for pastors in Russia (part of a team of four teachers who taught on various topics during the one-day class)
- November 2021 – Taught a virtual session on Confronting the Culture: A study of Elijah in 1 Kings 16-18 (part of the Fall 2021 seminar for Russian pastors and wives)

Publications

- “Secure in the storm” *Kindred Spirit*, Summer 1986
- “Are you welcome in His presence?” *Kindred Spirit*, Winter 1986
- “Choose to say, ‘Thank you!’” *Decision*, November 1986
- “The marks of a servant” *Discipleship Journal* (42), November 1987
- “Learning to be content” *Decision*, September 1989
- “The relationship between parenting styles and the spiritual well-being and religiosity of college students” *Christian Education Journal*, Winter 1991
- “When you’re forced out” (Name withheld) *Leadership*, Spring 1991
- “The seven dwarfs go to church” *Discipleship Journal* (63), May/June 1991
- “Preparation precedes presentation” *Advance* (Columbia Baptist Conference) September 1991
- “Hurry up & wait” *Kindred Spirit*, Winter 1991
- “Serving appetizing meals: The use of word pictures in preaching and teaching the Bible” *Christian Education Journal*, (Winter 1992). Article also appeared as a chapter in *Developing a Christian imagination* (Compiled by Warren W. Wiersbe). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1995
- *A dad’s blessing*. (Written with John Trent and Gary Smalley). Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 1994
- Study guide for *The hidden value of a man*. (Book written by John Trent and Gary Smalley) Colorado Springs, CO: Focus on the Family, 1994
- Contributed two chapters to *The Christian life for the kindred in spirit*. Gresham, OR: Vision House, 1994

- “Who are you when no one is watching?” *Decision*, June 1995.
- Study guide for *Seeking solid ground: building a life that won't be shaken* (Book written by John Trent and Rick Hicks) Colorado Springs, CO: Focus on the Family, 1995
- “Praying in Jesus’ name” *the standard*, July 1996
- Study guide for *The Making of a godly man*. (Book written by John Trent) Colorado Springs, CO: Focus on the Family, 1997
- “When you feel forgotten” *the standard*, April 1997
- “When you feel like a failure” *Kindred Spirit*, Spring 1998
- “To Russia with love” *Vision Northwest, Vol. 2, No. 3*, September 1998
- “Avoiding the Absalom Syndrome” *Leadership Journal*, Winter 1999
- Numerous devotionals published in *Believe*, a devotional magazine written by Walk Thru the Bible and published by Lifeway Press (October 2000 – January 2002) (The magazine has since been discontinued)
- Regular contributor to *Stand Firm* (2000-2004), a devotional magazine written by Walk Thru the Bible and published by Lifeway Press
- Cover story articles on Randall Cunningham, Jeff Gordon, “Bud” Paxson (August 2001), Dr. Gene Rudd (May 2002), and “Conquering your fears” (August 2002) for *Stand Firm* magazine

References available upon request