

My Testimony of Salvation

I was born into a Christian home in Washington State, and I never remember not being in church. However, the church my family attended in my early years was not going in a godly direction, so my parents changed church membership to a Baptist church, and it was there that I received Christ, about six months later. At the close of a Sunday night message, the pastor asked the congregation questions prior to giving the invitation. I was convicted of my sin. I remember thinking that if I didn't get saved, I would go to hell, but that I didn't want to go to hell, that I wanted to get saved (those were the terms I was thinking). As the pastor gave the invitation, I excused myself past my parents and brother, walked down the aisle, and shook the pastor's hand. He bent down and asked my why I came forward. I told him that I wanted to get saved. He motioned for one of the ladies in the church to come, and she took me to a side room and explained from the Bible how I could know for sure that I was saved. That night, I gave my life to Christ and received Him as my Lord and Savior. About six months later, I was baptized.

My Training

We attended church faithfully, and my parents were involved in many different church ministries. In fact, my dad was hired on as the janitor and maintenance man within a couple of years of their joining. I attended our church's Christian school from my first days of school through 12th grade. As I grew, I became involved in aspects of ministry. I wanted to do right, but I had some worldly dross that needed skimmed off. I went to Bible college, and at the end of my freshman year, one of my teachers asked me if I had ever considered going into ministry. I said yes, but that I didn't want to. He said that the Lord could use me in that way if I would let Him. He asked me to pray about it during the summer and to read a pastoral epistle every day, to which I agreed. After one month of doing that, I was convinced to change my major from business management to secondary education. I studied math and music with the desire of teaching in a Christian school in order to influence young people for Christ.

Our Ministry at Bethel Baptist Church

During my college years, I met Dr. Kent Brandenburg. He had been church-planting in the San Francisco Bay Area for a handful of years, and he came back to recruit teachers for his church's Christian school. In time, I agreed and in 1992, two weeks after my wife and I were married, we moved to California and Bethel Baptist Church, where we served for 29 years. My main ministry there was as principal of the school (24 years). We grew spiritually leaps and bounds under Pastor Brandenburg's ministry. During those early years, I took many graduate classes in theology, and in October of 2003 was ordained into the pastoral ministry.

Our Move to Medford

In 2020, Pastor Brandenburg and his wife transitioned into missionary work and made plans to move to Medford, OR. I was slated to become the senior pastor of Bethel. In June of 2020, just two weeks prior to the transition, I had a cerebral hemorrhage and spent 10 days in the hospital. Praise the Lord, I lost no abilities; but I was so weak, both mentally and physically, I was in no condition to pastor the church. The recovery took much longer than expected—concentration and physical stamina were the big issues. Consequently, Pastor Jerad Stager volunteered to become the senior pastor of the church. In 2021, as the need arose in Medford, I volunteered to come up and assume the responsibilities of the church-plant work. We are so happy to be in Medford. It has been a great blessing to preach the gospel to the folks in this area and to help our members grow in the Lord. By God's grace, we hope to see a NT church established in Medford, Oregon.