

DR. JIM & LISA JOHNSTON

Weekend of May 3, 2009



Dr. Jim and Lisa Johnston
Claire (11), Julia (9), Sarah (7), and Andrew (4)

TELL US ABOUT YOUR FAMILY:

I grew up in France and Chicago while Lisa grew up in Salem, Oregon. We met and were married in Wheaton, IL. We have been married for 13 years. Lisa and I enjoy walking together, traveling, cooking or trying new foods, entertaining, and reading a good Zane Grey western.

Lisa and I are blessed to be the parents of four unique and special children. Our family enjoys doing a variety of things together such as playing games, reading, hiking, swimming, ice-skating, biking, cooking/baking, and especially spending time with other families and friends. We recently enjoyed a year in England where we made many friends and experienced life in another culture.

<http://www.johnstons-at-tyndale.blogspot.com/>

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE:

EDUCATION

Ph.D. New Testament, 2008
Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Deerfield, IL

M.Div. with emphasis in Church History, 1992
Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Deerfield, IL

B.A. Philosophy/History, 1988
Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL

ORDINATION

College Church in Wheaton, 1993

EXPERIENCE

Ph.D. Student, full time, 2007-2008

Tyndale House, Cambridge, England

Awarded financial grant from the Ministry and Education Foundation.

Completed doctoral dissertation exploring Mark's use of Isaiah.

Preached occasionally in local churches.

Senior Pastor, 2004-2007

First Evangelical Free Church, Maplewood, MN

Preached expositionally and oversaw Word ministry of the church.

Served a congregation of 1000 attenders and led pastoral staff of nine.

Sermons from January-June, 2007 may be heard at www.firstefc.org/sermons.asp

EXPERIENCE—Continued

Associate Pastor of Adult Ministries, 2002-2004

College Church in Wheaton, Wheaton, IL

Developed an integrated, accessible education program for 2000 adult attenders.

Taught and preached weekly in various settings.

Trained Adult Ministries lay leaders and oversaw pastoral internship program.

Gave executive level leadership to pastoral staff of 15

Missions Pastor, 1996-2002

College Church in Wheaton, Wheaton, IL

Initiated and implemented Missionary Preparation Program, which has trained over 50 career missionaries and been implemented by other churches.

Cared for 107 missionary families in 46 countries.

Oversaw short term missions program and regularly led trips.

Singles and Small Groups Pastor, 1994-1996

College Church in Wheaton, Wheaton, IL

Associate Pastor, 1992-1994

Chain of Lakes Church, Antioch, IL

SELECTED ACTIVITIES AND AWARDS

Educational grant recipient, Ministry and Education Foundation, 2007-2008

Speaker, IFMA/EMS Annual Conference, 2006

Member of Evangelical Theological Society, 1995-2008

Leader at Workshop on Biblical Exposition, 1998-2007

TBC SEARCH PROCESS TIMELINE:

6/3/08	Draft of phased search and selection process developed; bi-monthly Saturday elder meetings begin
12/29/08	TBC received Jim Johnston's resume via email
1/10/09	Elders begin email exchanges with Johnston/listening to sermons
1/25/09	Key documents sent to Johnston – A Profile of God's Man, Culture of TBC and Screening Questions
3/14/09	Elders met with Jim Johnston via video-conference to discuss key questions including points of doctrine, theology and application (3 hours)
3/15/09	Elders vote to bring Johnstons to Tulsa for a visit – to see Oklahoma, get a feel for TBC and to continue the interview/screening process
4/2/09	Johnstons visit Tulsa (4/2 through 4/6); meals with all the elders, two couples at a time
4/4/09	Elder Board and Johnstons meet – heard testimonies of Jim and Lisa. Met for 5 hours with Jim Johnston to discuss his position relative to TBC doctrine, Articles of Faith, key characteristics and church governance.
4/7/09	Special Elder Meeting held to discuss Jim Johnston visit/interviews – vote to extend candidacy to Johnston
4/13/09	Elder Executive Council meets with Johnston to review and discuss a detailed Senior Pastor/Teacher job description
4/14/09	Gerry Raubach announces to deacons/ministry leaders the Elder Board's decision to invite Jim Johnston to candidate as Senior Pastor/Teacher at TBC

SUMMARY OF SEARCH PROCESS WITH JIM JOHNSTON:

Jim turned in his final revised dissertation in early October and was completely done by end of October, 2008. He sent an email to TBC on 12/28/08 expressing interest per discussions with John Piper. We received his resume on 12/29/08. He was offered his old job back at First Evangelical Free Church Maplewood, where Jim's father-in-law is interim pastor, but after prayer and counsel turned it down. The fact that Jim's father-in-law was selected as interim pastor is testimony to the positive relationship he had at FEFC. Per some of his references, he has been offered jobs to teach at the seminary level but feels like he is still called to pastor. We have talked with 9 different references (some which he provided and some that he did not) including staff and elders from First Evangelical Free Church and College Church, a long time friend of 20 years, and a random member of the body. Dr. Bill Thrasher, seminary professor in Chicago, who spoke at TBC on 11/16/08 and attends College Church, knows Jim and speaks highly of him as a pastor.

The Elder Board has spent extensive time and effort to ensure that Jim Johnston stands squarely in agreement with the Articles of Faith and our interpretation and application of the teachings of Tulsa Bible Church. While there are nuances of words and phrases which Jim may use that are slightly different at first pass, our many hours of discussions were designed to ensure that we understood what we mean when we state our positions in all of the essential and important distinctives of TBC. We are confident that Jim can wholeheartedly teach and defend the positions that we at TBC hold. Jim was born to missionary parents in France and his 4 siblings are all in full time ministry. Lisa's parents are full time in the ministry as well.

SUMMARY OF REFERENCES CHECKED:

1. Kent Hughes – retired Senior Pastor, College Church (Bob Nichols)
2. Bill Thrasher – Professor, Trinity, attends College Church (Phil Martin)
3. Chuck King – Worship Pastor, College Church (Gerry Raubach)
4. Tod Augustine – Family Life Pastor, College Church (Gerry Raubach)
5. Marty Dennison – Elder, First Evangelical Free Church Maplewood, during Jim's tenure (Gerry Raubach)
6. Eric Skytte – Friend of Jim Johnston since college, Elder at another church (Gerry Raubach)
7. John Gustafson – Elder, First Evangelical Free Church Maplewood (Phil Martin)
8. Jon Addington – Elder, First Evangelical Free Church Maplewood (Phil Martin and Bob Nichols)
9. Ken Schmidt – Senior Pastor of Manchester Community Church, Rock Hill, South Carolina. Ken served on staff under Jim's leadership at First Evangelical Free Church Maplewood for 3 years. (Bob Nichols)

QUOTES FROM REFERENCES:

Dr. Bill Thrasher – How is the pastoral search going? I talked with a friend and a former pastor from College Church who had been encouraged by John Piper to approach Tulsa Bible. I told him of my very positive experience and encouraged him to pursue it. His name is James Johnston and you might want to put his resume at the top of the pile. He is a solid person, preacher, and leader, and has a dear wife and family!

Elder of First Evangelical Free Church Maplewood – Jim is Word centric and quite strong in expositional preaching. Jim is very gifted in ministry. Jim's family is a strength and Lisa is a great asset to Jim's ministry. The use of their home for ministry is a definite strength.

Former Staff Pastor of First Evangelical Free Church Maplewood and now Senior Pastor of another church – He is a great family man. He is a strong leader with a vision. When Jim and the elders came to agreement; Jim moved out to execute the plan. Jim's strengths were many: marriage, family, home as a ministry tool, preaching, missions, discipleship, administration.

Kent Hughes, Former Senior Pastor College Church – Jim is a godly man of impeccable character. He comes from a godly family. His father was a pioneer missionary in Europe. His father established Tyndale Seminary in Europe. He has a great marriage to Lisa and she also comes from a godly family. Her father being a pastor who served as the Senior Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Minneapolis. Jim is a very disciplined person in his study and personal life. He really is exceptional. One of the finest young expositors he knows.

QUESTIONS FOR JIM:

1. What are your greatest ministry passions?

One of my greatest ministry passions is preaching and teaching God's Word to help others grow as disciples of Jesus Christ. This deep ministry commitment begins with what I believe about the Scriptures. God's inerrant Word is the imperishable seed through which He saves us (1 Peter 1:23) — since it is imperishable it is always living to give new life in each season of our lives. The Scriptures are at the heart of discipleship; they are completely sufficient and powerful to equip believers fully for life and godliness.

My second great ministry passion is missions and outreach. God began drawing my heart to world evangelism through some formative years growing up on the mission field. As a student of the Scriptures, I came to realize that the storyline of the Bible centers on the triumph of Christ throughout the world. And as a Missions Pastor, I had the joy of joining hands with missionaries around the world for the growth of the gospel.

2. Describe your gifts and calling to the ministry.

God called me to pastoral ministry while I was a senior at Wheaton College through a series of events which powerfully shaped me and set the course for my life. I had experienced a good deal of success playing football and walked into my senior year a pre-season Division III All-American. At the same time, though, I was on a trajectory that was taking me away from the Lord.

In the last practice of the preseason, I went down with a torn ligament in my left knee. As I lay in pain on the practice field, I realized that God had been trying to get my attention—but I had stiffened my neck and wouldn't listen. At that very moment, I realized He was laying me flat on my back so that I would finally look up to Him and follow where He wanted to lead me. That injury was God's grace to me, the beginning of a series of events through which God called me to pastoral ministry.

Another key moment in my call to ministry came at the end of that school year a few weeks before graduation. I was struck by the powerful words of I Peter 1:24-25,

*24 All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass.
The grass withers, and the flower falls,
25 but the word of the Lord remains forever.*

Suddenly, I realized that there was only one thing to give my life to: preaching the Word of God. Everything else I could live for would ultimately wither and fade; God's Word alone endures. At that moment, God's call to pastoral ministry crystallized for me. I then enrolled at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School and began an internship at College Church.

Over the past twenty years of pastoral ministry, the main gifts that God seems to have given me for serving His people are preaching and teaching, discipleship, leadership, administration, and discernment.

3. Describe your ministry philosophy.

My philosophy of ministry is encapsulated in my personal goal as a pastor: "To serve God by preaching and teaching His Word, shepherding His people, and equipping others to serve Him."

This statement boils down to three main aspects of pastoral ministry: Preaching, Shepherding, and Equipping.

First, I am committed to "Preaching and Teaching God's Word." Under this heading is my responsibility to be a man of the Word. On a weekly basis, this includes the hours spent in prayerful study and sermon preparation, delivering of sermons, teaching opportunities with various groups, counseling, etc.

The priority of this aspect of ministry is emphasized by Paul's admonition to Timothy to "Preach the Word." The greatest need of the church in the 21st century—as in every century—is the Word of God opened and applied for God's people. We begin, continue, and end with the Word on our lips and in our hearts.

Second, I am committed to "Shepherding God's People." Under this heading I understand the various types of "hands on" ministry that a pastor engages in weekly to care for people personally. These include prayer, hospital visitation, counseling, hospitality, etc.

Jesus is the Good Shepherd who came personally to care for His flock (1 Peter 5:1-4). As a pastor in a large church, I am part of a team of Christ's undershepherds who care for God's people in all different seasons and circumstances.

Third, I am committed to "Equipping others to serve God." Under this heading is the essential aspect of "Multiplying the Doers." Pastors are given to the church by the exalted Christ to "equip the saints for the work of ministry." (Eph 4:11-12) Gospel ministry grows exponentially when leaders embrace this principle of multiplication.

As a Senior Pastor, I multiply the doers in a variety of ways. I empower and equip the pastoral staff and lay leaders of the church, those with whom I regularly work most closely. One of my goals as an expository preacher is to teach everyone in the congregation to read and understand the Bible for themselves by opening it together week after week. Through my leadership style, I want to promote a culture of servant leadership that rejoices in the growth and success of others.

I have followed this basic philosophy of ministry for almost the past twenty years, fulfilling this goal in different pastoral roles during that time. This has been a steady compass to guide me as a pastor both in the long range and on a weekly basis.